

National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

Below are reviews/questions from caregivers concerned about sexual exploitation on Spotify.

All or nothing explicit filters

More granular content controls for family members

 2023-10-27 04:36 PM

I share a family plan with my kids and I recently discovered that my tween daughter was listening to some sexually explicit podcasts. I'm really not concerned about her hearing a few swears in songs so I don't want to just filter out all explicit content. But these podcasts are quite a bit more extreme and I wish I could filter out just all explicit podcasts. It would also be nice if I could easily review her listening history so I could have more informed discussions with her.

Thanks!

Status:
Live Idea



2

VOTE

Books/podcasts not marked by creators as explicit

How do I or Spotify guarantee that there is no erotic content played by kid

 2022-12-17 01:13 PM

I recently came over some audio porn / erotic (explicit) content on my 12 yo sons spotify account. While the filter for explicit content seems to work ok, there seem to be a lot of audio "books" with adult content! Would be nice if Spotify would handle it somehow.



REPLY

Sorry to hear that this has happened.

Our content teams do their best to mark explicit content, but that is primarily done by the artist/ podcaster when uploading content to the platform. You can report content that you think may be harmful by following this [guide](#).

The legal age required to use Spotify in most countries is 13 years of age, as described in point. 1 of our [Terms of Use](#). If you don't wish for your child to be exposed to possibly harmful, explicit or sexual content you can consider creating a Spotify Kids account for them. The Spotify Kids library features only specially curated content for young listeners. Learn more [here](#).

Hope this information is helpful.

National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

Hard to report violating content, sexual podcasts

How can I report a *podcast*?



[Redacted] / 2021-11-17 08:27 PM

This Podcast was suggested in my main page: [https://open.spotify.com/show/0aWi0OqA688KhWqITMbxo0?si=699f279b56784d69] ((warning: nsfw)) . It's plain pornography on the audio and on the thumbnails; there's no option to report either the author, the podcast program or the individual sessions. Other people are having the same problem, and the FAQ about reports is only about songs, playlists and authors. Thus it's impossible to report and remove this inappropriate content.

4 like(s)

REPLY

[Redacted] / 2022-08-16 05:50 AM

You're totally right! And what's worse is that kids can easily come across this because the family plan WILL NOT block it! PARENTS BEWARE of the "family plan"! And if you dont get the "podcasts" suggested to you, anyone can easily come across them (unfortunately children) because all you have to put in the search bar are combinations of random punctuation marks.....like two commas "," for example.....and you're hit with all kinds of smutty **bleep** "podcasts" and "songs" with explicit pictures. This **bleep** has no place on a platform thats supposed to be for musical Parents should know what their kids could accidentally come across on spotify even with the "family plan"!

0 like(s)

REPLY

Explicit results when searching for child-appropriate content

Block explicit podcasts in search results



2022-04-18 12:31 AM

My son uses Spotify on our family plan. Since the kids Spotify is aimed at toddlers and doesn't allow him to play any of the songs he likes, he uses a normal account with explicit songs disabled. However, he's getting constantly bombarded with podcasts like "I want his dick in my asshole" as the second search result for "we dont talk about bruno". This is regularly the 2nd or 3rd result on many searches. Even though it's marked [E] and it's not playable, it's still in the search results constantly and there's doesn't seem to be anything I can do to remove it.

2 like(s)

REPLY

How can I filter or disable podcasts on kids accounts?

Solved! Go to solution



2022-04-21 02:34 AM

I have turned of explicit content on the kids accounts on my family plan. However, this apparently doesn't work for podcasts. I don't want them listening to filth and erotica. How do I filter those out or turn off podcasts for those accounts?

Solved! Go to Solution.

12 like(s)

REPLY

Spotify / 2022-04-22 04:38 PM

Thank you for reaching out to the Community. We'd like to shed some light on this.

At the moment it's not possible to filter podcasts as explicit. However, the feedback on the matter has been forwarded to the right team.

On another note, have you heard about Spotify kids? If not, you can check it out [here](#).

We hope that the information above was helpful.

Let us know if we can help you with anything else 😊

Have a great Friday and a wonderful start of your weekend!

