

# FORTNITE

## PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

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Fortnite

Battle Royale

★★★★☆ 123K



## FORTNITE FACTS

### WHAT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY KNOW

- Fortnite, Battle-Royale is a multiplayer shooter game where the last one standing wins
- It's been downloaded 40 million times since release
- the game is drawing criticism for being violent, addictive and inciting rage in young people
- 100 players are pitted against each other while a storm cloud closes in until the remaining players are forced into win-or-die showdowns
- no matter the player skill level, it's easy to get hooked
- While playing, participants hear commentary from other player and can exchange voice messages with others. Even strangers. As many people play at once, they'll encounter a wide range of people.
- While it's free to play, there are a number of associated costs. Players can buy costumes and dance moves to help them progress through the game.
- Fortnite can be played on mobile devices making it widely accessible and fuelling a teen's desire to play

# WHAT TO BE CAUTIOUS OF

## WHY FORTNITE INDUCES ANGER & ADDICTION

- Fortnite incorporates what game designers know WILL captivate an audience.
- The powerful "near miss" phenomenon is a psychological lure for continuing play as players feel like they *nearly* won
- There's a strong social aspect that makes it compelling
- Headspace in Sydney reports cases of addiction and teens playing until 2 and 3 am
- Asking teens to cease playing is like asking them to pull out of a football game or other team sport with no warning - hence aggressive responses when asked to leave the game
- Kids can get angry and aggressive when their play is impacted by slow internet or interruptions - the distraction means they can get killed
- Instant kill and the game is over makes Fortnite players more 'desperate' to stay in the game
- It's been designed to exploit the brain in the way pokies do.



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**IT INCLUDES STEALTH HABIT-FORMING FEATURES SUCH AS AN ELEMENT OF LUCK THAT KEEPS PLAYERS COMING BACK FOR MORE. SMALL WINS TRIGGER A DOPAMINE BURST IN THE BRAIN'S REWARD SYSTEM WHICH TRIGGERS A HABIT FORMING RESPONSE.**

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# PARENTING A FORTNITE PLAYER

## TIPS FOR MANAGING THE GAME PLAY

- Younger teens should play the game in an open area with sound on so you can monitor the conversation
  - Try to get your kids to form a lobby of friends they know online BEFORE playing, then audio of unknown players can be turned off but they can still communicate with their teammates
  - Negotiate with your teen to take regular breaks. Discuss how and when they'll stop.
  - Limits are healthy, though try to understand they'll feel like they've let teammates down if they're forced to quit mid game.
  - Appreciate some of the good points of online games - they can create a space where friendships are extended, they can support teamwork, sharpen reflexes and support the development of spatial and reasoning skills.
  - Most of all..... breathe! You've got this!
- 1. SET FIRM, YET REASONABLE BOUNDARIES AROUND INTERNET USE AND GAMING.**
  - 2. INSIST ON HOMEWORK, CHORES AND SPORT BEFORE GOING ON THE INTERNET**
  - 3. ENFORCE SLEEP. UNPLUG THE MODEM AT NIGHT IF YOU HAVE TO.**