



\$95 Million Lawsuit - Apple Settle

Apple have settled a lawsuit that claimed Siri **DOES** listen & record our conversations, and they had proof. Those many thousands involved in the lawsuit are all now due a pay-out from the settlement and this re-enforces what we've been teaching for years. The AI without our tech IS listening, so be aware of what it can influence in how people use their devices.

In what was a 'hush-hush' lawsuit in the US, Apple were accused that despite saying they don't - that they actually were not only listening to our conversations when we weren't talking directly to Siri, but were recording these conversations that were then accessed by third-party organisations which including sensitive personal information.

Apple settled the lawsuit at \$96 Million. Which indicates there must have been at least some truth in the claim.

We must be vigilant that technology that has the capability of doing it, could be. This can then be used to influence our decision making.

What's Coming Next?



Grand Theft Auto 6 has been spoken about for years, the hype is the largest ever seen in a game to the point that when the game is released, the governments believe there will be a **noticeable impact directly in the economy** due to so many people taking time off work to enjoy the early stages of the game.



GTA6 will be released in 2025, after being delayed in 2023 & 2024, they've confirmed it.

The game itself its **full of sex, nudity, violence, gang crime, drugs and much more**. It's **age rated 18**, and will stay that way. Even children who aren't allowed to play it will access it's content through **YouTube, TikTok** etc. It's important to **monitor children's access of their media** as games like these change their vocabulary and potentially their outlook on the real world into quite a negative one.

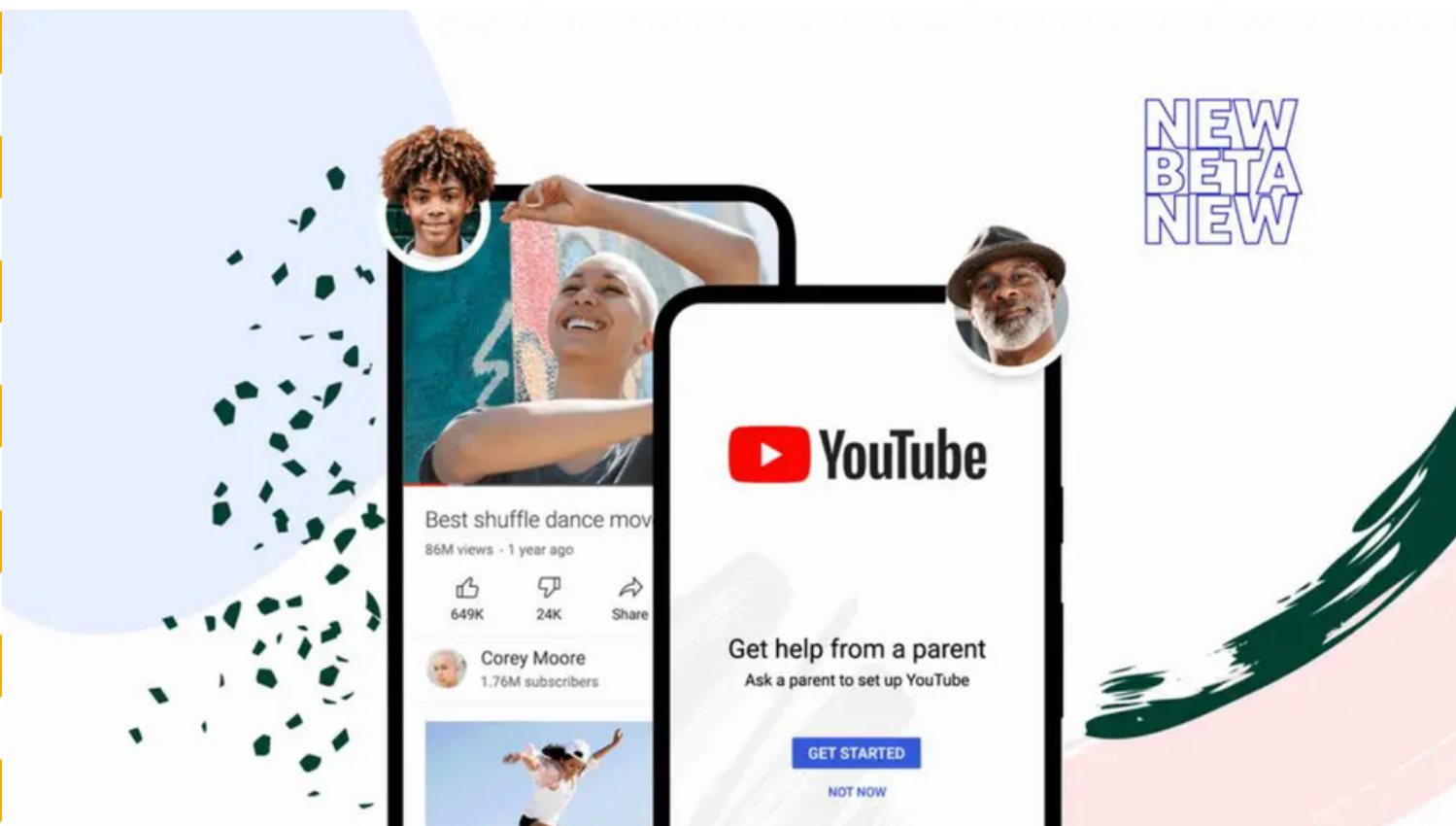
Squid Games Season 2 released over the Christmas period, with a enormous viewing. At the end, it talks about a **2025 release date for Season 3**, thought to be **June**. Because of this, we expect Squid Games to continue in popularity over 2025. The **series is gruesome**, and many mini-games are created of it in console / PC games to re-enact the games within the series. **Remember, if your child has a child-account on streaming platforms, they cannot access the series.**



