



The Switch is a hybrid console released by popular video game company Nintendo in 2017. It's classed as a hybrid because it's designed to be played both at home on a television, like traditional consoles (think a PlayStation or an Xbox) or out and about like a portable console, such as a GameBoy. It uses two detachable and wireless 'Joy-Con' controllers on either side of the console's screen, which can be used by one or two players. The Switch can be played on the internet with the purchase of Nintendo Switch Online, in the living room together or on the go during long journeys, but bear in mind it needs to be charged just like anything else!



NINTENDO SWITCH ONLINE

Nintendo Switch Online is a paid service that allows the console to be played (you guessed it) online, by linking to other Switch consoles around the world. It can be purchased through the Nintendo eShop for a single account on the device, or with a family membership plan which covers 2 accounts. The purchase options come in three tiers; 1 month, 3 months and 12 months but be aware these auto-renew unless you specify otherwise.



ONLINE DANGERS

While online, your children will be able to play with and chat to people on compatible games, which will mostly be good-natured fun, but could potentially expose them to vulgar language, indecent images or worse. There are options to limit this though, which are detailed below. It's worth remembering that many games can be played offline, so while it's not essential to get Nintendo Switch Online, it is certainly something to consider.



NINTENDO eSHOP

The Nintendo eShop is where games can be purchased over the internet and downloaded directly onto the device. If you choose to enter your bank details (or PayPal account) onto the Switch, you can save them for easy access later on. Do note however that these can be viewed by anybody with access to the console, unless you specify otherwise. A child might accidentally purchase a game or item from the shop if these details are left improperly protected, which could leave you with a nasty surprise.



NINTENDO'S VIDEO GAME SELECTION

Nintendo as a company offers some of the most entertaining and safe video games on the market. Games featuring characters like Super Mario, Donkey Kong and Yoshi are always a safe bet for a child-friendly experience. It's always prudent to check each game before you buy it (especially if the game hasn't been made by Nintendo) but as a rule of thumb, anything official containing well-known names like these will be great for your children, giving you peace of mind while they enjoy them.



PORTABLE GAMING

Being able to take the Switch anywhere is a huge bonus when travelling. What's more is that almost every game can be enjoyed without the need to 'dock' the console with a television. Battery life on the Switch varies depending on what it's being used for but typically it will last around 3 or 4 hours before needing to be recharged. When the time comes, any USB-C charger will be able to do the job, but it's best and quickest to return it to the dock, which requires a normal plug socket.



Top Tips For Parents

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Nintendo released a free downloadable app that can be used in tandem with the Switch called Nintendo Switch Parental Controls. Once you've got the app on your mobile device, it's a simple process to pair your two devices, giving you a suite of options to help make sure your child is having fun in a safe and structured environment curated by you.

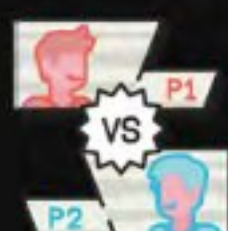


ONLINE RESTRICTIONS

Another major inclusion in the app is the ability to block your child from seeing anything to do with age restricted games. There's also an extremely helpful feature that restricts access to games that have free communication features between strangers on the internet. This includes things like private messages and unsolicited images. Should you be concerned that strangers might be using the games to talk to your child, a simple press of a button will disallow any access they might have.

PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

One of the wonderful things about the Switch is that there are an abundance of great games you and your child can enjoy together, and even with the whole family. Nintendo has a long history of making and supporting fun, family friendly games like Mario Kart and Mario Party, both of which can be played with two or more players using the Joy-Con controllers.



NINTENDO ESHOP SETTINGS

In the Nintendo eShop you can set up a password to help stop your child or somebody else from accessing any sensitive information, such as bank account details. The options here include entering a password to access the eShop to begin with, when any saved credit card information access is attempted, or when PayPal is accessed. Choosing which areas are password protected helps ensure you're deciding what level of access is given on the device. For example, if you're happy to have your child browse the shop for games they might want, you can allow access to the eShop but introduce the password before a purchase is made ensuring no mishaps occur.



LIMITING PLAY TIME

By linking the app with the Nintendo Switch, you can set time limits and reminders when you think enough time has been spent playing. It also lets you see if a game is still being played and gives you the option to automatically put the console into sleep mode if the message is ignored. This should only be used as a last resort though as it could cause some friction between you!

SET PLAY TIMES

Another handy feature is the ability to set different playtimes for days of the week, allowing you to tailor play time around you and your child's schedules. This is great for setting boundaries and encouraging gaming as part of a healthy routine. It will also help your child organise with their friends when they can all be online.



SEE PLAY HISTORY

The Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app can also send a report telling you how much time your child spends playing each game. This is a great way to spot their favourite or most played games and might be a nice way for you to find out more about a title before talking to your child about it. It could also help identify any possible issues around playtime before they arise.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Grief support for children and young people in Swindon & Wiltshire



NEW - After School Bereavement Support Sessions

Chippenham & Devizes

Monday 5th October, The Wyvern Club, 51 Church Walk, Devizes, SN10 3AA. Parking available onsite.

Wednesday 7th October, Chippenham Community Hub, 1 Gladstone Parade, Timber Street, SN15 3BS. Parking available at nearby public car parks.

Both sessions 3.30 - 5pm. Arrive when you can.
Drinks and a snack will be provided.
All ages of children welcome.

Please let us know if you are coming by filling out our short form - <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/bBz2u7krnw>

Please note: these sessions are free, and are for children aged 0-18 who have experienced the death of someone important to them. A parent or carer is required to stay, and is responsible for their child(ren) at all times.



Sessions will take place 4 times a year in both locations (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter).

Each session will have child friendly activities based on our key themes:

Staying Connected - to other bereaved young people, to people who can help when things are tough, and remembering your special people who have died

Exploring, managing and expressing feelings around your grief

Funded by:

Wiltshire Treehouse is a local independent charity. Charity number 1159719
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From: publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk
To: [The Wharf Theatre](#)
Subject: Relaxed Performance of Peter Pan at the Wharf Theatre, Devizes
Date: 13 September 2026 23:51:38
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Dear Colleagues,

I'm delighted to share news of a very special opportunity for your students this Christmas.

The Wharf Theatre in Devizes is staging its festive production of *Peter Pan*, and we are hosting a dedicated **Relaxed Performance** designed specifically for neuro-divergent young people and those with additional needs.

Relaxed Performance – Saturday 5th December at 2.30pm This performance has been carefully created to offer a welcoming, low-pressure introduction to live theatre:

- A friendly pre-performance show-and-tell session with the cast to explain the story, meet the characters, and help reduce any anxiety.
- House lights will remain on throughout the performance to create a calm, comfortable environment.
- Audience members are free to leave and re-enter the auditorium whenever they need to, without judgement.

Our aim is to make theatre accessible, enjoyable, and confidence-building for children who may find traditional performances overwhelming. It's a gentle, joyful way for them to experience the magic of storytelling on stage.

We would be thrilled to welcome your students, families, and support teams to this inclusive performance.

We would be very appreciative if you could you circulate this information to your students' families. Seats are selling fast for our matinee performances, so we wouldn't want you to miss out.

If you'd like further details or would like to reserve discounted group tickets for groups of 8+ people (£14 each instead of £18*), please don't hesitate to get in touch with our box office team. *online booking fees of £2 per ticket applied on top.

Email: info@wharftheatre.co.uk or telephone our box office on 03336 66 33 66

Warm regards,

Sam Burrows (she/her)

Marketing Manager
Wharf Theatre
Devizes, Wiltshire
Registered Charity No.900417

