

A parents guide to World of Warcraft

World of Warcraft (shortened to WoW) is a MMORPG (massively multi-player online role playing game) and started out as a P. C game franchise in the 1990s. The game centers on two factions, the Horde and the Alliance. The two factions have been at war for years and show no signs of stopping.

Is this a safe game for my child?

There is no indication that WoW will harm your child, but it is addictive, and there are some people who commit their lives to the game, so there is the concern of anti-social behavior resulting from too much time spent in the online world.

I am concerned about my child's online safety, how will WoW effect that?

With the proper precautions, such as not giving out your personal details, there is not much cause for concern. Obviously, there are online predators, but if you, or your child should encounter them, you need only block the predator and report the incident to a moderator of the game and they will suspend the suspects account.

Can my child play this game at any age?

You must be 13 to register for an account with Blizzard (the creators of the game). Some suggest that 13 is too young because of the violence and suggestive content, but online watchdog groups like common sense media¹ suggest that the age to play should be 16 and up. What is important to remember is that you know your child -and you know what they can handle- so if you feel it is right for them to play, then it's right.

I want to see the game in action before I let my child play

Sites like YouTube have people live streaming the game, or if you prefer there are a myriad of pre-recorded game play videos to help you get a sense of what the game is like. Do you research and if you are satisfied by the tone of the game, then all you have to do is let your child make the choice between the Horde or the Alliance.

1. "Parent Reviews for World of Warcraft: Common Sense Media." Common Sense Media: Ratings, reviews, and advice. Common Sense Media, July 9, 2007. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews/world-of-warcraft/user-reviews/adult>.