DIGITAL PARENTING MADE EASIER

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FACT

Google Family Link

IMPORTANT: Your child must be under 13 to use Google Family Link. Once they reach 13, the restrictions are removed from the account. **ALSO – Your child must use an ANDROID device; you can have any device.**

BE AWARE:

Google Family Link uses TWO apps. Google Family Link Parents and Google Family Link Child

Please download the correct app for the correct device

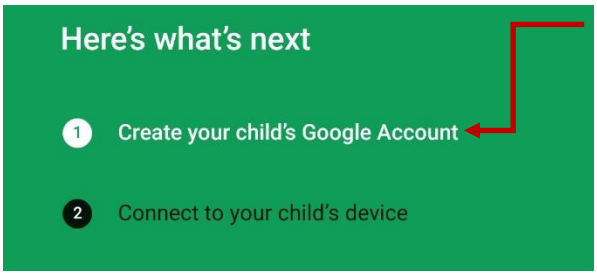
STEP ONE

Does your child have a Google Account?

Ending in @gmail.com

If you have not got one already, setup a Gmail account for your child following the instructions below.

IF YOU HAVE ONE – SKIP TO PAGE 2



STEP TWO

You need to setup a new email (GMAIL only) account, using your child's details. Follow Step Three to create the account and step Four to connect the account to your Google Gamily Link.

STEP THREE

Create a Google Account for your child

Family Link lets you create a Google Account for your child, much like your own. You and another parent can manage aspects of this account.
Learn more

This may take about 10 minutes

STEP FOUR

Connect your child's device to Family Link

Now it's time to set up an Android phone or tablet for

Make sure your child's device works with Family Link. Learn more

Follow along on this phone for extra help

This may take 15-20 minutes

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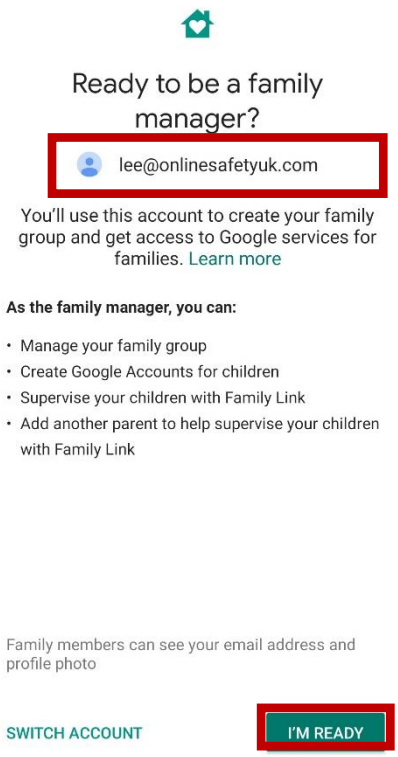
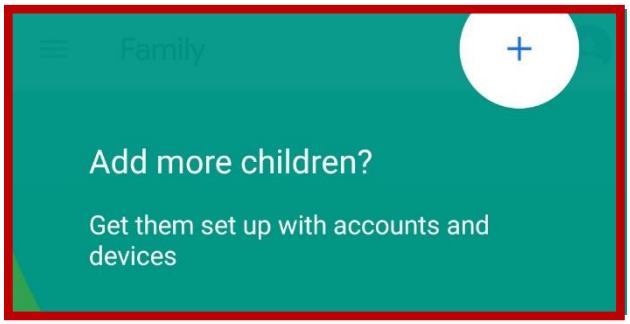


STEP FIVE

Once you have a Gmail account to link the account between, you will be presented with this screen. Make sure the email address is YOUR email address and the current one you use (not an old one).

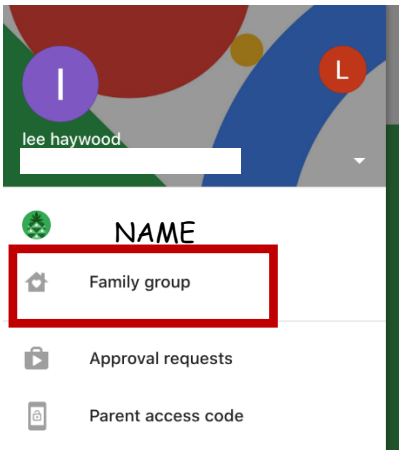
Then click "I'm Ready" at the bottom.

