



Online Safety Newsletter: May 2017



LEGO LIFE

Lego launched this app at the end of 2016 with the aim of providing a safe social networking app for (but not restricted to) children under the age of 13. It's a little bit like Instagram for Lego so children upload photos of their Lego creations and other children can like their photo or comment using a carefully selected set of emojis. The Lego Life app is free and does not have any in-app purchases. The app does include adverts but these are all Lego related.

Benefits of Lego Life:

- In order to sign up, users under the age of 13 need a parent's email address to authenticate the account.
- Children are not able to share any personal information.
- When a child signs up a random user name is generated (therefore children can't search for people by their real name).
- Rather than a profile picture, children have to design their own avatar.
- There is no chat facility, children can only comment on pictures of users that they follow.
- The selected emoji keyboard only contains a selection of custom Lego Emojis that can be used positively.
- There are no membership costs and no items have to be paid for.
- All images and comments are moderated by a strict filter as well as through a team of Lego employees.
- If users are upset by a photo then they are able to click on a report flag (top right of the screen).

The app will give challenges for users to try and build and new Lego sets will encourage children to share pictures of their builds on Lego Life.

You need to be aware, that there is no restriction on anyone over the age of 13 from joining the service so as with all social media, adults may be using the app so explain to your child that they need to be careful when uploading any photographs so for example that there is nothing in the background of the photograph that contains any personal information e.g. name, school badge on their uniform.





Parental Controls

Protect your kids by activating simple parental controls around your home. Internet Matters has a great interactive guide which shows you how to set parental controls on the different devices you may have based on your broadband/mobile provider. To view, go to www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide.

Apps in Focus:

BBC iPlayer Kids is a free app, and will show only age-appropriate content free from adverts from the BBC's CBBC and CBeebies channels. Each user has a separate profile so it knows which shows are appropriate for them to watch. You can even download them to watch later.



Roblox



Roblox is played by 30 million people worldwide and allows users to create virtual worlds and play with other people on a range of platforms, including mobile phones and consoles such as

Xbox. Roblox is a user-generated content platform where all the experiences are created by the players themselves. Once a player has signed up and chosen their avatar, they are given their own piece of real estate along with a virtual toolbox for building. By creating things, players can earn "Robux" to buy accessories, additional skills or more tools and materials to build with.

There is a chat facility within Roblox available to all to use. For users aged 12 and under, Roblox automatically enforce more restricted settings so they can only directly message other users that are accepted as friends on Roblox but does your child know all their 'friends' on Roblox?

Roblox have just rolled out Parental Controls, age visibility (so that parents can easily determine that the settings for their kids are age appropriate) and tighter chat controls for under 13s restricting a greater range of words. Find out more here: <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>