[HERE](#)

Family Link





For the first time ever, YouTube have introduced the ability for parents to setup and link their children's YouTube account so that they can supervise the content, block content, see comments they leave and those that they subscribe to.

This is only for those children with their own email address, and are aged under 13. You can find out how to set this up [HERE](#).

Why is this helpful?

After spending just a few minutes, your child is signed into their own account which means straight away they get content that is meant for them, not from someone else within the household.

It also means you can see what they've blocked, what they've commented on, who's commented to them, whether or not they've attempted to make their own YouTube videos and just the sort of content they're watching and who they're subscribed to.

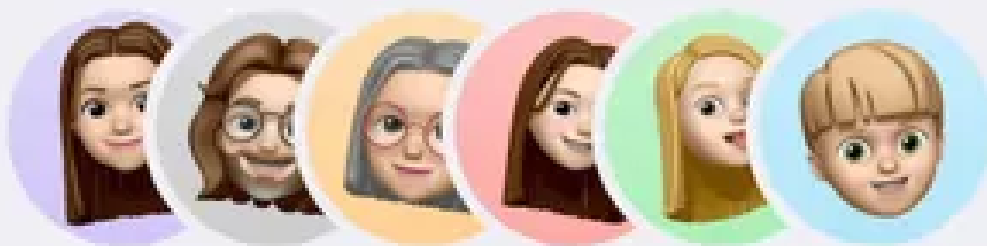
Overall this gives you a much greater awareness of your child's digital space which will help in understanding where those new characteristics you're seeing in them are coming from.



9:41



< Settings



Family



Jake
Age 7



Jesse
Age 11



Marisa
Age 15



Elizabeth
Adult





Australia to Ban Social Media for Children Under Age 16

World Leading Legislation is accepted - Under 16's in Australia to be banned from accessing Social Media in 2025.

In what could be the beginning of worldwide change in the next 5 years, Australia will be the first to ban TikTok, Snapchat, X, Reddit & Instagram for anyone under the age of 16, based on years of research into the impacts it has on mental health, behaviours & social implications of the apps on younger users. This will not effect the use of Whatsapp & YouTube.

Australia is world leading in Online Safety, with their own commissioners office for just this topic. They do extensive education and research around the use of technology and have found that social media's negatives outweigh it's positives in younger users.

This will be carried out using real ID documents, for anyone that is shown as under 16, or suspected to be under 16. As usual, there will likely be ways around the law, but breaking it and being caught can bring huge fines and the tech companies themselves are looking at \$50 Million in fines per 100 users found to be underage.