Jeremy Moderator

Help others find this answer and click "Accept as Solution".
If you appreciate my answer, maybe give me a Like.

Live, love, laugh and listen to music 🎵

[View solution in original post](#)

Spotify "Your top podcasts" feature exposing children to explicit podcasts

[Mobile][Other] Remove or manage "Your top podcasts" from mobile home screen

On the mobile app Home screen, "Your top podcasts" isn't reflecting my most frequently used podcasts. It contains podcasts that I haven't listened to recently, and yet it omits at least one of the podcasts to which I have listened recently.

How is Spotify defining "Top" podcasts?

Regardless of this definition, I want to manage which podcasts are displayed on my home screen.

Several users have provided feedback on this — and in particular, some users have unwittingly shared explicit podcasts with young children or family members. These people cannot dismiss/forget these podcasts from their home screen. Inappropriate and embarrassing.

Allow Spotify users to manage which podcasts appear on "Your top podcasts."

Status:
Not Right Now



4,922

VOTE

National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

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

Children have access to pornography profiles, podcasts

Post:



Group member
December 20, 2022 · 🌐


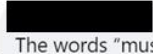
SPOTIFY + porn: my 12 yr old told me that he's been looking at a lot of porn on Spotify in the form of playlist photos, and also podcasts about sex workers, sex tips, etc. We have Bark on his phone but (understandably) it never alerted me because he wasn't actually listening to the podcasts, just reading their vivid descriptions of many episodes. He told me that a quick search for "porn" within Spotify will pull up playlists with many hardcore photos.

Now we are trying to figure out how to proceed bc we want him to have music access but this isn't safe/healthy, and he's asking us to help him stop looking at it. Thought other parents might not be aware of this loophole.




😱😭😭 905 468 comments


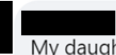
 Like  Comment  Send



Comments:



  The words "music video" in the search bar Spotify pulls up porn, I was just informed of this and it's absolutely horrible!!



The terms of service says a 13 year old is allowed to use this ... yet Porn is allowed 😞


 Like  Reply 10w 



  My daughter has her own spotify account and I changed the settings to exclude songs that have explicit language. I'm wondering if this would work for things like podcasts? I had NO idea that you can access things like that on spotify thank you

 Like  Reply 10w

  just a heads up I did the same for my daughter's account and she was still able to play songs with explicit content. I have no idea how. I checked the settings so many times and I definitely checked to not allow but when I clicked on a song with an E it let me play it. We deleted the app and requested our account be deleted. I was pretty upset with the company for that.

 Like  Reply 4w



  Oh goodness. I just discovered this "feature". I've done some research and I'm shocked that spotify has no way of content managing this!!

 Like  Reply 3w



National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

Uncensored pornography/not tagging podcasts as explicit, "issue for a few years"

Post:

  January 6 · 😊


I'm trying to find out how bad spotify is. I'm trying to figure out how porn is viewed there and I don't see it. My 16yr old listens to spotify all the time. How can I make sure he isn't viewing that? Also, I have Bark. It notifies me all the time for songs but would it notify me for a video on spotify? I don't know how you view videos either. What is the safest alternative to spotify?


  9 67 comments



Comments:

  I too was trying to figure this out.
I found a podcast called something like "how to orgasm" (written by a woman) but I didn't dive much deeper than that.
If a parent has found actual real porn, please share how you found it.


Like Reply 8w 

  Group expert Parent of older kid
 search 'sex' and look at the podcast section. Or erotic. Or other more specific explicit terms.
Now, it has improved slightly in that the explicit filter will prevent some things from playing — but the preview comes up and the explicit filter switch is child-accessible so it's a speed bump but not a roadblock.
I'd post a screenshot if I could. But search & see

Like Reply 8w 

  some of the "podcasts" are audios from porn movies and have explicit pictures as the cover photo

Like Reply 8w

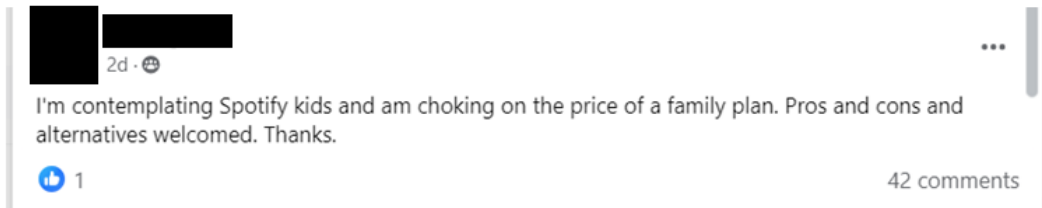
  This has been an issue for a few years. I don't allow Spotify, but it's hard to remove since it's hard set on android phones.

