

Overview

There are no products that provide parental controls for virtual worlds, so it is up to parents to check the safety policies of each site, and decide which virtual worlds are appropriate for your child. There are hundreds of virtual worlds aimed at children and teens, and most have a “safety” or “parents” link which informs parents of each site’s policies. Many of the virtual worlds aimed at younger children provide very safe environments that are tightly controlled by adults. Virtual worlds catering to teens are generally less restrictive. Popularity ratings are from [Kzero Metaverse](#).

We Recommend:

- Ages up to 7:** Most of the popular sites aimed at preteens are great for children this age.
- Ages 8 to 10:** Many of these sites are enjoyable for kids this age.
- Ages 11 to 13:** Tweens should limit participation to preteen virtual worlds.
- Ages 14 to 17:** The most popular teen virtual worlds may contain some moderate explicit content. Adult virtual worlds such as Second Life contain very explicit content and are inappropriate for minors.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Users.** Ability of users to block contacts from other members.
- ✓ **Filtered Chat/E-mail.** Provides chat and/or e-mail that filters out offensive words and phrases.
- ✓ **Moderators.** Virtual world employs moderators to screen online conversations and postings.
- ✓ **Parent Account Access.** Default ability for parents to view and change the account settings at any time.
- ✓ **Personal Info Block.** Blocks the display of personal information, such as phone number, address, etc.
- ✓ **Phrase Only Chat.** Specialized form of chat where children are only allowed to select from a preset collection of words and phrases.

Product	Parent Account Access	Phrase Only Chat	Time Limits	Filtered Chat/ Mail	Chat/Mail Block	Parental Consent Required	Personal Info Block	Moderators	Block users	Report Abuse Button
10 Most Popular Virtual Worlds for Preteens (8-12)										
BarbieGirl	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BuildaBearville	No	Yes	No	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Club Penguin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Free Realms	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Fusion Fall	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
NeoPets	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Niktropolis	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Poptropica	No	Yes	No	NA	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Webkinz	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
WhyVille	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
10 Most Popular Virtual Worlds for Teens (13-17)										
Gaia	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Girl Sense	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Go Super Model	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Habbo	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meez	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ourworld	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Planet Cazmo	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Star Doll	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Taatu	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Wee World	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes