

# Permission to Download Checklist

Considerations need to be taken when deciding which apps, games, and programs your child can have and use.

Many of the below checks can be found in software / apps Terms and Conditions; however, do not openly accept all that is provided by the company or that every aspect you want to know as a parent is covered. Again, talk to others, and do our own research online.

*Remember: It is better to say no than to try to take it away later.*

When making your decisions, consider the following;

- Age restrictions and/or suitability
  - According to the terms and conditions
  - After you have watched a demo
- The spirit or object
  - What is the imagery used?
  - How does the nature of the product sit with your family values?
- Does it require my child to develop a profile?
  - Is it a fictitious avatar or a real profile that requires names, date of birth, or anything similar?
- The ability to connect and/or communicate with others
  - Is it moderated? (Can you go to someone to have comments removed or a member removed? Are there rules within the program/app that are upheld by someone?)
  - Is it group chat or one on one?
  - Do you have to 'accept' someone to chat with them? That is, can you limit who they chat with?
- What personal information is required?
  - Name, date of birth, location, credit card details
- The cost
  - To purchase or play
  - Are there any in-game costs that are one off or ongoing?

- ☐ Violence levels
  - Terms and conditions as well as ratings
  - Look at the imagery and the nature of the game/app
- ☐ Is the Internet required, or can it be downloaded and played locally on the device?
  - Downloading to a local device stops strangers from entering your home.
  - Downloading to a device will impact your download costs and their storage on devices.
- ☐ Does it contain privacy settings?
  - Can you install privacy/parent controls with the program/app/game?
- ☐ Can issues or problems be reported to the provider?
  - Is information provided about who to go to with complaints, concerns, or questions? If not, you can be pretty sure there is no-one monitoring or moderating the game / software / app—HIGH RISK.
- ☐ Are there any contracts?
  - How easy is it to cancel or delete account/game/program?
- ☐ What functionality on my device does this game/program request access of?
  - My photos, videos, contact list, GPS, information about the device, etc.

*For more detailed information about particular social media products, you can refer to the [easyguide](#) provided by the Australian Government.*

The link above is also provided in the toolbox.