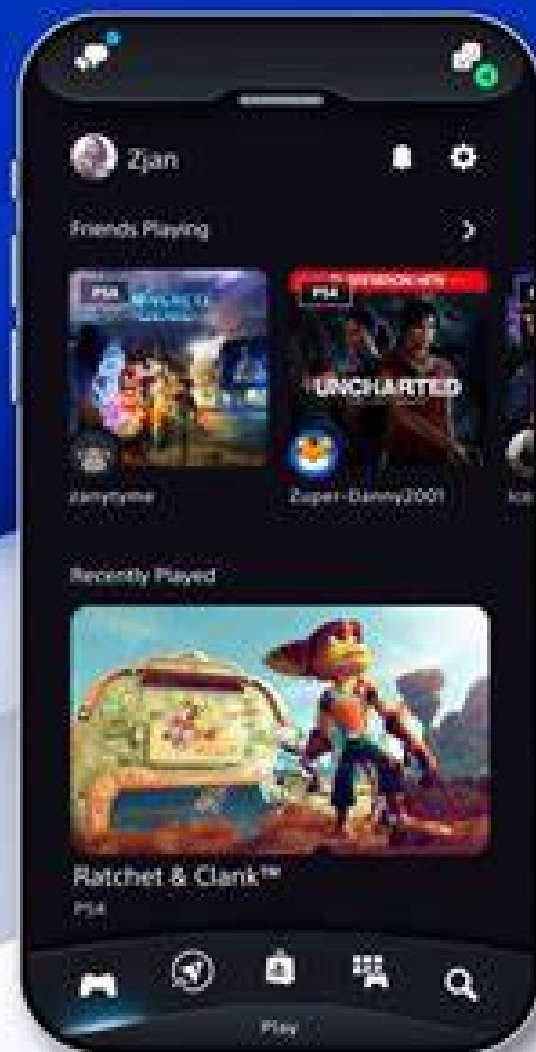
When could this happen?

As early as 16th November 2025, and it is expected to happen within this year. Tech Companies must implement by this date, a way to erase users entirely who are under age and face regular audits.

When could we see this happen in the UK?

In reality, we are probably looking at 3-5 years before the UK looks into doing this. They will likely monitor the social impacts, but implementation would be a lot faster as it would have already been done before.

EXPERIENCE PLAYSTATION APP



FAMILY SETTINGS

Parental Resources for FREE



Tap here for
100's of free
parental
resources

OFCOM To Release Harmful Content Tackling Guidelines In Jan 2025

OFCOM release the Online Safety Act 2024, which introduced new laws that are primarily aimed at Tech Companies protecting their users better. In this, a Harm Content Guideline was being produced with rules around the expectations for companies and their platforms. This is due out this month.



AGE-APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCES for children online

The Act requires social media companies to enforce their age limits consistently and protect their child users.

Services must assess any risks to children from using their platforms and set appropriate age restrictions, ensuring that child users have age-appropriate experiences and are shielded from harmful content. Websites with age restrictions need to specify in their terms of service what measures they use to prevent underage access and apply these terms consistently.

Different technologies can be used to check people's ages online. These are called age assurance technologies.

The new laws mean social media companies will have to say what technology they are using, if any, and apply these measures consistently. Companies can no longer say their service is for users above a certain age in their terms of service and do nothing to prevent younger children accessing it.

