The FOSI Guide to Roblox

1 What is Roblox?

Roblox is an immersive online platform for people of all ages. Roblox offers many games, or "experiences," which are entirely user-generated. Roblox is wildly popular among young people.

Kids often use Roblox to play interactive games or to create their own experiences using Roblox Studio. Each account has its own customized avatar which acts like the lens through which players view their interactive world. Experiences have several servers with a set amount of users in each, which gives the experience a community feel.

Roblox is free, but players can upgrade their wardrobes, join exclusive experiences, and purchase new items through **Robux**.

2 Roblox's Parental Controls

Roblox has a robust list of parental controls. Each Roblox experience has a content maturity label, which ranges from Minimal to Restricted, and parents can filter the level of content their children can access. Parents can also edit who can contact their child, see their child's full friends list, set screen time and spending limits, and more. Roblox also offers blocking, reporting, and muting features.

When your child sets up a Roblox account, make sure they are honest about their age, so that their experience is curated for them to enjoy safely. Any parent with a child under the age of 13 should create their own Roblox account and link it to their child's, so they can set up and adjust parental controls as needed via the **Parent Dashboard**.

For a full guide on parental controls and how to use them, check out Roblox's **Parent & Caregiver Guide**.

The FOSI Guide to Roblox

1 What is Roblox?

Roblox is an immersive online platform for people of all ages. Roblox offers many games, or "experiences," which are entirely user-generated. Roblox is wildly popular among young people.

Kids often use Roblox to play interactive games or to create their own experiences using Roblox Studio. Each account has its own customized avatar which acts like the lens through which players view their interactive world. Experiences have several servers with a set amount of users in each, which gives the experience a community feel.

> **Robux** is Roblox's virtual currency. Users can use Robux to purchase items such as avatar accessories or experience expansion packs.

Roblox is free, but players can upgrade their wardrobes, join exclusive experiences, and purchase new items through **Robux**.

2 Roblox's Parental Controls

Roblox has a robust list of parental controls. Each Roblox experience has a content maturity label, which ranges from Minimal to Restricted, and parents can filter the level of content their children can access. Parents can also edit who can contact their child, see their child's full friends list, set screen time and spending limits, and more. Roblox also offers blocking, reporting, and muting features.

When your child sets up a Roblox account, make sure they are honest about their age, so that their experience is curated for them to enjoy safely. Any parent with a child under the age of 13 should create their own Roblox account and link it to their child's, so they can set up and adjust parental controls as needed via the **Parent Dashboard**.

For a full guide on parental controls and how to use them, check out Roblox's **Parent & Caregiver Guide**.
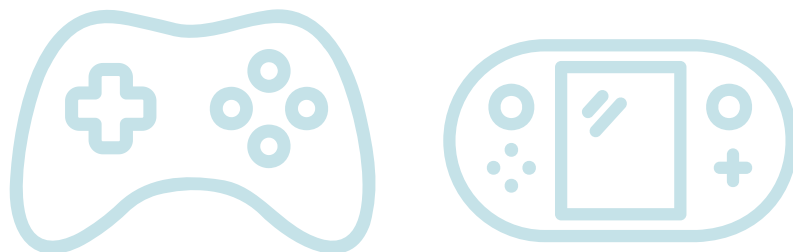
What are the benefits of Roblox?

Roblox is a unique platform because there are many, many different ways kids can use it. Here are some of the most common uses:

- *To immerse themselves* in interactive experiences. Experiences range from driving simulators to treasure hunts to caring for capybaras. Often, kids have a few favorite experiences that they will visit time and time again. To see the most popular games today, visit the **Charts** page.

- *For creative expression.* Creativity is baked into Roblox. One of the first things a new player can do is customize their avatar with their choice of hair, clothes, facial expressions, jewelry, and more. Many of the experiences are also creative in nature. In popular fashion-themed experiences, users enter a store and dress their avatar in an outfit according to a specific theme, like "book club." In experiences that simulate "IRL" scenarios, users can decorate their space, or build a house.

- *To interact with each other.* Roblox is also a social game. Most experiences have a server chat, so the users can interact with each other during game play. These chat messages are public. If your child is under the age of 13, private messages within the game are automatically turned off. Parents can also choose to turn experience chat off. There is also a Friends function, where kids can add other users. Friends can easily play together using the Party feature. Often, kids will play with their IRL friends in the Roblox world! Parents can view their child's friends list via the Parent Dashboard.

