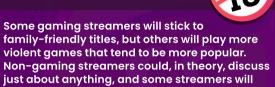
What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Livestreaming has become a big part of the entertainment people consume, and what began as a series of gamers sharing their screens has grown into a huge industry packed with personalities - and potential risks for your children. With over 2.5 million people watching Twitch, the most popular streaming service, at any one time, it's important to remain aware of the risks associated with streamers.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

often stream in revealing outfits.



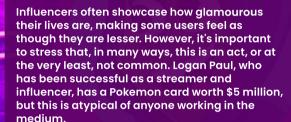
NEGATIVE INFLUENCES

While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the

FINANCIAL HARM

their screens for users to submit money. What streamers engage with paying viewers more

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



MISINFORMATION

Streamers are, in many ways, just like us - and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.

ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME

If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.

Streamers will often have donation buttons on can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as often, potentially leading to financial issues.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS

For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that influencing young minds, for better or for worse.

DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION

Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.

CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS

While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers - despite many being dogged by controversy.

SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS

You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.





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