

Guide to YouTube & YouTube Kids



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Introduction

Launched in May 2005, YouTube has become a global phenomenon where people connect, discover and inspire through original content videos. YouTube is owned by Google and both YouTube and Google have had to deal with the controversies and challenges that come with a more connected world. From data protection and privacy violations to hate speech and pornographic content, YouTube has met each controversy, created new platform guidelines and continued to act as a distribution platform for creators and advertisers.

YouTube, and YouTube Kids for younger users, may be challenging for parents and caregivers, because despite guidelines and regulations, there are hundreds of thousands of videos available to captivate children and young people and the content is not always appropriate, and in some cases illegal.





This publication is produced by the Digital Society Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in an effort to guide and support the parents and caregivers as their children and young people use YouTube and YouTube Kids.

Six Things to Know About YouTube



YouTube is available via the website or an app (downloadable or pre-installed) on your smartphone and tablet.



YouTube is a video sharing website from which your child (aged 13+) can watch videos about anything via their mobile, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer.



YouTube has over a billion users (which is almost 1/3 of all the people on the Internet).



YouTube streams content so that your child can listen to music or watch videos without having to buy them.



YouTube, (owned by Google) makes money by placing ads on videos using an algorithm that matches the right ad to the right audience.

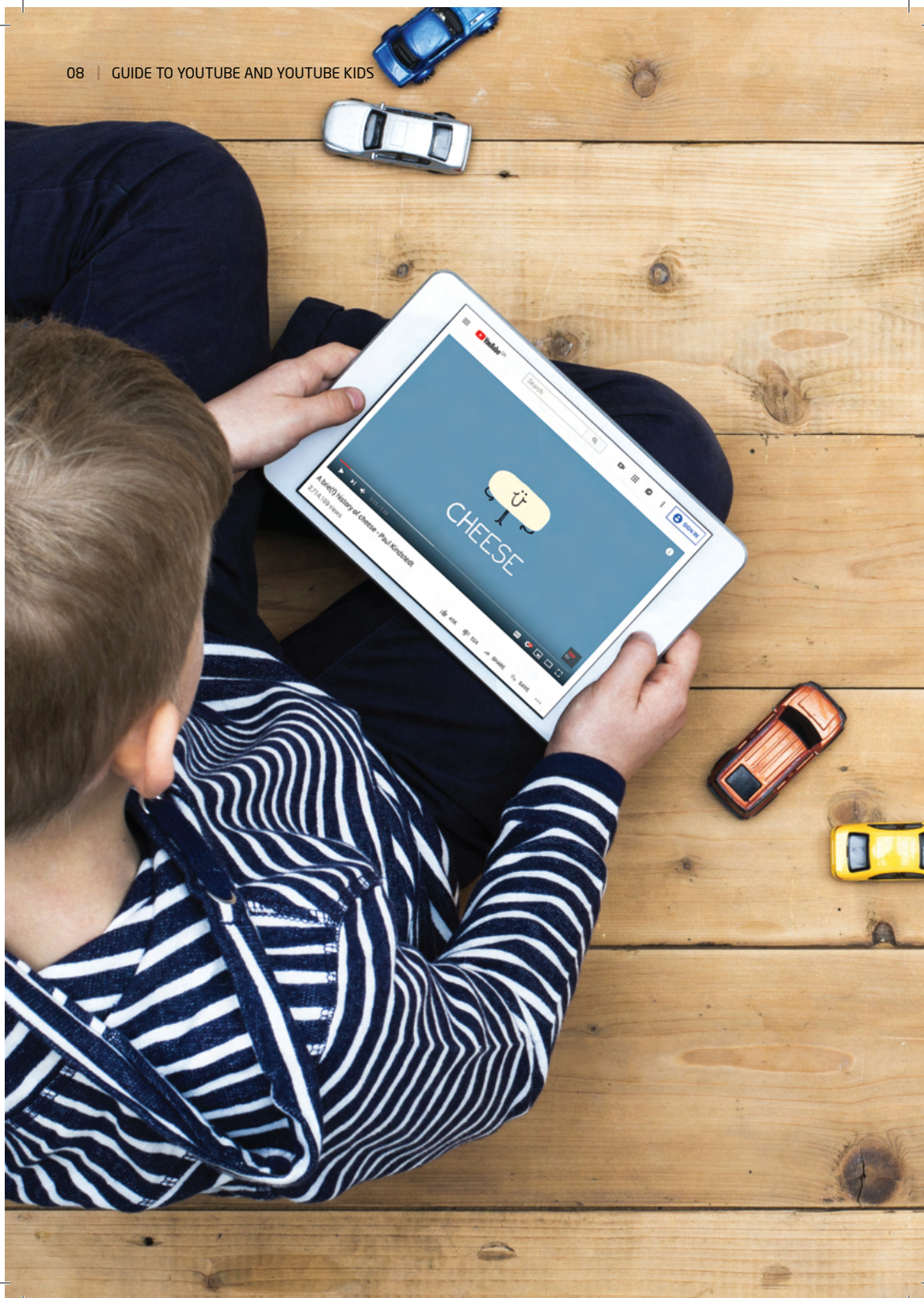


YouTube contains hundreds of millions of hours of videos and some of that content is inappropriate, immoral and illegal.

Five Things to Know About YouTube

- 01 YouTube Kids has kid-friendly curated television shows, music, educational videos, instructional videos, and other user created content.
- 02 YouTube Kids is advertised as a safe place for kids to view content, however, there have been issues about inappropriate videos and ad (nudity, alcohol, profanity, junk food, etc.) showing up.
- 03 YouTube Kids has content divided into four categories (shows, music, learning and explore) and is designed for children under the age of 10.
- 04 YouTube Kids is advertised as a safe place for kids to view content, however, there have been issues about inappropriate videos and ad (nudity, alcohol, profanity, junk food, etc.) showing up.
