

How to Make Your iPad Safe for Your Kids to Use



By Jennifer Wagner

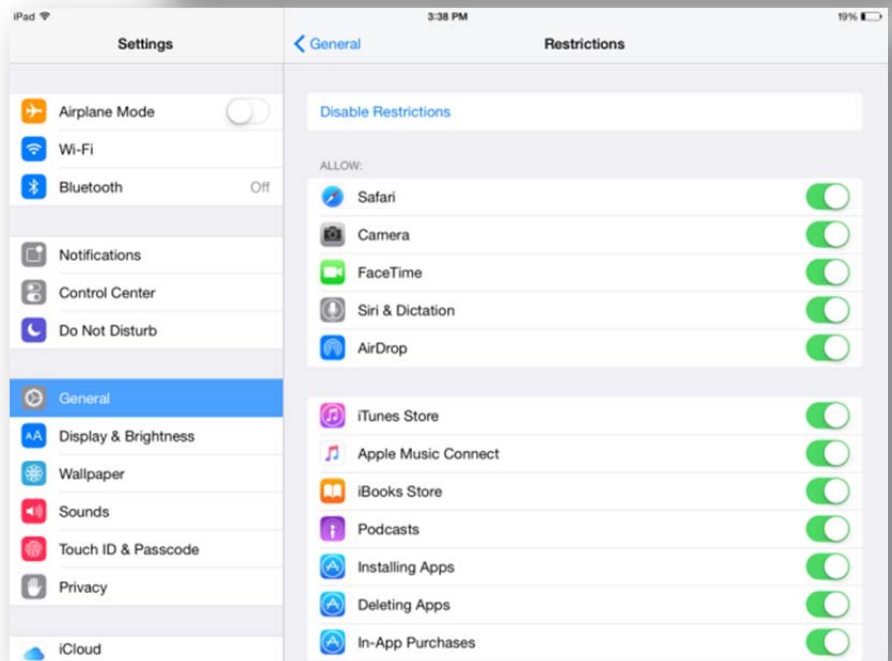
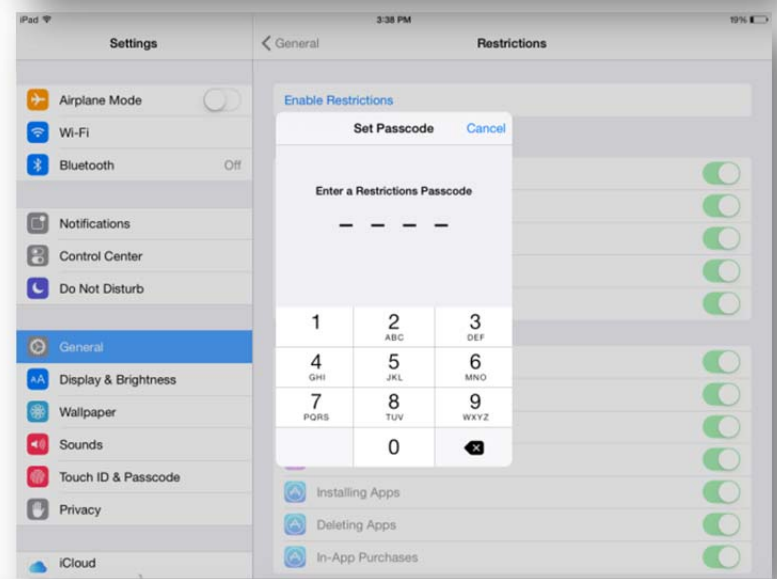
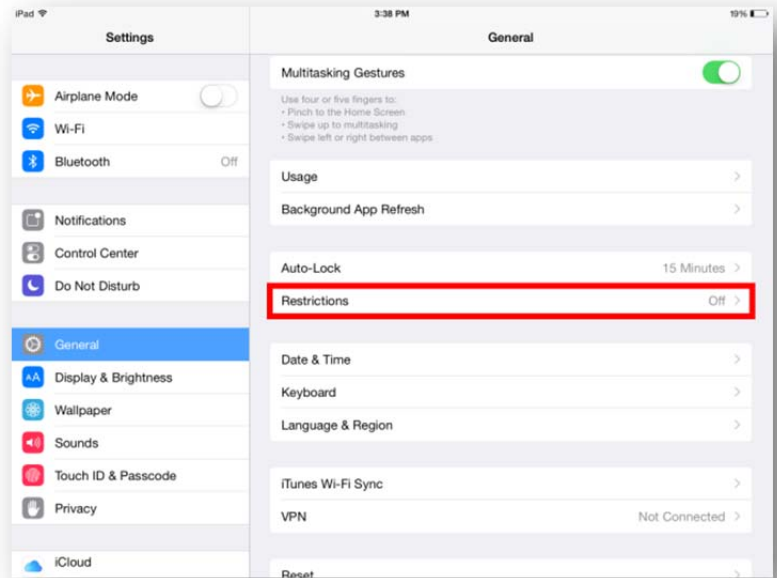
[Family Technology Expert](#)

