

With an enforced shut down, many more children and adults are turning to the games console and finding their way to Fortnite. A game which has no blood or gory graphics and allows people to team up, socialise in creative and go up against other players in a battle to virtual death. Fortnite has had great criticism about the number of children that play and the effect it can have on their developing brains, though this can be said of any game. However, Fortnite also allows them to learn how to co-operate with other people and keeps them in contact with friends, even if that friend moves away or is unable to get to them.

Anything used incorrectly can be a problem but something like Fortnite also has many benefits for children and teens provided it isn't over played. It is not unusual to meet six and seven year olds whilst playing, sometimes you can hear their parents in the background. The cartoony appearance and the lack of gore or blood make it very enticing to young people. The creative part of the game lets them just play with people they want to. Also if they go into a match, it also teaches them about team work and getting on with others, not losing their temper and controlling frustration.

It would be nice to see Epic Games (the makers of Fortnite) have a new playground/battleground for children. Microsoft monitor the Xbox and what goes on during games and bad sportsmanship, swearing and being aggressive to other players is not tolerated and a ban can be applied. This means the game is somewhat monitored so if a child becomes uncomfortable with anything that is said to them online, they can immediately report the player and it will be looked into. This does give some protection, not just for children but for all of us that don't like being sworn at whilst trying to enjoy a game. Not many games have such an immediate way to report something that is not in keeping with the spirit of the game.

That is something that should not be overlooked. The spirit of Fortnite is fun and frolic, player's avatars dance, show emotion, play ball games and much more whilst hiding out in the game or waiting for a game to start. Our own Red Moon Puppy character spends most of her time hiding in solo games. You can try and find her soon with our new game. 'Where's Red Moon Puppy?' More on this in May. I have always found a good feeling on Fortnite, most people do not take it too seriously and even those that do still get into the fun aspect of the game.

