Top tips for PlayStation

UK Safer Internet Centre

This guide provides some specific advice about setting up parental controls on your PlayStation3 or PSP. To learn more about safe and responsible gaming read our **How to Stay Safe Guide**[1].

The Basics

Gaming devices, like the PS3 and PSP, provide a wide range of exciting activities for young people. These devices have in-built wireless so they can connect to your home internet or other wifi hotspots if you sign up to the PlayStation Network. This enables many online functions such as playing with people online, viewing films and TV, purchasing games online, browsing the web and chatting to friends via text, voice and video chat.

PlayStation devices such as the PS3 and PSP have a range of free parental controls. These can be found on the PlayStation Network account (to cover all of the online services) and on the PS3 or PSP console (for offline functions). You need to activate the console parental control settings, for example, to prevent your child playing age-restricted games from a disc or to set up a Family Timer. PlayStation Network parental controls are a bit easier; by registering with your child's correct age for their PlayStation Network account there will be automatic safety settings in place, for example, preventing your child downloading games from the online store which are not age-appropriate. You could also speak to your home internet service provider to see if they have options for filtering the internet on devices accessing your home internet. For example, TalkTalk customers can activate **HomeSafe**[2].

What is the PlayStation Network? The PSN is an online network which allows you to use your device to play games with people online, access online music, films and TV, and browse the web. It is free to use (though you do need broadband internet access!).

Three steps for parents

1. **Understand the capabilities of gaming devices and how you as a parent can support your child to be smart and safe in their gaming.** To help, read our **How to Stay Safe Guide**[1]

2. **Find out about the parental controls available** – it helps if you are the one to set up the gaming device so you are in control of these. Gaming devices have parental controls to help parents manage their children's gaming; see the advice below for the PlayStation 3 and PSP. Find out about **PEGI age ratings**[3] to help you decide which games are appropriate for your child's age.

3. **Talk with your child about safe and responsible gaming and agree a set of family rules.** Perhaps you could agree rules with your child about how long they are allowed to play for, how they should behave towards other gamers and agree rules about not meeting up with people they have only met online. See our **Family Agreement**[4] for more ideas. Remember that gaming devices like the PS3 and PSP connect to the internet, so the same advice and rules for keeping safe online apply.

Understanding parental controls on the PS3 and PSP

PlayStation devices such as the PS3 and PSP have a range of free parental controls. These can be found on the PlayStation Network account (to cover all of the online services) and on the PS3 or PSP console (for offline functions).

1. Registering with the PlayStation Network sets up automatic parental controls

PlayStation devices, like the PS3 or PSP, can connect to the internet by joining the PlayStation Network (or PSN), which is an optional service allowing users to play games with people online, access online music, films and TV, and browse the web. Parental control options allow you to manage how your child uses their device. If you decide to sign up to the PSN, then when you register, automatic parental control settings will be set up for children.

See the PlayStation advice about how to set up the PSN either from a **PS3 or PSP**[5] or from a **computer**[6].

Set up the PlayStation Network:

You need to set up your own PlayStation Network 'Master Account' and register your children as 'Sub Accounts'. Make sure you register each of your children with their correct age, so that automatic parental control settings are in place. You are then in control of your children's Sub Accounts. This is the same for both PlayStation 3 and PSP.

How to find parental control options:

By registering your child's Sub Account with their correct age, parental control settings will automatically be in place. For example, communication by text, voice or video is blocked for children, and content restriction settings will prevent your child accessing any games, film, music and TV online which are not appropriate for their age.

You can check these automatic parental controls and make any changes by signing into your Master Account and selecting **Account Management**, then **Sub Account Management**, then **Parental Control**.

1 www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide/gaming-devices/how-to-stay-safe
2 www.tinyurl.com/6lpvo3z
3 www.pegi.info
4 www.digizen.org/digicentral/family-agreement.aspx
5 www.tinyurl.com/73qjfag
6 http://uk.playstation.com/registration

Top tips for PlayStation

This guide provides some specific advice about setting up parental controls on your PlayStation3 or PSP. To learn more about safe and responsible gaming read our **How to Stay Safe Guide**[1].