- 05 YouTube Kids specifically warns parents that they do not manually review all the videos and they warn of the possibility that your child may find something you don't want them to watch.

Parents should review content their children are watching, periodically, to check for appropriateness for their family, and ensure no rogue inappropriate content has been slipped into a video.



Sample of channels used by some parents in Qatar, based on a survey of young mothers.



Crash Course Kids



MIZO Kids TV



SIRAJ



Learn with Zakaria



Everything's Rosie



Sugar sons



Quran Tube



What we do daily?



Jeem TV



Islamic Channel for Kids

Here are sample for some of channels suitable for ages between 3-8

Ben _ Holly's Little Kingdom



Blippi



Caillou



Ryan_s World



Toys and Colors



WOW English TV



ChuChu TV



Learn with Zakaria



Mother Goose Club



Here are sample for some of channels suitable for ages between 9-11

5 Minutes craft



Sis vs Bro



2 Sisters toy style



GamerGirl



RonaldOMG



Will It Slime



YouTube conversation starters

Parents may not always know what their children are viewing or uploading to YouTube. The following section contains some hints to help you get a conversation started.

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR CHILDREN AGED 0 - 9

Here are a few questions you can ask your younger children about their YouTube practices and preferences:

- ▶ What's the best video that you ever saw on YouTube?
- ▶ What's the worst video that you ever saw?
- ▶ Have you ever seen anything scary on YouTube?
- ▶ If you saw something scary, what would you do?
- ▶ If one of your friends wants to show you a scary video, what would you do?
- ▶ What was the silliest video that you ever saw?
- ▶ What is the best thing that you learned while watching YouTube?



CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR CHILDREN AGED 10 - 17

Here are a few questions you can ask your older children, tweens and teens about their YouTube practices, safety measures and preferences:

- ▶ Do you have any favorite YouTube channels?
- ▶ Have your friends ever uploaded a video of you to YouTube? How did you feel about that?
- ▶ Have you ever uploaded a video to YouTube?
- ▶ Have you ever seen anything that upset you on YouTube?
- ▶ Are you careful about the comments that you make on YouTube?
- ▶ What would you do if you saw a friend sharing depressing thoughts on YouTube?
- ▶ Have you checked out the Safety Center on YouTube?



What is Vlogging?



In the beginning, there was a web log or blog which resembled an online personal journals or diary. With the advent of webcams and integrated cameras on smartphones and tablets, blogs became lively.

This new form of blog-on-film is called a video blog or "vlog." The subject matter of vlogs can vary but here are the types of vlogging content that kids and young people tend to enjoy: gaming, fashion and shopping, make-up and beauty, lifestyle, food, health, comedy, challenges, stunts, and sports.



How do vloggers make money?



Vloggers make money with ads, sponsorship and/or affiliate marketing. Most vloggers are paid every time someone watches their video and the viewer

- ▶ Clicks on an ad,
- ▶ Watches the ad for longer than a predetermined amount of time or
- ▶ Clicks on a link to purchase a product the vlogger has promoted.

Here are a few questions you can ask your children in order to promote an open dialogue about their vlogging practices and preferences:

- ▶ Who is your favorite vlogger? Why?
- ▶ Who is your least favorite vlogger? Why?
- ▶ If you were a vlogger, what would you vlog about?
- ▶ What vlog do you follow that shows kindness and empathy?
- ▶ What vlogger would you recommend for your younger sibling?
- ▶ Was there anything that upset you when watching vlogs? Would you like to talk about it?

Challenges of YouTube

This section provides a brief understanding of some of the issues with your child and YouTube.

01 Digital access to music and movies

YouTube provides digital access to music and films. You are not supposed to download or upload movies or music that you do not own but sometimes this happens.

02 Harmful content and hate speech

YouTube is an open platform and anyone can upload a video. YouTube hires people to review videos, but it is impossible to monitor it all and unfortunately your child may see some harmful and hateful content that is extremist, racist, xenophobic and more.

03 Controversies

YouTube is a platform where anyone can be heard and some YouTube stars have gone too far in their quest to increase views, gather likes and receive comments. For example, famous YouTube influencers and vloggers have made videos with themes that were racist, extremist and other form of hate speech.

04 Child privacy

YouTube has been accused of violating children's privacy rights by allowing advertisers to target children.

05 Pornography

YouTube explicitly prohibits sexually explicit content like pornography, however users can still accidentally find pornographic materials online, and children do inadvertently see sexually explicit content.

06 Community guidelines

YouTube has created safety rules for its community and states the rules in plain language along the following 4 major themes: respect the YouTube community; don't cross the line; we review your reports carefully; join in and have fun.

Four important considerations when using YouTube



Your child should be 13 or over to register for a YouTube account.



YouTube places an adult age restriction on the videos on adult-only content but YouTube does not have a system of age-verification, so children can claim to be whatever age they want.



YouTube does not have age restrictions on thumbnails (little images of videos that are in sidebars), so your child may see inappropriate images.



Your child can easily perform a search on “how to bypass age restrictions on YouTube,” or “how to disable age restrictions on YouTube”.

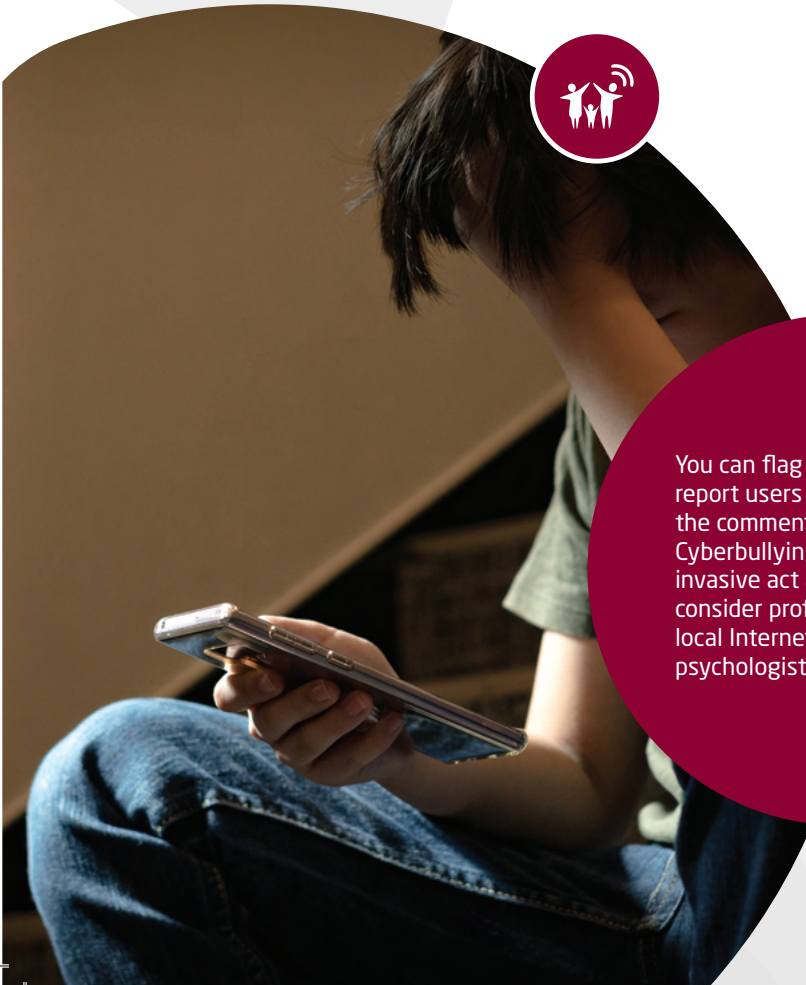
Cyberbullying and YouTube

Cyberbullying is when your child is harmed or harassed in a repeated, intentional and unwanted manner via electronic devices such as cell phones, computers, tablets and communication tools like text messages, chat, websites, and social media sites like YouTube.

Users can upload videos that are abusive, or were secretly recorded without someone's consent, or that contain negative content designed to hurt someone. Along with videos, there is also the comments section, which can include malicious and offensive content that can also be bullying. Children and young people can experience difficulty escaping the pervading nature of cyberbullying if they keep their devices on and accessible.



You can flag videos and block or report users in an effort to control the comments aimed at your child. Cyberbullying is a vicious and invasive act and parents should consider professional support from local Internet safety organizations, psychologists and support groups.



Tools to stay safe on YouTube

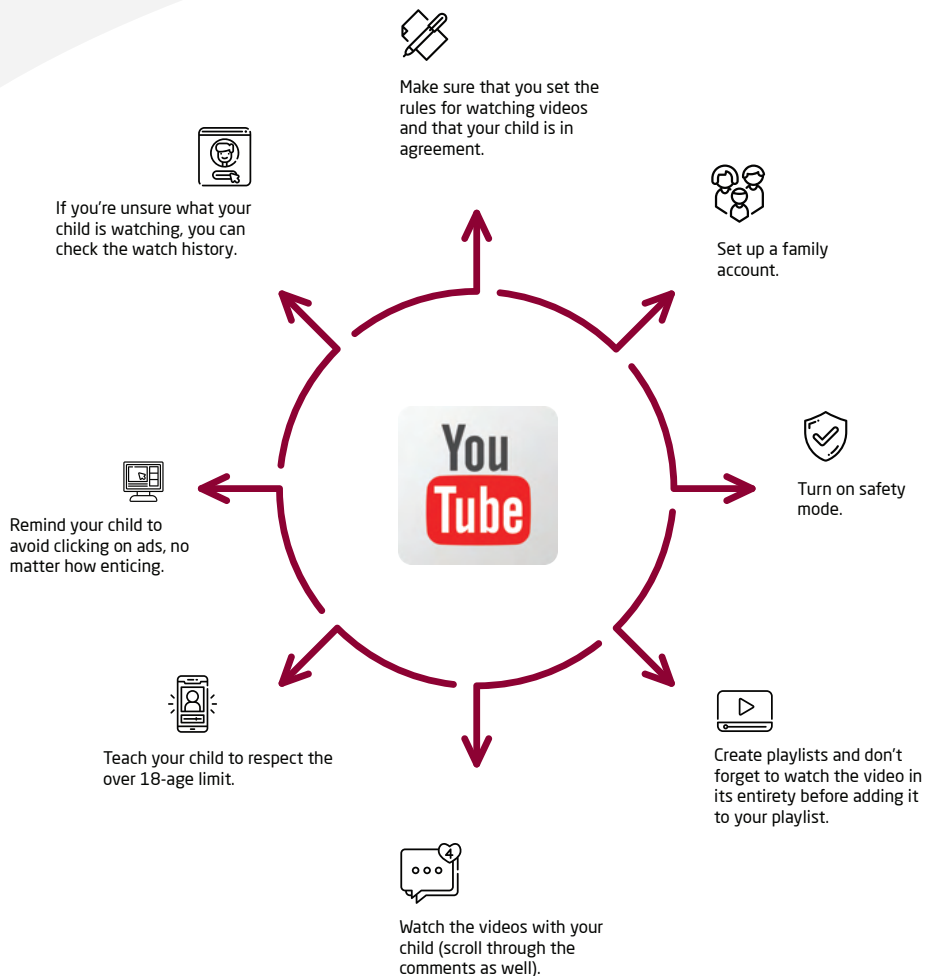
YouTube safety center

YouTube has a central online resource to discover YouTube's policies, safety practices and reporting tools.



Guidelines for Watching Videos

If you allow your children to watch videos on YouTube, here are some tips for you:



Guidelines for Creating Videos

If you decide to allow your child to create or to be filmed in a video on YouTube, then the following reminders will be useful:

- ▶ Nothing illegal or dangerous in the video, which includes underage driving, and pranks that are harmful.
- ▶ No shots of anything that identifies your home, school, sports club or any other revealing details.
- ▶ Respect other people's privacy and even if your child accidentally films someone doing something potentially embarrassing, they need to check with that person in the video before posting (remember once the video is posted, it is out of your child's control, even if it is posted privately to their friends).
- ▶ No imitating or re-enacting the latest social media challenges without your prior permission.
- ▶ Any music used in the background should be an original creation.
- ▶ Anything that seems inappropriate and counters your religious and community values; no cursing or foul words.



Guidelines for Posting Videos

If you allow your children to create videos, then go through this quick list of reminders.

- ▶ Make sure that you set the rules for posting videos and that your child is in agreement.
- ▶ Remind your child to ask your permission before posting any videos.
- ▶ When reviewing videos - as you will do for every video that your child posts - make sure that there is no identifying information in the video.
- ▶ When you post a video, turn comments off or block until you approve of them. Any music used in the background should be an original creation;
- ▶ Make sure your child gets permission from any additional people in the video.
- ▶ Make sure that your child understands that once the video is out there, they no longer have "ownership" of the video. If your child tries to delete a video after it is already posted, it may be too late as someone could have already recorded the video.
- ▶ Again, do not post anything that seems inappropriate and counters your religious and community values.



Conclusion

YouTube and YouTube Kids can offer much in the way of entertainment and sometimes even educational opportunities. But as with all online technology, parents and caregivers need to be informed and aware of the issues. By having regular conversations with their children, parents and caregivers will be in a better position to combat the issues and reduce online risks of YouTube and YouTube kids.

Further Reading/Resources for Digital Parents

Safespace:

www.safespace.qa/en

Qatar's centre for cyber safety information. Resources and information for teachers, parents and students.

A Guide to Ethical Responsibility in a Digital World

<https://www.safespace.qa/en/digital-library?title=Ethical+responsibility>

A guide reflecting online behavior from an ethics and values perspective prepared by Ministry of Transport and communications, Qatar

Digital Natives

<https://www.safespace.qa/digital-library>

Primary research studying the online behavior of young people in Qatar, conducted by Ministry of Transport and Communications

Vodafone AmanTECH

<https://www.vodafone.qa/en/better-world/aman-tech>

Resources for parents and caregivers with age-appropriate checklists, tips and guides.

Please visit www.safespace.qa to access a listing of other resources for parents in Qatar, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and Europe.