



PARENT ADVICE

ONLINE SAFETY

Parent Tips

Be the “go-to” person for your children when it comes to the latest app trends and games! Parents who educate themselves may find their kids turn to them for advice, rather than Google or friends. Starting conversations about cyber safety can be tricky or awkward, but once you make it part of everyday conversation it can become second nature. This may assist in creating more open and natural communication with your children, as different needs and questions arise.



- UNSAFE
- CAUTION
- SAFE

PIXEL GUN 3D

- Sexual Content ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Violence ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Language ● ● ● ● ● ●
- In-App Purchases ● ● ● ● ● ●

WHAT IS IT?

Pixel Gun 3D is a multiplayer first person shooter game which allows users to do battle with other users online, through creating customised characters. The game is rated 12+.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pixel Gun 3D is very similar in look and feel to the popular children’s online game Minecraft, mistakenly leading parents to assume that it is also suitable for younger children. However, Pixel Gun 3D has a higher age rating (12+) due to the app containing mild realistic violence, cartoon or fantasy violence and mild horror/fear themes.

Caution is required when giving children access to games with an open chat feature (which both Pixel Gun 3D and Minecraft both contain). Some parents have reported that the chat feature has exposed their children to inappropriate images and content. The open chat feature can be manually turned off in the “Settings” menu of the game.

Pixel Gun 3D uses “loot boxes”, which can be opened to win randomised prizes. Users must watch ads to receive prizes once a day, which could be a two-minute trailer for an inappropriate film. Another option is that users can pay to win using real currency. Some parents are worried this is a form of simulated gambling.



- UNSAFE
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- SAFE

CONNECTED TOYS

- Sexual Content ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Violence ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Language ● ● ● ● ● ●
- In-App Purchases ● ● ● ● ● ●

WHAT IS IT?

Connected toys are internet enabled devices that can connect to Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. They can have built in microphones and cameras, and can also have “smart” features, such as voice recognition software and web server connections.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Toys with voice recognition software often store recordings of their interactions with children in online servers. One example, a doll called “My Friend Cayla” was found to be in breach of German privacy laws by transmitting everything it heard to a voice recognition company in the United States.

Bluetooth and Wi-Fi enabled toys often do not require a passcode to connect, so anyone within a certain proximity can connect to them, and potentially engage with your children.

For more reviews of apps and advice for parents, visit Perimeter Guardian’s blog “Insights” [here](#).

