

National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

Below are posts from a Facebook group of caregivers concerned about technology.

Complaints against Apple's easily subverted parental controls

Post:

 [Redacted] 1d · 🌐 ...

If you have an iPhone with nearly everything disabled (App Store, Safari, etc) you can still access YouTube and other websites through the maps app which I can't figure out how to disable. Any suggestions?

👍 1 3 comments

👍 Like 💬 Comment ✉️ Send

Top comments ▼

 [Redacted] **Group expert** ...

You can put a one-minute limit on Maps but yeah it's annoying. ...

23h Like Reply 👍 2

 [Redacted] ...

I'm my testing If you have safari toggled off in allowed apps in screen time and not just deleted off the phone it should not allow links to open in maps or any apps that require safari ...

If this is not how yours is working call Apple support. ...

22h Like Reply 👍 1

 [Redacted] ...

They will find a way on an apple product ...

1d Like Reply

Parents must do extra work to make safety controls work as intended

Post:

 **Anonymous member** ...

21h · 🌐

I've just discovered how to completely disable Siri search on daughter's iPhone. It was the only thing I couldn't work out how to control. So relieved. Someone else might find this helpful too.
<https://discussions.apple.com/thread/254266390> ✓

👍 1 3 comments

👍 Like 💬 Comment ✉️ Send

Top comments ▼

 [Redacted] ...

Just curious because I am unaware, but why would you need to disable Siri? ...

15h Like Reply

 **Anonymous member** **Author** ...

[Redacted] it's like an internet search but is unrestricted by screen time. Technically it can be restricted to safer content but basically the child has free access. Daughter refused to stop, hand it over or go to bed when she realised ...

12h Like Reply

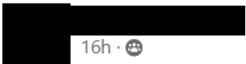
 **Anonymous member** **Author** ...

I thought I'd blocked it. But you basically have to unblock it, go in to it on general settings, turn it off and then block it again ...

21h Like Reply

Safety controls stop working on older products

Post:


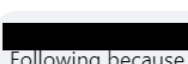
 16h · 🌐


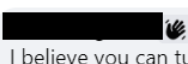
Help!! My child has an Apple Watch on family plan that I control and have locked down using screentime. I recently signed an old iPhone(wifi only) and an iPad in using the same Apple ID for him. I just found out that on the iPad it is allowing people to contact him that aren't approved contacts. This is not the case with the watch or old iPhone. I checked all the settings and they all seem the same for all 3 devices. What am I missing?


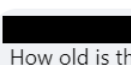
👍 1 3 comments

👍 Like 💬 Comment 📧 Send


Top comments ▼

-   Following because I'm having a similar issue but on my kids iPads. I have no control over contacts and I don't know why 😞

16h Like Reply
-   I believe you can turn off messaging on the iPad completely. ...

15h Like Reply
-   How old is the iPad? Is it below iOS 13? I believe that is when Apple added it to screen time. If the iPad is older than that it won't be able to manage contacts. ...

16h Like Reply

 **Anonymous member** ...
January 23 · 🌐

My 15 year old daughter has Snapchat. I personally don't like how it's a secretive app but we allowed it a few months ago for her 15th birthday since all her friends have. We use the screen time limits on the Apple phones. Most days if there was a group chat for sports or something that she wanted more time sometimes she'd message me, tell me why she wants more and after sending a request I'd approve 15 more minutes. I noticed last week that she hasn't been asking for more time which I thought was odd. I looked at the daily times and for some reason even though both Snapchat app and [Snapchat.com](https://www.snapchat.com) have a 15 minute/day limit, it's not stopping. She's going way over. When I asked, she admitted she noticed after a few days but didn't say anything. Why did it suddenly allow her to keep going when a 15 minute/day limit is set? Thank you!

👍 🤔 3 10 comments

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Comments:

The screenshot shows five comments from users whose names are redacted with black boxes. Each comment includes a timestamp of '3w' (3 weeks ago) and options to 'Like' or 'Reply'. The comments are as follows:

- Comment 1: "Following! Having this issue as well" ...
- Comment 2: "In my experience, apple gets out of sync after updates" ...
- Comment 3: "Make sure her phone has updated the most recent one." ...
- Comment 4: "Does she have the most recent software update on her device? I've noticed when time limits, etc start acting wonky, their software is usually out of date." ...
- Comment 5: "I have the same issue with the iPad, every once in a while the screen limits just don't kick in. It's extremely frustrating." ...

Lack of control over which apps are suggested to minors, limited restrictions for downloading apps, and inappropriate ads on 4+ apps

Post:

The screenshot shows a social media post from a user whose name is redacted. The post is dated "October 26, 2022" and includes a location pin icon. The text of the post is:

Thanks so much! The 'Content restrictions' menu has changed a lot since last time I checked and there are so many options to block adult content!!! Thanks for this group. Apple store is blocked! Many options changed to child content, happy again.

I'm in total shock with latest finding in my child's iPhone. I monitor what they are doing from time to time. Yesterday, we found out that Apple play, to download apps, is suggesting to download Tinder!!!! First section, Top used apps!! Most popular apps.

There is no way for me to block or hide the suggestions..

Of course Apple knows it's a kids phone, it is used for snapchat and TikTok, doesn't have Facebook at all... even the Gmail is the school email. Why on earth is Apple suggesting Tinder to a kid!!!

I went into my Android Play Store and there is no Tinder anywhere as a suggestion!!! And they know I'm an adult.

Please help How can I block/remove the Apple Store? The best I found is setting the screen time for 1 minute, I could not find any other way to disable it. But 1 minute is a lot of time in the Apple Store. In all other apps, I'm always careful to block/report unwanted content.

