How to...

Set up parental controls on the PS4

Getting Started

To get the most of out the PS4's parental controls, you'll want to make sure the adult has a Master Account, and the minor has a Sub Account. The Master Account controls what is and isn't accessible to Sub Accounts, and different rules can be created for individiaul Sub Accounts.

1. **Log in to your Master Account.** If you don't have a Master Account, **this article** has information on how to create one.

2. **Set passcodes.** There are two different passcodes that you should set to make sure your settings are secure.

   1. **Master Account passcode:** This prevents other users from logging into your account to make changes to parental controls or view unauthorized content. To do this go to 💼 (Settings) > 🔑 [Login Settings] > [Passcode Management].

   2. **Parental controls passcode:** This passcode is must be entered before changing any parental controls. The default code is:0000, and it is recommended that you change it. To do this go to 💼 (Settings) > 🎮 [Parental Controls] > [Restrict Use of PS4 Features] > [Change Passcode]. If you forget the parental control code, press the [Options] button on the controller and login to PSN.

3. **Sub Accounts**

   • **If you already have a Sub Account associated with your Master Account**, you're ready for the "Setting Parental Controls" section below.

   • **If you do not have a Sub Account associated with the Master Account**, please refer to **this article** for details on creating a Sub Account on the PS4, and then come back to the "Setting Parental Controls" section below.

Restrict games and applications that have age ratings

All PlayStation 4 games are rated by the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) to help parents understand the content in a game. Applications such as Netflix or Hulu do not go through the same process but have age ratings associated with them as well. You can use these ratings in conjunction with the PS4's parental controls to restrict access to minors.

1. To change the parental control level for games and applications, make sure you are logged in to the Sub Account you'd like to restrict. If you're logged in to the Master Account, simply press and hold the PS button on the controller, log out of the Master Account, and log in to the Sub Account.

2. From the PS4's Home Screen, press up on the d-pad to get to the Function area.

3. Go to 🧰 (Settings) > 🎮 [Parental Controls] > [Restrict Use of PS4 Features] > [Application] and choose the level you'd like to set. Once these levels are set, sub account users who have been restricted will see a padlock icon in place of the normal artwork for the game or app.

"Allow" means that there are no restrictions. After that there are 11 different levels available. 11 is the least restrictive and 1 is the most restrictive. The ESRB ratings that coincide with each parental control level are:

- **Early Childhood:** (Level2) Content is intended for young children.
- **Everyone:** (Level 3) Content is generally suitable for all ages. May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language.
- **Everyone 10+:** (Level 4)
- **Teen:** (Level 5)
- **Mature:** (Level 9)

To find out the parental control level of a game or application, highlight the application or content from the content area, press the Options button, and then select [Information]. If an application or content has restrictions, the parental control level appears in the [Parental Control] field.

Disable Internet Browser

You can completely disable the PS4's Internet Browser from starting by following the instructions below.

1. To change the control level, make sure you are logged in to the Sub Account you'd like to restrict. If you're logged in to the Master Account, simply press and hold the PS button on the controller, log out of the Master Account, and log in to the Sub Account.

2. From the PS4's Home Screen, press up on the d-pad to get to the Function area.

3. Go to 🧰 (Settings) > 🎮 [Parental Controls] > [Restrict Use of PS4 Features] > [Internet Browser].

4. Select the "Do Not Allow" option. This will prevent the Internet Browser from starting, though the icon for the browser will still appear on the Home Screen.

Prevent non-registered user log ins

You can set whether to allow people to log in as guests or register as new users. This is to prevent users from logging in if parental controls have not been set for them.

1. To prevent non-registered users, make sure you are logged in to the Master Account.
2. From the PS4's Home Screen, press up on the d-pad to get to the Function area.
3. Go to (Settings) > [Parental Controls] > [Restrict Use of PS4 Features] > [Select New User and Log In to PS4].
4. Choose [Do Not Allow] to prevent both the creation of new users and guests from logging in.

Disable chat messages

PSN users can send and receive video, voice, and text-based messages. The contents of these messages are not covered by ESRB ratings, so you may choose to prevent a Sub Account from sending and receiving messages.

1. To disable text, voice, and video chat, make sure you are logged in to the Master Account.
2. From the PS4's Home Screen, press up on the d-pad to get to the Function area.
3. Go to (Settings) > [Parental Controls] > [Sub Account Management].
4. Choose the Sub Account you'd like to restrict and press the X button. Then choose [Parental Controls]
5. Under [Chat/Message] choose [Block] to prevent all text,voice, and video chat.

Disallow user-generated video and pictures

Some games and applications allow users to upload user-generated content including video and pictures to PSN. This content is not covered by ESRB ratings, so you may choose to prevent a Sub Account from viewing it.

1. To block user-generated pictures and videos, make sure you are logged in to the Master Account.
2. From the PS4's Home Screen, press up on the d-pad to get to the Function area.
3. Go to (Settings) > [Parental Controls] > [Sub Account Management].
4. Choose the Sub Account you'd like to restrict and press the X button. Then choose [Parental Controls]
5. Under [User-Generated Media] choose [Block] to restrict all user-generated video and pictures.

Restrict content displayed in the PlayStation Store

While setting parental controls for games and applications prevents them from being played by Sub Account users, there is a separate setting that allows you to restrict what is displayed in the PlayStation Store based on the age of the Sub Account holder. You may choose to enable this option to prevent the user from seeing inappropriate screenshots or game video.

1. To restrict PlayStation Store content, make sure you are logged in to the Master Account.
2. From the PS4's Home Screen, press up on the d-pad to get to the Function area.
3. Go to 🧰 (Settings) > 🎮 [Parental Controls] > [Sub Account Management].
4. Choose the Sub Account you'd like to restrict and press the X button. Then choose [Parental Controls]
5. Under [Content Restriction] choose [Block] to restrict all the display of content based on the age of the Sub Account holder.