Remember, you can add up to FIVE children to Google Family Link through the home screen, then just need the child app on their device and you can do the rest from your own device!



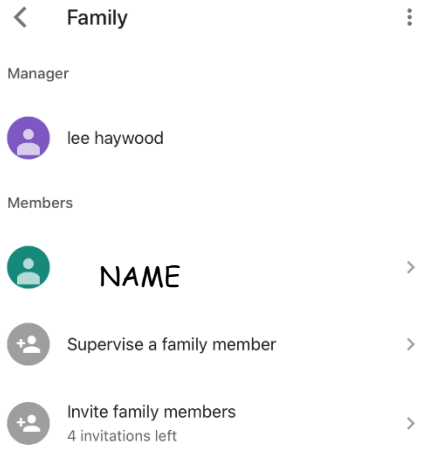
STEP SIX

To add a family member, on the home screen click the three lines



STEP SEVEN

Select "Family Group"



STEP EIGHT

Select Supervise a family member (if already added)

Otherwise Select "invite family member" by their email address

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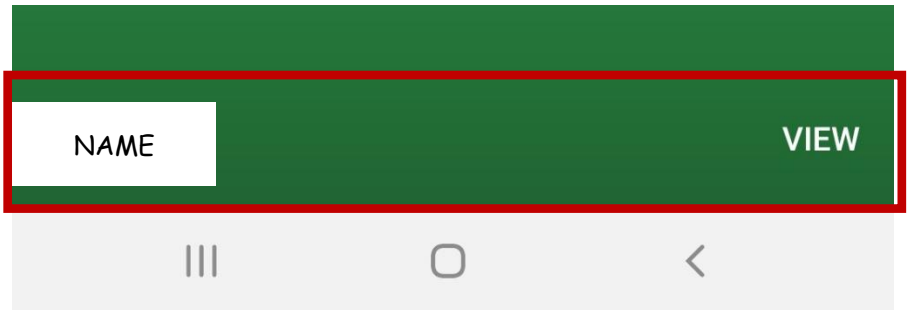
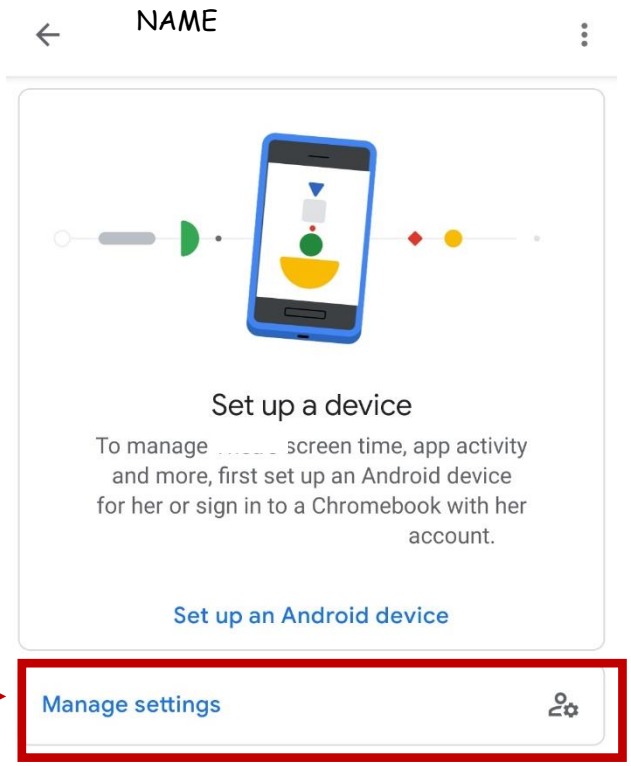
STEP TEN

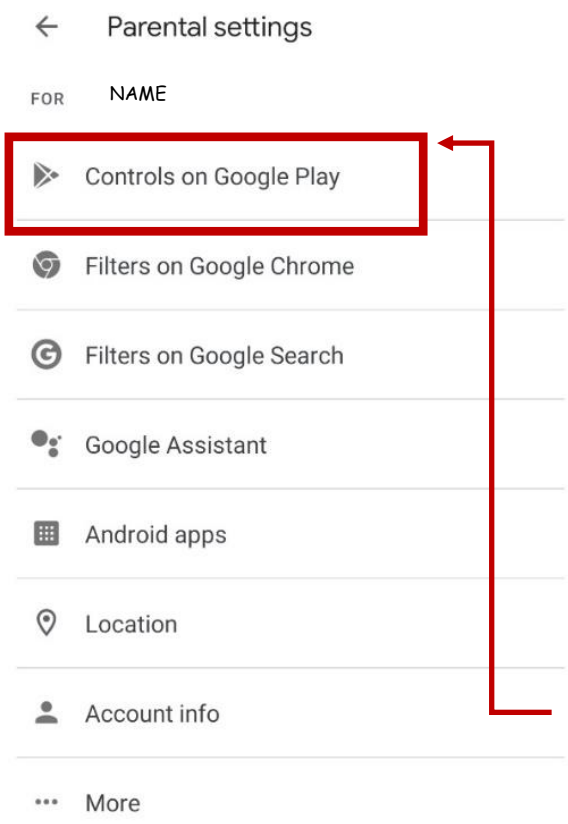


It is time to begin the family set up. At the bottom of the homepage, you will be able to "view"

STEP 11

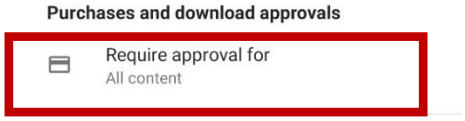
Click "Manage Settings" and you will be presented with a new screen, with lots of option which we will go through 1 by 1.

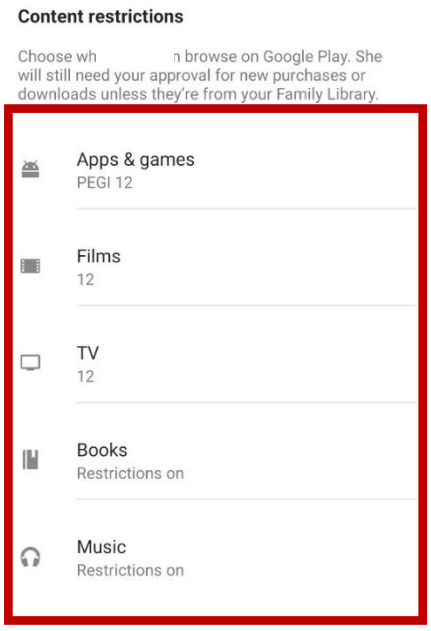




Here is your first screen. Let us start from the top and work out way down to keep it easy.

STEP 12





STEP 13

Your first option is about gaining control of what enters the device. You can set every feature to "require approval" no matter the age restrictions, this means you get a quick notification on your GFL device, asking you to approve the download, purchase or whatever it is. You might think this will become tedious but it is a very important step as it keeps you in the know about what they're using and helps start conversations about new interests without making it out like you're trying to bother them.

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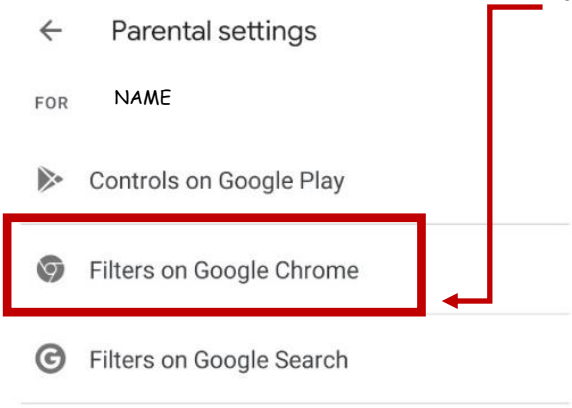
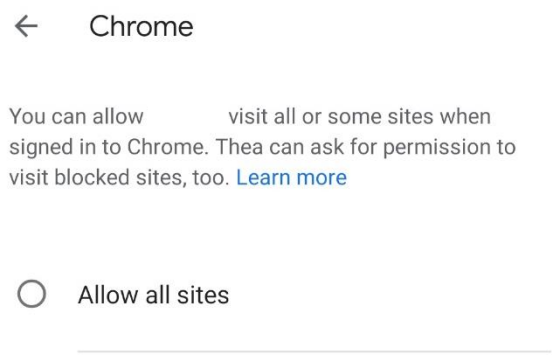
STEP 14

Let us move back one screen to the Parental Settings, and move down one option to "Filters on Google Chrome"





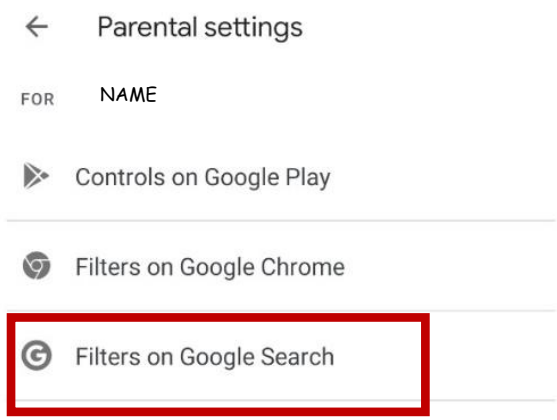
STEP 15

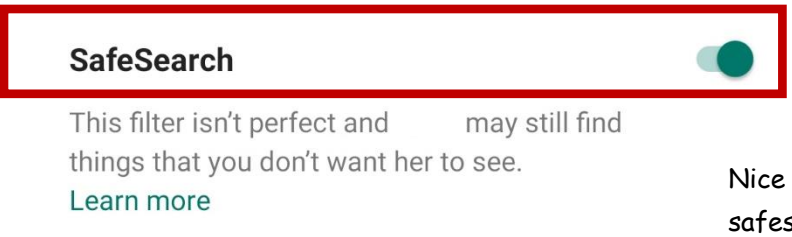
Here you are filtering Google, an important thing to consider here is, if you want to limit things like YouTube, you need to block www.youtube.com as you cannot set limits on the web version, to do this select "manage sites". It is important to always ensure the "try block mature sites" option is highlighted, just be mindful they're clear it says "TRY" because it is a filter, not a wall, so things can happen.

If you really want to restrict things to just Homework sits for example, click the bottom option and manually type in any homework and learning sites you want them to access using the manage sites option, this means everything else on Google will be blocked

STEP 16

Taking a step back again to Parental Settings, click the next option down on our list which is "filters on google search"





STEP 17

Nice and simple this one, select "SafeSearch" which is the safest option for any child, if they mis type a word, enter a phrase unwittingly (such as "blue waffle") that would lead them to content you wouldn't want your child seeing, this blocks any harsh content from appearing!

Getting through it quickly!
On to "Google Assistant"

STEP 18

Parental settings

FOR NAME

- Controls on Google Play
- Filters on Google Chrome
- Filters on Google Search
- Google Assistant
- Android apps
- Location
- Account info
- More

Google Assistant

With the Google Assistant, [illegible] can play games, ask questions and get things done. Learn more

Third-party actions

Allow [illegible] to interact with apps for families made by third parties

STEP 19

So, Google Assistant is all about Third Party devices such as Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Ring, and more being usable from the device. There is a lot of caution with these devices and potentially "listening in", which they do to some degree. This really is personal choice, children using these types of devices is becoming normal in their younger world and can be used for good educational and creative purposes, so consider everything before you decide.

Parental settings

FOR NAME

- Controls on Google Play
- Filters on Google Chrome
- Filters on Google Search
- Google Assistant
- Android apps
- Location
- Account info
- More

STEP 20

Next up! Android Apps...

This is where you can see how much they are using their device and each app by day, week, or month. Importantly, you can see how much time of their limits they are using too, to help manage the time spent. **For how to set Limits, go to STEP 27.**

This kind of information is useful for everyone, so do not be afraid to set this up on your own device, to keep you mindful about the amount of screen time you are using also. It really helps you to remain self-aware.

STEP 21

Apps

Activity | Limits

Today | Yesterday | Last 7 days | Last 30 days

No activity today

Apps

Activity | Limits

Name

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Now we are onto the last one, Location! **STEP 22**

Parental settings

FOR NAME

- Controls on Google Play
- Filters on Google Chrome
- Filters on Google Search
- Google Assistant
- Android apps
- Location
- Account info
- More

These settings let designated parents see the location of signed-in Android devices.

See your child's location
Allow your child's signed-in Android devices to report their location to Google and let parents view it.

Learn more

DEVICE LOCATION SETTINGS

Only applies to Android devices that are signed in

Parents can change their child's location settings and what information Google stores about them.

Learn more

STEP 23

If your child is at the stage of going outside of the house, with or without friends, this is the setting for you, to keep your mind at ease! By turning this on, you can see exactly where your child is, live, at any time.

If you are having trouble seeing their location, try the below "troubleshoot" which will fix this for you!

Note: Both settings below need to be turned on to see your child's Android device location in the Family Link app.

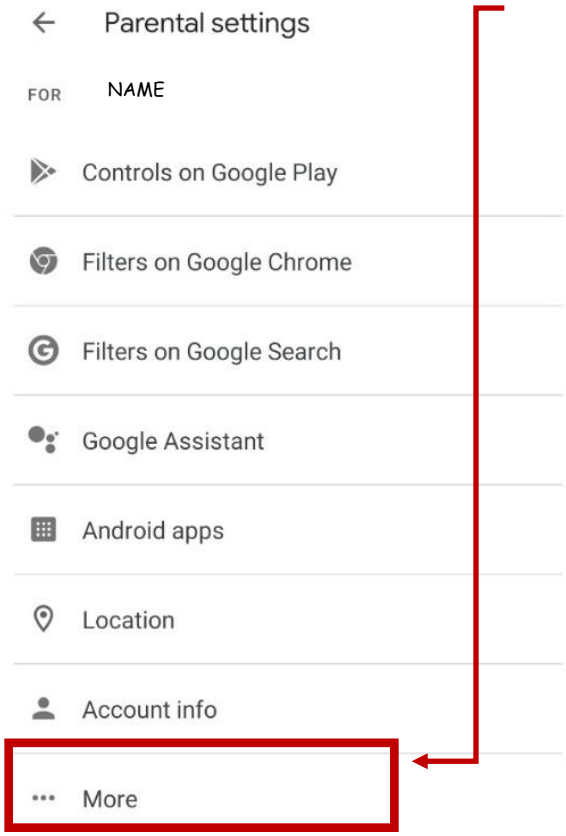
TROUBLESHOOT

"See your child's location" setting

Device location settings

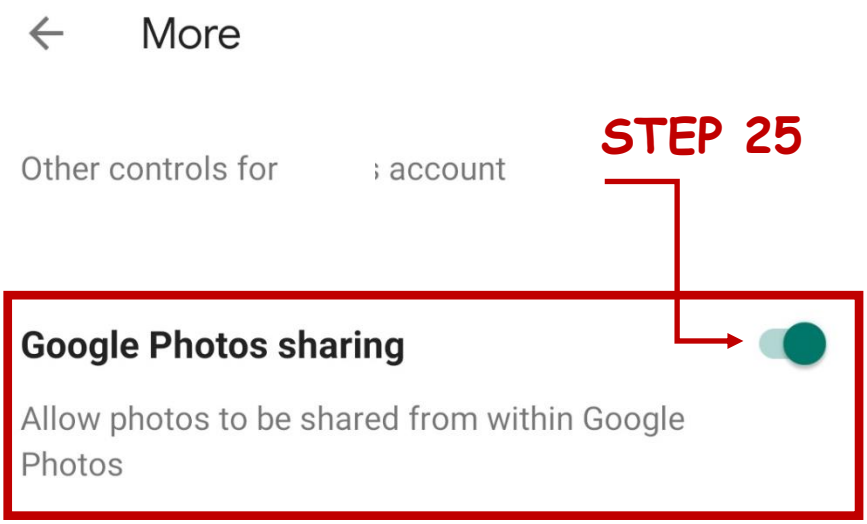
1. Open the Family Link app .
2. Select your child.
3. On the "Settings" card, tap **Manage** > **Location**.
4. On the card with their device's name, tap **Settings** > **Location settings**.
5. Turn **Device location** or or off.
6. If you turned **Device location** on, select the location mode. Your child's device needs to be set to "High accuracy" for you to see its location in Family Link.

STEP 24



Something for you to consider, is in the "More" section you can share photo albums. This means you can see all their photo's they take and store in the album. If you feel you need to keep an eye on this, this is an option for you!

STEP 25



Once this is set up, it is time to get into the details such as setting a bedtime, time limits on apps etc. Below will quickly run you through each option, I know this has been a lengthy process, but it is worth it in the end and you have taken a great step in being a digital parent!

Set daily limits

STEP 26

1. Open the Family Link app.
2. Select your child.
3. On the "Daily limit" card, tap **Set up** or **Edit limits**.
4. Follow the instructions on the screen to set daily limits.

Tip: Daily limits apply to each Android device or Chromebook your child uses. For example, if you set a daily limit of 2 hours, your child would get 2 hours of time on each device.

Disable screen time limits

You can disable screen time limits from the Family Link app on your device.

You can also disable screen time limits by going to families.google.com on a web browser:

1. Sign in with the Google Account you use to supervise your child.
2. Select your child.
3. Select **More** > **Disable**.

Tip: You can use the Family Link app to re-enable screen time limits.

Android device that's already set up

Use these steps if you want to give your child an Android device that you or someone else used previously.

Devices running Android 6 or below may need to be set up using these steps.

1. Factory reset the device. If you want, you can back up the data from the device and download it on another device.
   Note: If you can't sign your child in to their Android device after a factory reset, you may need to follow these steps.
2. Open the device's Settings app.
3. Tap **Users & accounts** > **Add account**.
4. When prompted, sign in with your child's Google Account email address and password.
5. Follow the instructions on the screen to set up the device.

Having issues setting up a child account? Do not worry, here is how to fix those issues!

Trouble signing your child in

If you're having trouble signing in with your child's account, here are a few different steps you can try:

Add your parent account

1. On your child's device, open the Settings app ⚙.
2. Tap **Users & accounts** > **Add account**.
3. Sign in with the parent account you use with Family Link.

Update Google Play services

1. On your child's Android device, open the Google app G or go to google.com . Search for "Google Play services."
2. On the Google Play services card, tap **Install** > **More details** > **Update**.

Note: Make sure Google Play services finishes updating before moving on to step 3.

Add your child's account

1. On your child's device, open the Settings app ⚙.
2. Tap **Users & accounts**.
3. Tap your parent account, and then tap **Remove account**.
4. Tap **Add account**.
5. Sign in with your child's account.

STEP 27

Setting up time limits on apps.

Set time limits for apps your child uses

If your child's Android device is running Android Nougat or newer, you can set time limits on apps to manage how much time your child can spend on a specific app each day.

1. Open the Family Link app .
2. Select your child.
3. On the "Today's activity" card, tap **Set limits**.
4. Next to your desired app, tap > Set limit .
5. Set a daily time limit for the app.
6. Tap **Set**.

Tip:

- Time limits will apply to apps installed on all of your child's devices.
- System apps aren't supported by the app limit functionality. Limits can only be set for Android N+ devices.

Change time limits for apps your child uses

To update a time limit on a specific application:

1. Open the Family Link app and select your child.
2. On the "Today's activity" card, tap **More**.
3. Next to your desired app, tap > Edit limit .
4. Change the time limit to your desired amount.
   a. To remove a limit, tap **Delete limit**.
5. Tap **Edit**.
6. New limits will get updated whenever the child device is online next.

STEP 28

Set a bedtime

1. Open the Family Link app .
2. Select your child.
3. On the "Bedtime" card, tap **Edit schedule**.
4. Follow the instructions on the screen to set a bedtime.