



# Gooseberry Parent

## Video Streaming

### What is Video Streaming?

Videos that are played over the internet in 'real-time' and do not require downloading to a device. Videos are 'streamed' through a video player that is either embedded into a browser or downloaded as a piece of software. Video streaming is one of the most popular forms of communication amongst children and young people.

### Key Features of Video Streaming to be aware of

- Video streaming requires the use of the internet and is usually free, though some streaming services do charge a subscription fee.
- Popular free video streaming apps include YouTube, Periscope and Live.ly. These apps allow the user to film and broadcast their own videos in real-time, as well as to view the live-stream videos of other users.
- Instagram, Facebook and Twitter also allow for video streaming.
- Netflix and Amazon are among those that offer a paid-for video streaming service, enabling the user to stream television shows and movies for a subscription fee.
- Video streaming usually contains pre-recorded material, such as that seen on YouTube. However, video content can also be distributed as part of a live broadcast, such as in Live.ly and Periscope.
- Some video streaming apps, such as YouTube, allow users to comment on the videos of other users.
- Video streaming can be an effective and powerful educational, entertainment and communication tool when used safely.

### Enjoying Video Streaming safely and managing the risks

- **Do your homework** – Take time to consider the specific app or service that your child would like to use. Read Privacy Policies and Terms of Use to find out about privacy settings and managing inappropriate content and how app developers use personal information. You can also learn about acceptable use of the app or service and find advice on securing online accounts and set privacy settings on devices.
- **Communicate your expectations** – As a parent, it is your responsibility to make clear what is and is not acceptable online behaviour. You need to accept that allowing your child access to online apps like these, requires trust and clear boundaries, for their own wellbeing. Ensure that they are clear about what content is acceptable to create, view and share.
- **Signing Up** – Some video streaming apps require the creation of an account. Encourage your child to keep log in details and passwords secure and share them with you.
- **Friends and following** – Some video streaming apps allow users to 'follow' or 'friend' one another. Encourage your child to use the apps' privacy settings to ensure that follow and friend requests are approved. Remind your child of the importance of following, friending and accepting follow and friend requests from only people they know and trust in real life.
- **Location Settings** – Disable any location settings in video streaming apps that your child uses to ensure that they cannot be tracked to their location.



- **Streaming Original Videos** – If your child must create video content, encourage your child to think carefully about the content they want to stream and if this is appropriate for them to share and for others to view. Discuss and agree boundaries to ensure that videos are appropriate. Remind them that their videos could potentially be recorded and saved by others.
- **Streaming Apps** – If your child wants to use video streaming, it should be your responsibility to find and encourage them to try child-friendly apps such as YouTube Kids, ToonGoggles and PokémonTV. Remember even apps, games and websites that are designed for children can never be guaranteed as secure.
- **Legal streaming** – using approved and legal streaming sites and apps can help you and your child avoid illegal streaming and downloading of content, regarding films and TV programmes. Legal sites and apps are less likely to have hidden malware in downloadable or streamed content.
- **Paid for apps, games and streaming services** – Consider paying for streaming services. There are separate children's content section on paid-for apps including Amazon and Netflix.
- **Comments and Likes** – Some video streaming apps allow comments and 'likes'. Ensure your child uses the apps' privacy settings so that their videos cannot be viewed or commented on by people unknown to them.
- **Sharing Information** – Check that your child conceals identifying information, such as their location or school when video streaming. Ensure they do not wear school uniform in any original videos and explain to them that this is because it could lead to strangers finding out their location.
- **Permissions and respectful behaviour** – Remind your child that creating video content whilst out and about should be carried out sensibly. Some public places may require specific permission to film and it may be unsafe to include details of location on videos. If other people are appearing in recordings, it is polite and respectful to ask their permission to post or live stream.
- **Blocking** – Some, but not all, video streaming apps allow users to block users. Encourage your child to block any users that engage in bullying online or harassment, as well as those whose videos contain inappropriate content.
- **Reporting** – Some, but not all, video streaming apps allow users to report others. Encourage your child to make use of this feature, if available, if they encounter any inappropriate video content.
- **Having the difficult conversation** – Educate your child in the correct way to communicate online. Avoid writing or videoing anything inappropriate or entering any 'wrong' conversations. Explain why your child should not send rude pictures or share inappropriate videos. Talk this through with them and explain the possible consequences and how much trouble they can get into both legally and personally.
- **Model positive and safe online behaviour** – Safe behaviour online starts with us as adults. Following basic safety suggestions and demonstrating these will help your child to follow in your footsteps. You also have a better chance of staying safer online yourself.
- **Download and use the app** – Having a go at live video streaming yourself as this can help you understand how the app and process works. Creating appropriate content together will help you and your child learn how to live stream in a safer way.
- **Making an informed decision** – You are a parent and you will know your child enough to decide on allowing them to use video streaming or any other social networking app. Video streaming is designed to be a fun and appealing activity and allows certain freedom and creativity, it is not difficult to see why it is so popular. By following the steps outlined above you have a better opportunity to ensure that your child is protected online.

Create and stream appropriate content safely!