- *To learn.* There are many possible learning moments for kids on Roblox. One of the biggest areas for learning is through Roblox Studio. In Roblox Studio, users can create their own experience. This studio teaches kids about subjects like game design and coding. It's also a closed space without other users present, so kids are safe to experiment and create something uniquely theirs!

- *As an entrepreneur.* Kids can take their lessons in creativity, coding, game design and more to try their hand at business. If kids create an experience they are proud of in Roblox Studio, they can make it public. Have them check out Roblox's **Community and Developer Forum** to find out how to build the most immersive experience. Kids can also create their own clothing and accessories and sell them for Robux.

How do kids use Roblox?

- *Imaginative play.* Most Roblox experiences aren't straightforward, step-by-step games. Instead, they encourage kids to think outside the box and create their own scenarios using their imaginations. Much like playing on a playground, Roblox experiences are full of possibilities and chances for kids to tap into their curiosity. Many Experiences include roleplay to help kids imagine lives outside of their own and, in some cases, prep for future adventures like attending high school.

- *Teamwork*. Because Roblox experiences include other users, whether it be others in the same server, or a multiplayer Party game, kids learn how to work together to complete tasks and achieve goals. Using the chat function, kids communicate and collaborate often on Roblox, giving them great experiences as part of a team.

- *Strategy and logic.* It's long been known that playing video games helps kids think strategically and critically. While Roblox is not a video game in the strictest sense, the same sentiment applies. In some experiences, kids have to strategize and think logically about how to do a task such as fill in as many tiles as possible while competing against other users. The best part? If kids fail, they get to try again, which is a great way to flex those logical muscles.

- *STEM education.* Roblox Studio is an amazing tool for kids to learn STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills. By creating experiences in the studio, kids learn to code, program, and design interactive spaces. Roblox Studio and Roblox itself helps kids understand how the technology they use in their everyday lives functions and operates.

- *Creativity.* Roblox experiences give kids unlimited ways to dress up their avatar, decorate their houses, create art, and more. This type of self-expression helps kids grow creatively and have fun while doing it.

What should parents look out for as their kids explore and use Roblox?

- *Age-inappropriate experiences.* The flipside of Roblox's unlimited ways to play is that some experiences are not suitable for all kids. This is where Roblox's content maturity rating system is really important – to keep kids from seeing things, like mild horror, that they're not ready to see. Even still, kids could find a way to sneak past these restrictions, so it's important to check in on what your child is up to on Roblox.

- *Cyberbullying.* Because most experiences have a chat function, sometimes users can say rude and unkind things to each other. There's also a chance bullying at school could follow children home through the Friend and Party functions. Make sure your child knows how to block, report and mute, and check their friends list as well as their communication to ensure they are not experiencing anything uncomfortable from another user.

- *Bad actors*. A small number of Roblox users could be there for nefarious purposes, such as adult users trying to speak to younger users. In some cases, these users may try to get kids off of Roblox and talk to them inappropriately on platforms with less stringent rules about communication. Make sure your child knows they can go to you if they experience something like this, and work with them to block and report these bad actors as these types of actions are strictly against Roblox's rules.

- *Too much time online.* Roblox is fun, and because there are so many different experiences, it can be difficult to log off. While kids are immersing themselves in experiences, time can fly by without them even realizing it. Make sure your child takes frequent breaks, and does screen-free activities often. You can also set up daily screen time limits using Roblox parental controls

- *Unapproved spending.* While kids can earn Robux by completing tasks in experiences or creating their own popular experience, users can also buy Robux with real money. Kids may be tempted to buy Robux without parental permission to play a certain experience or wear a certain accessory. Be sure to set spending limits on your child's account and/or set spending approval requests (if your child's account is linked to your Apple or Play Store) to avoid your child spending money they are not supposed to.

Play alongside your child, and have them explain what they're doing, how they're feeling, why they enjoy the platform. **Remember to have frequent, open conversations with your kid about their online world to ensure they feel safe and happy when they log on to Roblox and beyond.**

FOSI
Family Online Safety Institute

ROBLOX

This project was supported by Roblox.
*Learn more at **fosi.org & Roblox.com***