Roblox

A website has recently come to our attention and we wanted to share with you some information about what it is and what some of the risks could be for children who interact with this site.

Roblox is a widely popular social platform on which children can play games. The games are created and uploaded by the platform's users, meaning that anyone can create and upload a game on to the platform. The appeal of this is that children who are interested in programming and coding can practise their skills and enjoy the fact that other users can interact with a game they have created. This also means there is a vast selection of games for children to choose from.

The Risks

As the games are user generated, creators can choose to make content that may be unsuitable for your child, such as zombie shooting games. There are also games that are about "dating" and mimicking family life. Although the games are moderated prior to release, inappropriate images and content can slip through and other users can sometimes "hack" into games and alter them.

Your child can create a builder's account, which enables them to create their own games. There is a cost for this, and there can be other in-game purchases.

There is a chat feature when using *Roblox*. Although they use a filtering system, with this being stronger for children who have signed up as being under 13, it is still something to be very cautious of as your child can be talking to complete strangers. It is also possible for them to accept friend requests and then privately message with another person.

Our Advice

As always, we would recommend that you discuss with your child the importance of being safe online. Remind your child that they should not talk to or accept friend requests from anyone they do not know. They should also never give out private information such as their password, full name, home address, school or email address. Have a conversation about what your child should do if they see anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.

Roblox does have a button children can press to report somebody for misconduct and also has a block function. The parental features allow you to turn off the chat capabilities, but there are many more safety features and adaptable settings available when a child is registered as under 13.

If you want to find out more, the following provide further information about *Roblox* and how to help your child stay safe if they are using it.

Roblox's Parent's Guide

https://corp.roblox.com/parents/

Roblox Instructions for Editing Account Settings

https://blog.roblox.com/2017/03/keeping-community-safe/

UK Safer Internet's *Roblox* Guide

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents