

## Parent Tip Tuesday-Twitch

More than 100 million of us tuned in to watch the Super Bowl Sunday evening. But many of our kids enjoy watching people play something different...video games. While watching other people play video games may sound boring to you, gamers are watching in massive numbers. Twitch is a popular app that is delivering gamer TV to 15 million daily users.

Twitch is an app that lets you watch people play video games live as well as uploaded content. Twitch boasts more than 140 million unique monthly viewers and as of August of 2019 had a 72% share of the video game streaming market.

Twitch is similar to many other apps when it comes to parental concerns. It depends on who and what your child is watching.

While you can control the video games that are in your home and make sure they are age appropriate, you can't do that on Twitch. Many of the most popular games are mature like Call of Duty, Fortnite and Fallout. While you may still be able to keep them from playing games with mature content, your child will now be able to watch them.

Like most apps that allow you to chat, there is no way to monitor conversations or language that your children hear on Twitch. There's no way to block the comments from millions of gamers as they narrate during game play. There is also a way to direct message people called Whisper. You are able to set up who is allowed to send your child a direct message.

Spending time with your kids and monitoring who and what they are watching is very important. The app is rated 12+, but it is impossible to control what your child hears.

Parent Tip Tuesday is a weekly series where the Parker Police Department talks about an issue involving parents and children. Topics will range from the latest apps and technology to building resiliency in your children. Our goal is to give parents five minutes worth of information every week that is easily digestible and educate them about new issues that they or their children may face. Please comment below if there are topics that you would like to see us cover.

You can find the previous Parent Tip Tuesday content on our website:

<http://www.parkerpolice.org/2032/Parent-Tip-Tuesday>