

Parent's Guide to Discord

13+

17+

Discord age requirements are **17+ for the iOS app, 13 + for the Android app, and 13+ for the website.** There are over 260 million monthly users, with 70% of users between the ages of 18-34.

What Is Discord?

Discord is a free communication platform that allows users to chat via text, voice, and video. It started as a gaming chat space but is now widely used for various social communities. Conversations happen in "servers" (groups) that can have multiple "channels" for different topics. Users can communicate via the messaging platform (text, images, video, etc...) or via voice / video chats. Discord requires users to submit their birthday but age verification is minimal. Those who are under 18 will be prevented from some channels that contain age-restricted content.



Why Kids Love Discord



Customization and Control

Kids can create their own servers, set roles, and personalize the experience, which appeals to their desire for independence.



Private and Authentic

Discord isn't about public profiles or likes, and there are no algorithms pushing content or advertising.



Variety

Discord offers servers focused on any topic where kids can connect with like-minded others.

Potential Risks

Inappropriate Content

Both public and private servers can include adult language, sexual content, or violent imagery.



Cyberbullying & Harassment

Group chats and voice channels can lead to bullying, exclusion, or toxic behaviour.



Mental Health Impact

Constant notifications and pressure to stay online can lead to stress or sleep disruption.



Stranger Interaction

Teens can receive friend requests or direct messages from unknown users unless privacy settings are adjusted.



Safety Tips for Parents

1. Learn the Basics

- Familiarize yourself with Discord's features—servers, channels, roles, and permissions.
- Discuss why your child wants to use Discord and agree on rules for usage.
- Check Age Compliance: Ensure your child meets the minimum age requirement.



2. Review 'Content & Social' Settings

- Block Mature Sexual Media and Graphic Media
- Filter all DMs for spam
- Allow 'Direct Messages' from server members"
- Turn off Message requests from server members you may not know
- Limit friend requests to "Friends of Friends."

3. Family Center

- Connect your child's account with Guardian in the Family Center settings. This allows parents / guardians to:
 - See new friends added
 - Servers joined or participated in
 - Total time spent in calls across direct message, group chats and servers



4. Teach Online Safety

- Remind kids: Never, never share personal info, passwords, or click unknown links.
- Report inappropriate behaviour using Discord's Report Message feature.
- Be extra cautious when interacting with other users you don't know.

More Information

1. Discord Parent and Educator FAQ Page: This is the [main page](#) on the Discord site for info for parents and educators.
2. ConnectSafely: [Click here](#) for info on various safety measures parents can take, including steps on how to set up the Connect with Guardian that links to a child's account.
3. [This article on Mashable](#) shares the new safety features on Discord that arose from a recent lawsuit.