

Understanding Tech

Fortnite: Voice Chat Safety — Calm, RealWorld Guidance for Parents

Voice chat can be positive when it's limited to real-life friends — but risky if left open. This printable guide explains how to lock chat to friends, use console settings, and help children handle pressure confidently.

Why Fortnite chat matters

Fortnite rewards teamwork. Talking helps players win — but default settings may allow communication with strangers unless you change them. A few settings make a big difference.

Step-by-step: make chat safer

1) Inside Fortnite

- Menu → Settings → Audio → set Voice Chat to “Friends Only” or “Off”.
- Turn Text Chat “Off”.
- Enable Parental Controls (set a unique PIN) and restrict chat with non-friends.

2) On the console

- PlayStation 5: Settings → Family → Communication & User-Generated Content → Restrict voice chat / friends only.
- Xbox: Family Settings app → Privacy & Online Safety → Communicate with friends only.
- Nintendo Switch: Fortnite uses Epic's system for voice; leave in-game voice “Off” if needed.

3) Through the Epic account

- Visit epicgames.com/parental-controls → Log in to your child's account.
- Set Voice Chat to “Friends Only” or “Off”.
- Limit friend requests and disable mature content.

Helping children handle pressure

- Agree that party chat is for people they actually know in real life.
- Normalise leaving a chat that feels rude or pushy — it's not “quitting”, it's looking after yourself.
- Practice simple scripts: “Can't talk right now.” “I only chat with mates I know.” “Not my thing.”

Red flags to watch for

- Whispered or secretive play, especially with people you don't know.
- Requests to keep chat private or move to another app.
- Asking for personal info, gifts, or pictures; links promising "free V-Bucks".

If something goes wrong (do this together)

- Pause and breathe — your child isn't in trouble for telling you.
- Keep evidence (screenshots/username).
- Block and report in-app: Menu → Report Player → Harassment/Offensive Chat.
- For sexual messages/images, report to CEOP (UK) or NCMEC (international).

Useful links

- [Epic Games Parental Controls](#)
- [CEOP Safety Centre](#)
- [NCMEC CyberTipline](#)
- [NSPCC Online Safety](#)
- [Internet Matters](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Understanding Tech — Calm, practical guidance for safer families online.