

# Online Gaming

Many of our children enjoy playing games on a device and some of these games have the capacity to connect with others online- it's the world we now live in. Rather than stopping children from being in an online community, we need to teach them how to engage with it safely. Don't refer to the 'real world' as this implies that online isn't 'real'. We need to treat online and offline in the same way.

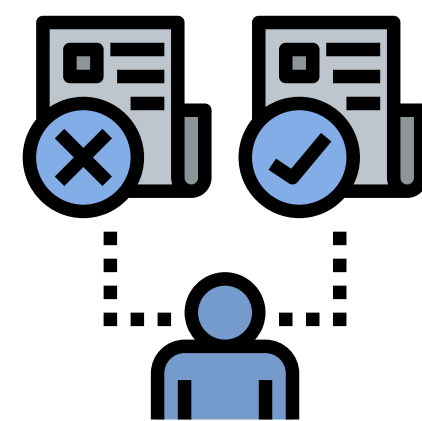
*John advocates the following rules for parents helping their children navigate their world- whether it be on or off line.*



## Chat function

Along with being respectful and being kind, children need to know what information is okay to share with strangers. We don't share our personal information with strangers at the supermarket- we keep it private online too.

If someone says anything to them that makes them uncomfortable- don't engage, get an adult you trust.



## Following Links

We need to teach children not to follow 'links' left in online chat threads. If they were to encounter a stranger in the park and were asked to follow them to an unknown location- they know to say **NO**. It is the same in online environments, they may be taken somewhere completely inappropriate for their age and ultimately put them at risk.

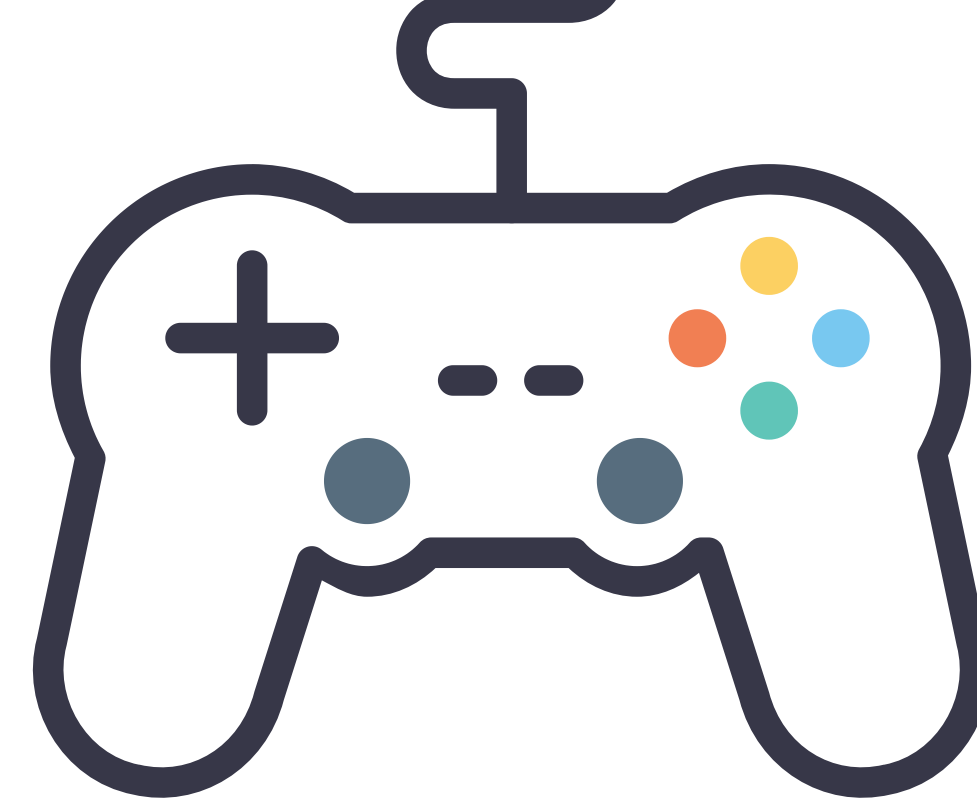
Read more tips for parents from John [here](https://www.citizen21.co.nz/).

## John Parsons

Cyber Safety and Risk Assessment Consultant

*John works with education, health and private sectors, providing specialist advice and direction on the safe and ethical use of Digital Communication Technology.*

<https://www.citizen21.co.nz/>



## Manage Risk

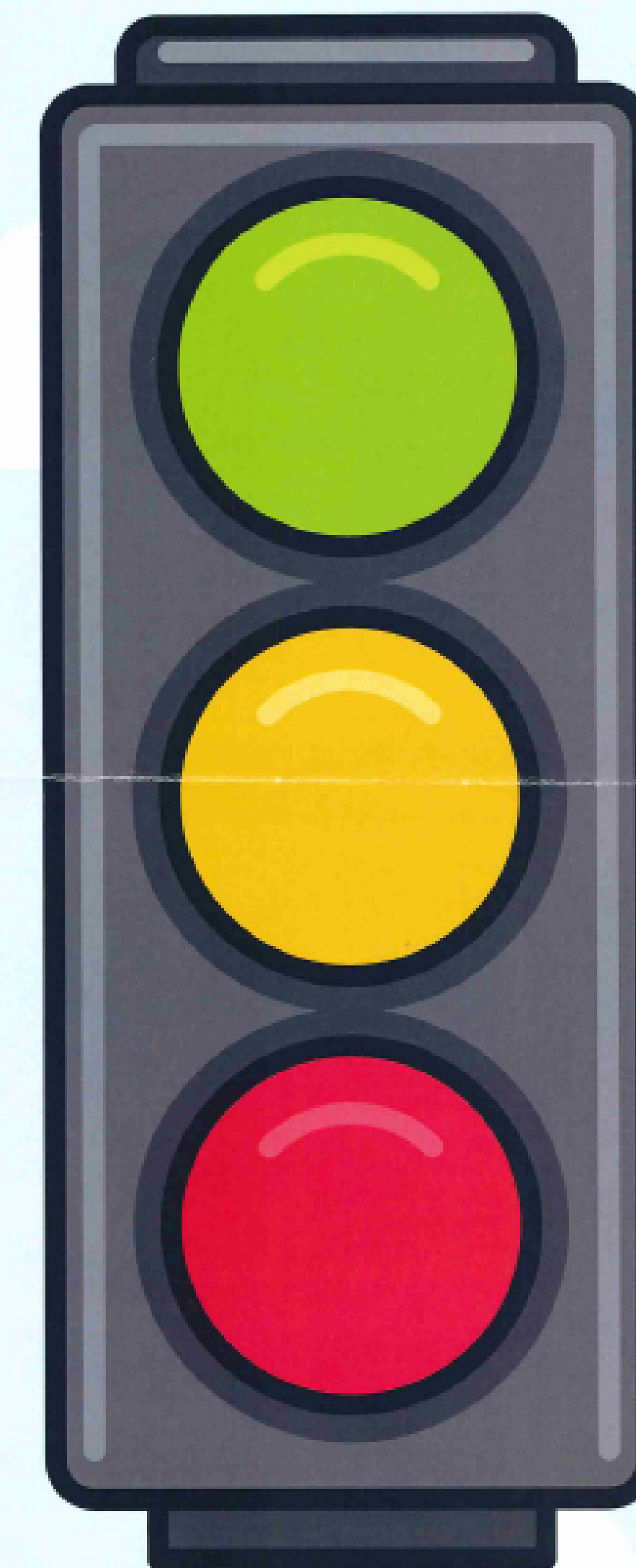
## Amplify Benefits



## R-Rated Games

Keep children away from age-inappropriate environments. Just as you wouldn't let your child be unsupervised in an adult environment off-line, we need to protect them from what they will encounter on-line in R-rated games.

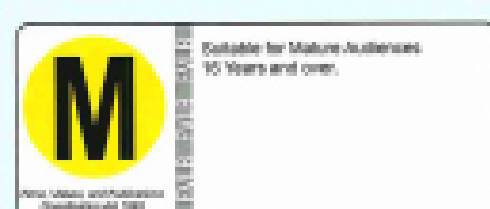
## Before you watch a movie or play a video game use the Classification Traffic Lights



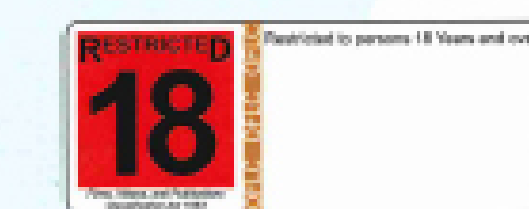
**Green for GO!**  
Anyone can watch it!



**Yellow for ASK**  
A parent or guardian first!



**Red for STOP**  
It's **ILLEGAL** to watch or play if you are younger than the age on the sticker.



It's illegal to watch or play if you are younger than the age on the sticker **UNLESS** your mum, dad, or another adult carer age 18 or over is with you.

