

# iPad Family Sharing & Screentime

Family Sharing is a feature that Apple has implemented to link your Family's Apple ID's together. This has many uses, but the most notable is the ability to set limits and restrictions on a child's iPad using the 'Screentime' feature.

## Setting up Child Account

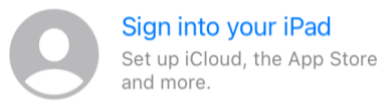
### On New iPad

When performing the initial setup of the device and getting to the point where you are asked to create an Apple ID you will need to fill out the information about your child. **Please do not use your child's school email address to create the account, these are deactivated once they graduate, meaning that your child will one day lose access to the Apple ID.**

Children under the age of 13 are not permitted to create an Apple ID without linking it to a parent/guardian, so you should be asked to enter your own Apple ID. If you do not have an Apple ID, you can use this opportunity to create one. You will be asked to enter card details to verify you are an adult. From here you can proceed through the rest of the iPad setup.

### On an Existing iPad

Navigate to the iPad Settings and check who is currently logged in. This can be seen at the top left of the settings page, with a profile picture. If nobody is currently signed in you will see this:



If your child is logged in, you can tell if they've got family sharing connected if they've got a 'Family' tab underneath their profile, similar to below:



If the child doesn't have family set up, and it is an account in their name, there's a good chance that the date of birth was entered incorrectly, which you can check by clicking on their profile, and then "Name, Phone Numbers, Email". Correcting this may prompt you to link the account to yours, if not you may need to create a new Apple ID for them.

If the Apple ID currently signed in does not belong to your child, you can sign out and create a new account. You will then be asked to sign in with your own account and input your card number to verify you are an adult.

Once you have confirmed they are linked as a Child account, you can continue to set up family sharing and restrictions.

## Setting up Family Sharing and Screentime

In order to configure family sharing settings, you will need to login to a device with the family organiser's account. This can be your personal Apple device, or your child's. From here select the family tab, and tap on the child that you wish to change the settings for. There are several options here that you can configure:

- Screen Time
  - Monitor device usage, as well as setting app limits and parental controls.
- Ask to buy
  - Whenever the child tries to download an app from the app store, a notification will be sent to your device requesting permission.
- Subscriptions
  - You can share subscriptions with your family member, for things such as Apple Music, etc.
- Purchases
  - Family members can share media, books, and apps that they buy.
- Location Sharing
  - Require the family member to share their location

Screentime is the most useful tool when it comes to parental controls on an iPad. With this you can greatly restrict how a child uses a device to provide them with a safer, or more limited experience. When first setting up Screentime, you will be walked through some of the basic features, so that you can set up a basic restriction profile that you can then edit later if need be. The features of Screentime include:

- Downtime
  - You can create a weekly schedule of when your child can and can't use their device (eg. Downtime 10pm to 7am on Weekdays)
  - When a device is in downtime, only apps that you chose to allow and phone calls will be available, and phone calls will be limited to people you have previously determined if you wish.
  - Alternatively, you can fully block the device at downtime, locking down all usage entirely.
- App Limits
  - Limit the amount of time on certain days that your child can use certain apps or app categories (Eg. Limited to 2 hours per day on Social apps, or 1 hour per Weekday on Minecraft, etc.)
- Communication Limits
  - Limit the people that your child can contact through Phone, FaceTime, and Messages (communications to emergency is always allowed)
  - You can limit communication during Screen Time to Everyone, Contacts, or Groups containing at least one contact.
  - You can limit communication during downtime to Everyone or specific contacts.
  - You can also choose to manage your child's contacts or allow them to edit their contacts.
- Always Allowed
  - This simply lets you choose apps that are always allowed.

- Content & Privacy Restrictions
  - This allows in depth editing of the content your child can access, including the websites they can visit, apps they can download, blocking offensive language, etc.
  - For school use, we recommend not choosing the 'Allowed Websites' setting in allowed web content, as this limits their internet usage to websites that you have previously whitelisted, which can interfere with schoolwork substantially.

Screentime also provides an activity log, so you can see exactly how much time your child spends using their device, and the breakdown of how much time is spent on certain apps and websites. All of this is locked behind a passcode that only you should know, so your child cannot change the settings on their own. We recommend limiting the restrictions you place on devices during school hours, as app limits and website restrictions can be detrimental to the use of the device in a classroom environment.

## Messenger Kids

As versatile as Screentime is, it doesn't allow for direct Monitoring of messages. Facebook though has created an app called 'Messenger Kids' that allows a safe space for children to communicate online. Through Messenger kids, your child can access messenger without having their own Facebook account, and you can monitor their messages, friend requests, contacts, etc.

It is very easy to setup, and can be done from your own personal Facebook account. If you wish to set this up, you can find some more detailed instructions along with more user guides [here](#).

Once your child's account has been setup, simply install the 'Messenger Kids' app and connect it. From there you can begin adding friends.