When your kids are young, a tablet can be more accessible to them than a computer, as they can use a tablet anywhere. There are many tablets specifically made for children. However, there is no need to spend the money. Since there are so many wonderful kids apps in the App Store, the iPad is actually perfect for kids. So if you have an iPad, you can share it with your with your kids, as long as you first take some easy safety precautions.

Enable iPad Restrictions

This is the most important step. You can set-up restrictions for your child and create a 4 digit code so that you just plug in the code when your child want to use your iPad. This is how it works:

1. Go into settings on you iPad.
2. Go to General and tap "Restrictions" (about half way down).
3. Tap "Enable Restrictions" on the top of the page.
4. A box will popup that will ask you to



enter 4 numbers to create a Passcode. Make sure you don't forget it.

5. Now, all that is left are the decisions.

What to Restrict, What to Allow?

Depending on the ages of your kids, these decisions could be simple or time-consuming. There are four areas of restrictions:

1. Whether to allow use of specific features on the iPad
2. What level of ratings is okay for music, movies, books, apps, etc
3. Privacy settings for location services, reminders, photos, etc
4. Allow changes
5. Game Center

Only you can decide what is right for you family and your kids. However, most kids not yet teens would probably be fine with all of the features being turned off.

And with the features turned off, most of the other restriction decisions will be rendered moot.

Kid Safe Browsers

If you want your kids to have the experience of being able to explore the Internet, an experience which is quite educational, there are kid-friendly browsers that you can install on your iPad as easily as downloading an app. I have not tested any of these browsers myself, however, here are 5 safe browsers for kids that I've seen most recommended:

1. [Maxthon Kids Browser HD](#) - Kids will love the look. Parents have complete control.
2. [McGruff SafeGuard Browser](#) - Parents can block by age and category and can set up a different profile for each user.
3. [MetaCert iPad Browser with Parental Controls](#) - MetaCert blocks thousands of websites on its own and then lists many suggested sites that parents might want to block. Parents can also see the date and time of any websites their kids visited.
4. [Mobicip Safe Browser with Parental Control](#) - Built by parents, it allows you to setup a custom Internet filter and monitor browsing history remotely.
5. [Ranger Browser Safe Internet Filter with Customizable Parental Controls for iPad](#) - The filter system uses a combination of blacklists and whitelists to create a filtering system that is updated hourly.

Very Protective iPad Cases

Now that we have made your kids safe, you are also going to want to make sure your iPad is safe. With kids using it, you are going to want the most protective, and waterproof, cover you can find.

LifeProof - LifeProof iPad cases are shockproof, waterproof, dirt proof and snow proof. How is that for protection? Your child could drop your iPad into the bathtub and it would be fine. And, as protective as it is, the LifeProof case is still thin and light.

Griffin Survivor iPad Case - This case was built to meet military specs for shock, water, dirt and sand. These are similar to the protections of the LifeProof above. The main difference is that the Griffin case looks like a very protective case. It is big and bulky. Although it also comes in fun colors.

If you follow the advice and suggestions above, both your kids and your iPad (including the iPad Mini) should be fine.