

Comments from fans of violent video games typically argue, “I’ve played hundreds of hours of violent video games and haven’t hurt anyone!” However, this does not mean playing violent video games does not affect. Anyone who has ever felt excited, tense, or frustrated while playing a video game has been “affected” by them.

Reading the different review articles and individual studies about violent video games can seem a bit like watching a game of tennis between sets of findings and counter-findings.

Here are our recommendations for parents and carers of gamers:

1. Respect age restrictions – R Rating is 18+ for a reason. Read more on classifications here <http://www.classification.gov.au>
2. We highly recommend that you take 30mins out of your busy day and sit with your child and play any game they want to use and decide whether or not it is appropriate.
3. There are many age-specific games available, starting from as young as 9yrs when in restricted mode and with parental supervision.
4. Set healthy boundaries on time spent gaming.
5. Find out at a minimum how to help your child block and report.
6. Remind your child not to give out any personal information online and never to meet up with anyone they meet online.....offline.

What are the alternatives? There are lots of games that are more age appropriate, but ones with precisely the elements of GTA that are kid-friendly both vary based on platform and are also hard to find.

You’ve got games with strictly driving mechanics (Need for Speed, Forza, Test Drive, etc.), you’ve got straight sandbox (Minecraft, Terraria, Roblox)

Stealing cars, prostitutes, killing people and blowing stuff up is kind of hard to work into a kid-friendly game.

The following is a list of the more popular games we see in Primary Schools and their rating:

Fortnite – Rated PG - 13yrs+

This survival-action game is what you’d get if you combined a game like Minecraft with an action shooter like Call of Duty. On the one hand, it’s getting significant points with kids and parents for building teamwork and thoughtful collaboration. On the other side, it’s a combat-based game with tons of guns and violence.

Apex Legends – Rated MA – 15yrs +

Touted as the new Fortnite, teams of up to three compete in matches with up to 60 players to be the last team standing. Violence is persistent and more realistic and less cartoonish than what kids have experienced in Fortnite.

Grand Theft Auto V – Rated R+ - 18yrs+

Sex, violence, and drugs: This role-playing game includes over a dozen titles and is one of the most controversial series on the market. Its stories revolve around a criminal underworld (and players are cast in the role of gang members who must commit brutal crimes to rise through the ranks.




Please see <http://www.classification.gov.au/Public/Resources/Pages/Parents.aspx> for more information on classifications.

If you have any questions, please get in touch: wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com

Classification Categories Explained

The advisory categories for films and computer games

The following three classification categories are advisory categories. This means there are no legal restrictions about viewing and/or playing these films and computer games with these markings.

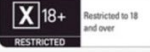
 General (G)	<p>The content is very mild in impact.</p> <p>The G classification is suitable for everyone. G products may contain very mild in impact. However, some G-classified films and computer games may contain content that is not recommended for children under 15 years of age.</p>
 Parental Guidance (PG)	<p>The content is mild in impact.</p> <p>The impact of PG (Parental Guidance) classified films and computer games should be no higher than mild, but they may contain content that children find confusing or upsetting and may require the guidance of parents and guardians. They may, for example, contain classifiable elements such as language and themes that are mild in impact. It is not recommended for children under 15 years of age to play computer games without guidance from parents or guardians.</p>
 Mature (M)	<p>The content is moderate in impact.</p> <p>Films and computer games classified M (Mature) may contain content of a moderate impact and are recommended for audiences aged 15 years and over.</p> <p>Children under 15 may legally access this material because it is an advisory category. However, M classified films and computer games may include classifiable elements such as violence and nudity of moderate impact that are not recommended for children under 15 years.</p> <p>Parents and guardians may need to find out more about the film or computer game's specific content, before deciding if the material is suitable for their child.</p>

The Restricted categories for films and computer games

The following restricted categories are legally restricted. This means there are legal restrictions about viewing and/or playing these films and computer games.

 Mature Accompanied (MA 15+)	<p>The content is strong in impact.</p> <p>MA 15+ classified material contains strong content and is legally restricted to persons 15 years and over. It may contain classifiable elements such as sex scenes and drug use that are strong in impact. A person may be asked to show proof of their age before hiring or purchasing an MA 15+ film or computer game. Cinema staff may also request that a person see a MA 15+ film must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian for the duration of the film. The parent or adult guardian must also purchase a movie ticket for the child.</p> <p>The guardian must be an adult exercising parental control over a person under 15 years of age. The guardian needs to be 18 years of age or over.</p>
 Restricted (R 18+)	<p>The content is high in impact.</p> <p>R 18+ classified material is restricted to adults. Such material may contain classifiable elements such as sex scenes and drug use that are high in impact. Material classified R 18+ may be offensive to sections of the adult community. A person may be asked for proof of their age before hiring or purchasing an R 18+ film or computer game.</p>

The Restricted category for feature films

 Restricted (X 18+)	<p>X 18+ films are restricted to adults. This classification is a special and legally restricted category which contains only sexually explicit content. It is material which shows actual sexual intercourse and other sexual activity between consenting adults. X 18+ films are only available for sale or hire in the ACT and the NT.</p>
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