Like Reply 23h

National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

Spotify Kids/family plan prohibitively expensive and ineffective

Post:



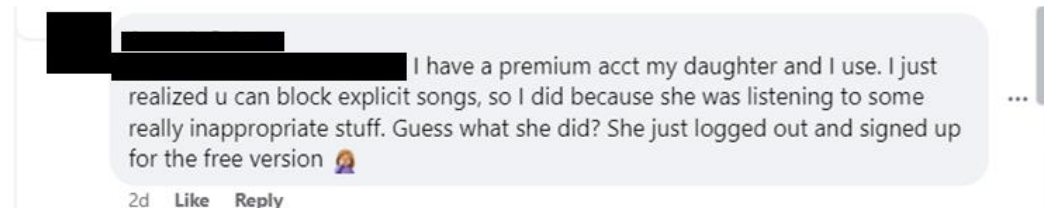
2d · 🌐

I'm contemplating Spotify kids and am choking on the price of a family plan. Pros and cons and alternatives welcomed. Thanks.

1

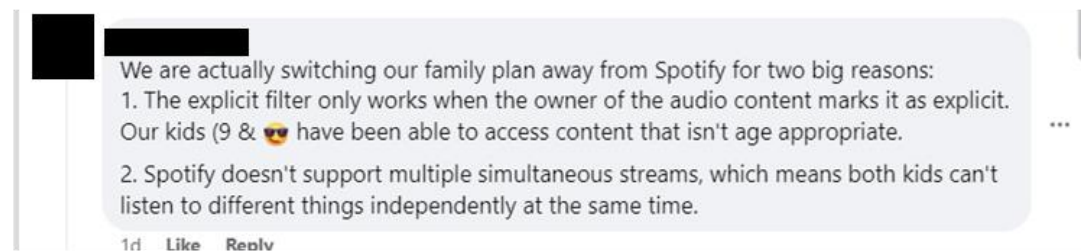
42 comments

Comments:



I have a premium acct my daughter and I use. I just realized u can block explicit songs, so I did because she was listening to some really inappropriate stuff. Guess what she did? She just logged out and signed up for the free version 🙄

2d Like Reply



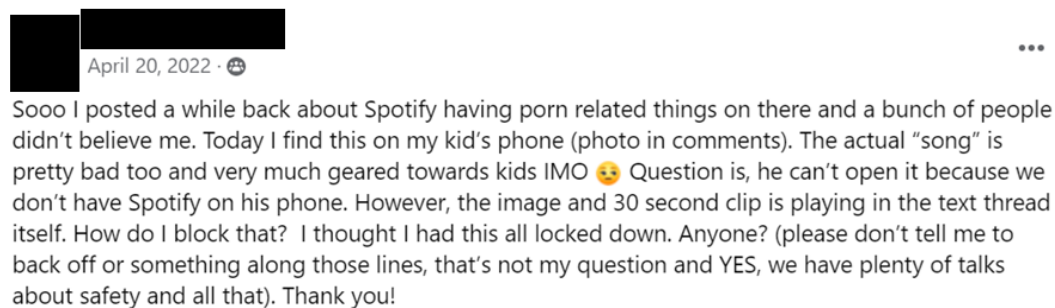
We are actually switching our family plan away from Spotify for two big reasons:

1. The explicit filter only works when the owner of the audio content marks it as explicit. Our kids (9 & 🙄) have been able to access content that isn't age appropriate.
2. Spotify doesn't support multiple simultaneous streams, which means both kids can't listen to different things independently at the same time.