I can see Tinder has never been downloaded, like the other games that they will download to play for a bit and then disabled. Those say in the app store they were downloaded.

At the bottom of the post, there are three reaction icons: a thumbs up, a shocked face, and a sad face, followed by the number "27". On the right side, it says "92 comments".

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Comments:

[Redacted] I also wish there was a way to remove inappropriate ads from apps that are supposedly for ages 4+ ...
Like Reply 18w 17

[Redacted] 100000% same ...
Like Reply 18w

[Redacted] Yes!!! A few games I play that my kids have now the ads are horrible like hook up cartoons, adult dating situations. I report the ads but the companies obviously don't care ...
Like Reply 18w 3

[Redacted] yep! The ratings are pretty much a joke anyway. An app can be rated for a younger audience but inappropriate ads will still pop up in the users face. How does that work and who regulates this? It has moved way too fast for the right protections to be put in place in order to protect our children. It needs to change!
Like Reply 1d Edited 2

[Redacted] That's because the current rating system isn't rating the content. It's rating how they collect and share user data. The US currently has no internet safety ratings at all. ...
There were some attempts to block porn completely 😞 but there have been zero attempts to create a rating system for app users.
Like Reply 1d 2

[Redacted] I also want to say that Snapchat would likely be assigned an adult rating, which will move our children away from Snapchat and into other chat programs we can more easily moderate. This will reduce so much of the stuff we're trying to prevent- teen drug use, bullying, grooming, sexting. Just putting all this stuff into the daylight will help them so much. It seems like common sense to me.
Like Reply 1d 4

Redownloading apps parents have previously deleted

Post:

[Redacted] 21h · 🌐 ...


Hello hello!
Trying to restrict downloading apps on an iPhone. Seems that since "Snapchat" has been downloaded previously, it bypasses all of the permissions needed as if it were a new download? Any tips?! We have all the parental permission controls set up so any other app requires our approval 😞

1 12 comments

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Comments:

[Redacted] [Group expert in Technology](#)
You can turn off the App Store if you don't want her re-downloading it, and set up [snapchat.com](https://www.snapchat.com) in the always blocked category for your website under content restrictions. 🛑

 SNAPCHAT.COM
Share the moment | Snapchat

17h Like Reply

[Redacted] [Author](#)
[Redacted] thank you. I was hoping to not have to turn off the App Store. 🙏

17h Like Reply

[Redacted] [Group expert in Technology](#)
[Redacted] another alternative is to set Snapchat time limit for one minute. you wouldn't be able to keep your kid from downloading it, but you could limit how long it's used.

11h Like Reply

Ineffective controls, difficulty getting data for police

Post:

[Redacted] 1d 🗨️

My kids have iPhones. I have set website and Internet limits on their phones through screen time and family sharing on my phone. They are only allowed to go to a handful of websites that I have approved. But when I go onto their phones to go to the Internet it doesn't block them. They can look for anything and everything. What am I doing wrong?

It is the same with game limits. I set the limit and it doesn't tell them that they have to get off or block when the time is up.

👍 2 12 comments

Comments:

[Redacted] iPhones give parents a false sense of security in parental controls. There are work arounds all of them. Feel free to Google and you will find out how. We got rid of them and swapped them out for Bark Phones. We haven't had a headache since.

1d Like Reply Edited

[Redacted] [Author](#) 🙌
[Redacted] is there a good 3rd party app that would work better?

1d Like Reply

[Redacted] it's an Apple policy that users, including kids, have privacy from everyone, including privacy from parents. None of the 3rd party apps are tamper proof. 🙌 it takes an act of congress (not literally but it's hard) for police to get info from Apple off their phones too.

1d Like Reply Edited

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Like Reply

Apple is notorious for resetting parental controls. You have to check it daily, sometimes hourly, to make sure they are on. There is no fix except vigilance.

1d Like Reply

Inappropriate ads

Post:


2d · 🌐

My son has been playing a free soccer game on his tablet and just showed me the inappropriate ads. Does anyone know of a soccer game he can play that is ad free that is similar? It's rated good for 4+ years old but the ads aren't appropriate

3:07 📶 🔋

apple.com

Done

 **Soccer Super Star**
Real Free Soccer

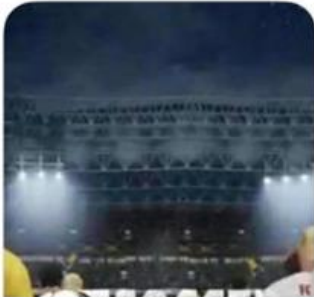

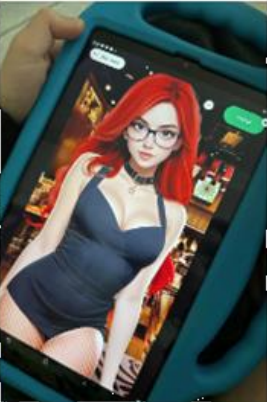
GET In-App Purchases

77K RATINGS **4.6** ★★★★★

AGE **4+** Years Old

CHART **#12** Sports

DEVELOPER Real Free



🤔😬👀 95



89 comments


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Comments:

2d Like Reply  5

  almost like children are targeted. ...

2d Like Reply   3

  yup! I agree We've downloaded a handful of games like block building games slime making games sensory ones , roll ball, and every single one of those apps have been filled with inappropriate ads and when my son clicked the link to one it tried to get him to order drugs, 🍊 etc then I go back to the link and it was gone! Idk why they are allowed to get away with it on the children apps. Extremely disheartening.

23h Like Reply 