Nintendo



NINTENDO SWITCH™ Parental Controls



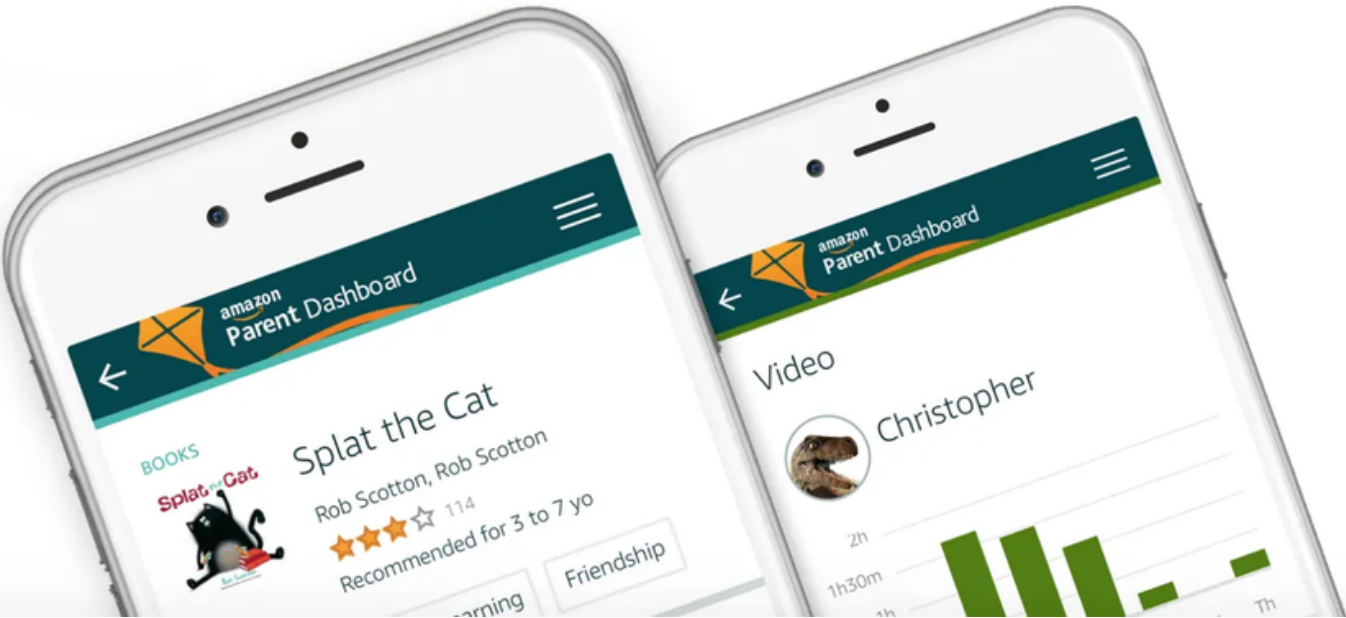
amazon Parent Dashboard

Discover & Connect

Amazon Parent Dashboard lets parents discover the books, videos, educational apps, and games their kids enjoy. Discussion Cards help parents start conversations and make connections with kids about these titles.



Get Started





How the Act will be **ENFORCED**

Ofcom is now the regulator of online safety and must make sure that platforms are protecting their users. Once the new duties are in effect, following Ofcom's publication of final codes and guidance, platforms will have to show they have processes in place to meet the requirements set out by the Act. Ofcom will monitor how effective those processes are at protecting internet users from harm. Ofcom will have powers to take action against companies which do not follow their new duties.

Companies can be fined up to £18 million or 10 percent of their qualifying worldwide revenue, whichever is greater. Criminal action can be taken against senior managers who fail to ensure companies follow information requests from Ofcom. Ofcom will also be able to hold companies and senior managers (where they are at fault) criminally liable if the provider fails to comply with Ofcom's enforcement notices in relation to specific child safety duties or to child sexual abuse and exploitation on their service.

In the most extreme cases, with the agreement of the courts, Ofcom will be able to require payment providers, advertisers and internet service providers to stop working with a site, preventing it from generating money or being accessed from the UK.



How the Act will tackle **HARMFUL ALGORITHMS**

The Act requires providers to specifically consider how algorithms could impact users' exposure to illegal content – and children's exposure content that is harmful to children – as part of their risk assessments.

Providers will then need to take steps to mitigate and effectively manage any identified risks. This includes considering their platform's design, functionalities, algorithms, and any other features likely to meet the illegal content and child safety duties.

The law also makes it clear that harm can arise from the way content is disseminated, such as when an algorithm repeatedly pushes content to a child in large volumes over a short space of time.

Some platforms will be required to publish annual transparency reports containing online safety related information, such as information about the algorithms they use and their effect on users' experience, including children.



Life360 is a US Parental Controls app that is growing in popularity in the UK.

It allows you to setup “circles” of locations where you usually go to. For example, School, Home, Grandparents or Friends home locations.

It then notifies you when the enter and exit those locations, shares with you their battery life and allows you to notify them directly through the app for a number of reasons.

There is a paid for version of the app, which allows you as a family to develop a more complex family centre. This includes Driving alerts, for example being stuck in traffic, having an accident. It also gives to ability to hit as SOS button which automatically calls the parent and alerts all parents the child needs you immediately, pinging their exact location.