The Basics

Gaming devices, like the PS3 and PSP, provide a wide range of exciting activities for young people. These devices have in-built wireless so they can connect to your home internet or other wifi hotspots if you sign up to the PlayStation Network. This enables many online functions such as playing with people online, viewing films and TV, purchasing games online, browsing the web and chatting to friends via text, voice and video chat.

PlayStation devices such as the PS3 and PSP have a range of free parental controls. These can be found on the PlayStation Network account (to cover all of the online services) and on the PS3 or PSP console (for offline functions). You need to activate the console parental control settings, for example, to prevent your child playing age-restricted games from a disc or to set up a Family Timer. PlayStation Network parental controls are a bit easier: by registering with your child's correct age for their PlayStation Network account there will be automatic safety settings in place, for example, preventing your child downloading games from the online store which are not age-appropriate. You could also speak to your home internet service provider to see if they have options for filtering the internet on devices accessing your home internet. For example, TalkTalk customers can activate **HomeSafe**[2].

What is the PlayStation Network? The PSN is an online network which allows you to use your device to play games with people online, access online music, films and TV, and browse the web. It is free to use (though you do need broadband internet access!).

Three steps for parents

1. **Understand the capabilities of gaming devices and how you as a parent can support your child to be smart and safe in their gaming.** To help, read our **How to Stay Safe Guide**[1]

2. **Find out about the parental controls available - it helps if you are the one to set up the gaming device so you are in control of these.** Gaming devices have parental controls to help parents manage their children's gaming; see the advice below for the PlayStation 3 and PSP. Find out about **PEGI age ratings**[3] to help you decide which games are appropriate for your child's age.

3. **Talk with your child about safe and responsible gaming and agree a set of family rules.** Perhaps you could agree rules with your child about how long they are allowed to play for, how they should behave towards other gamers and agree rules about not meeting up with people they have only met online. See our **Family Agreement**[4] for more ideas. Remember that gaming devices like the PS3 and PSP connect to the internet, so the same advice and rules for keeping safe online apply.

Understanding parental controls on the PS3 and PSP

PlayStation devices such as the PS3 and PSP have a range of free parental controls. These can be found on the PlayStation Network account (to cover all of the online services) and on the PS3 or PSP console (for offline functions).

1. Registering with the PlayStation Network sets up automatic parental controls

PlayStation devices, like the PS3 or PSP, can connect to the internet by joining the PlayStation Network (or PSN), which is an optional service allowing users to play games with people online, access online music, films and TV, and browse the web. Parental control options allow you to manage how your child uses their device. If you decide to sign up to the PSN, then when you register, automatic parental control settings will be set up for children.

See the PlayStation advice about how to set up the PSN either from a **PS3 or PSP**[5] or from a **computer**[6].

Set up the PlayStation Network:

You need to set up your own PlayStation Network 'Master Account' and register your children as 'Sub Accounts'. Make sure you register each of your children with their correct age, so that automatic parental control settings are in place. You are then in control of your children's Sub Accounts. This is the same for both PlayStation 3 and PSP.

How to find parental control options:

By registering your child's Sub Account with their correct age, parental control settings will automatically be in place. For example, communication by text, voice or video is blocked for children, and content restriction settings will prevent your child accessing any games, film, music and TV online which are not appropriate for their age.

You can check these automatic parental controls and make any changes by signing into your Master Account and selecting **Account Management**, then **Sub Account Management**, then **Parental Control.**

1 www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide/gaming-devices/how-to-stay-safe
2 www.tinyurl.com/6lpvo3z
3 www.pegi.info
4 www.digizen.org/digicentral/family-agreement.aspx
5 www.tinyurl.com/73qjfag
6 http://uk.playstation.com/registration