1d Like Reply

Adult content available to kids, not tagging podcasts as explicit, nude profile images



Post:





April 20, 2022 · 🌐

Sooo I posted a while back about Spotify having porn related things on there and a bunch of people didn't believe me. Today I find this on my kid's phone (photo in comments). The actual "song" is pretty bad too and very much geared towards kids IMO 🙄 Question is, he can't open it because we don't have Spotify on his phone. However, the image and 30 second clip is playing in the text thread itself. How do I block that? I thought I had this all locked down. Anyone? (please don't tell me to back off or something along those lines, that's not my question and YES, we have plenty of talks about safety and all that). Thank you!

Comments:

There is WAY more than that on spotify. They have play by play books that go step by step in every situation sexually. Basically role-playing all read out loud.  45w  29

Its audio erotica, is my understanding. They need to restrict it much better than they do.  3

My 14 year old foster son had a crotch shot from a girl on his phone that I have locked down like Fort Knox. She took it, made it her profile pic on Spotify and that is how he got it. No more Spotify!! Dang kids.....  13

top comments ▾

Group expert

Convenience and broad selection = lack of guardrails and child safety.

Anything that is made for kids (like Spotify Kids or Pinna for podcasts or I heart Radio family) is all rated G and limited in functionality and content.



Streaming and discovery of a full range of new music and podcasts inherently includes unpredictable content and explicit adult content (ranging anywhere from what would be PG all the way to XXX) and access to other possibilities like communication, web access, and videos.

Those go hand in hand.

When kids are in the gray area of too old for little kid stuff but not ready for adult stuff... it requires either a ton of parental involvement or keeping them confined to kid-land too long or letting them into the adult world too soon. That stinks for a million reasons and someday it will be better, but that's where we are right now.

—


We have a family ritual of a weekly check in, where I make sure everything is set right and updated and we have a focused talk about all the things and I download stuff and sync it for them. For me, having it as a part of a set time and routine makes it all a bit less annoying. Still have random stuff that comes up during the week, but mostly gets handled on Sundays.

1w  

National Center on Sexual Exploitation. April 10, 2024.

Lack of appropriate moderation for older kids and adult content showing up in innocent searches

Post:


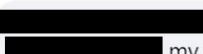
 January 6, 2022 · 🌐

Music platforms? I've heard Spotify is a no due to porn (audio and podcasts) 🙄 we got pandora yesterday but he's frustrated because he can't look up songs and form a playlist? 🙄

EDIT:
We have tried the Spotify explicit filter but then most of the songs he's into are gone. And he's too old for Spotify kids. My younger still likes it but he's outgrown it. Thanks everyone!

👍🙄🙄 12 238 comments

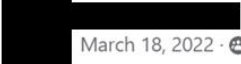
Comments:

  my son was just searching for a song & typed in "he" & the suggestions were disgusting!!! Nude women. Full frontal nudity.

Like Reply 47w

Communicating with strangers

Post:


 March 18, 2022 · 🌐

Messaging through Spotify. UPDATE at bottom.
After numerous issues with social media and chatting to online strangers I found out late last night my son was using Spotify to talk to a stranger that he met through other apps. I didn't realize it was possible to message through Spotify and thought it was just for listening to music. He just had the free version.
Apparently if you share a music 'playlist' with a 'friend' then you can chat with them.
I just wanted to share this for other parents that may not know about this.
Update - So he finally opened up and it was similar to what some others said. They would share a playlist with each other then edit the playlist description as a way to send messages.
Just wanted to share what I found out from him.

🙄👍 125 41 comments

Difficulties with parental controls


Post:

 4d · 🌐

Spotify question: on my kid's phone, can I allow access to music but restrict the videos?

6 comments

Comments:


 Group expert Parent of older kid



No.


Nor can you restrict the graphic true crime and intensely explicit podcasts.


Best workaround: pay for Family Premium, use Spotify Kids app on their phone, create and share playlists of music to it from your regular Spotify account to give them all the music they want without the very-adult extras.


Extra work on your part, but also lots more piece of mind!


Like Reply 4d  2

 Author 

 thank you. That's what I thought, but I was hoping I missed something. 🙏

Like Reply 4d 

 Group expert Parent of older kid

 yeah... I feel you on that. I wish there were a better answer, too. 😞

Like Reply 4d