

“Common Sense Media is dedicated to improving the lives of kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in a world of media and technology.”

The site gives parents a free place to go and research the music, TV, movies, games, and websites that your children see. This tutorial will show you how to use the basic features of www.commonsensemedia.org.



Find Great Media for Kids by Age and Type

Ages 2 - 18

- Movies
- Books
- TV
- Games
- Apps
- Websites

13 Smartest Female Characters to Share with Kids

Move over Sherlock Holmes -- the girl geniuses have arrived in time for Women's History Month. [Check out the list.](#)

Common Sense Media has a simple registration process that you can follow to see the features on their site. Signing up is a breeze!

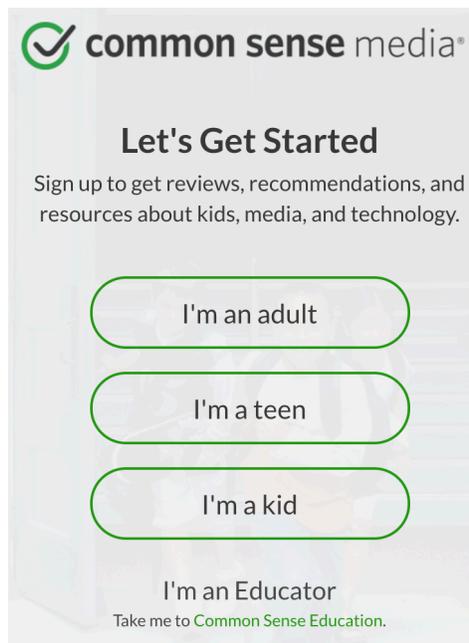
Log in | Sign me up

Simply click on the “Sign me up” link in the top right corner of the page. If you have already registered, you can click “Login.”

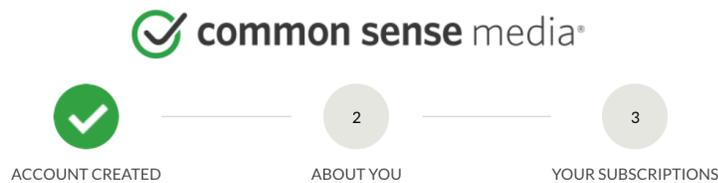


Please know that you do not need an account to use this site. However, having an account opens more options.

After you click on the “Sign me up” link **you will be taken to this screen**. Choose your age group, type in your email address, and make up a password according to the guided directions. **You can also choose to become a member by using a social media account like Facebook, Twitter, or even your Gmail!**



Complete your registration by answering a few final questions or choose “Skip for now.”



Welcome, Cameron!

Personalize your experience by answering a few simple questions.

Are you here for your family?

As a family member in the Common Sense community, you can access age-based ratings and reviews of movies, TV shows, books, games, and more, along with expert advice on parenting issues.

[Skip for now](#)

[Next](#)

Congratulations, you just registered for Common Sense Media! In the top right corner of the page you will see your username.



Now that you are registered you can add more information to your profile if you want to, or you can start browsing and searching for content. If you are unsure of what you are looking for, the sections above are a great place to start. Reviews, Top Picks, and News & Advice offer a great deal of information that will help anyone become more Internet literate.

As you browse, keep in mind the rating systems. You will see the youngest appropriate age based on content, and a 5 star rating of overall quality.

Overall Quality

Magic Tree House

age 6+ ★★★★★

Reading site has quizzes, games, plugs to buy book series.
URL: <http://www.magictreehouse.com> (2015)

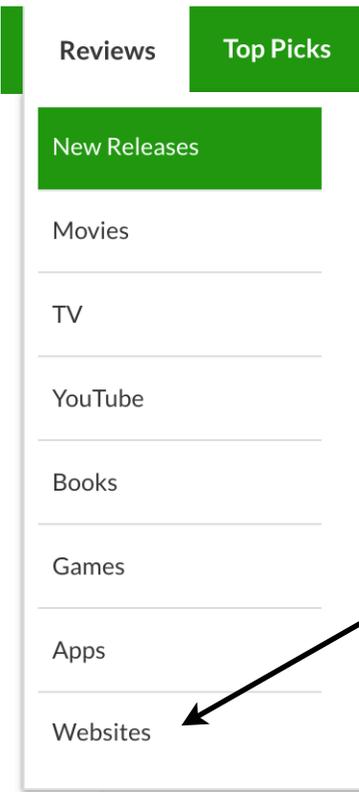
Continue reading

Youngest Appropriate Age

A LOT OR A LITTLE?
The parents' guide to what's in this website.

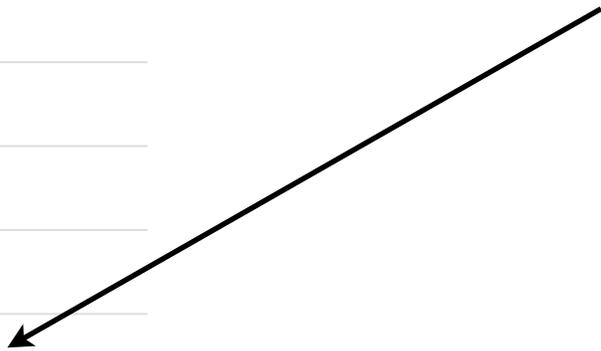
A+ ●●●●● Educational value	●●●●● Positive messages	not present Violence & scariness
not present Sexy stuff	#! not present Language	\$ ●●●●● Consumerism
not present Drinking, drugs & smoking		

When looking at specific titles, there is a list of content categories with in-depth information on each title. Each category is rated on a scale of 0-5; or it will say "not present". If three are highlighted, that means there's a fair amount of that type of content, and five highlighted dots indicates that there's lots of it.



BROWSING

By moving your mouse over the "Reviews" section, you can start browsing by different types of media. In this example, we are going to choose "Websites." Go ahead and select "Websites."



Now you will be giving the opportunity to narrow your results. You can search by a specific age...



You will also have the option of narrowing results by genre, subject, skill, learning rating, topics, and more!

GENRE

- Browsing and Searching 15
- Educational 498
- Creating 110
- Blogging 35
- Virtual Worlds

Show more

BROWSE BY SKILL

- Thinking & Reasoning 337
- Creativity 174
- Self-Direction 230
- Emotional Development 95
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Responsibility & Ethics
- Tech Skills
- Health & Fitness

BROWSE BY SUBJECT

- Language & Reading
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies 183
- Arts 133
- Hobbies 51

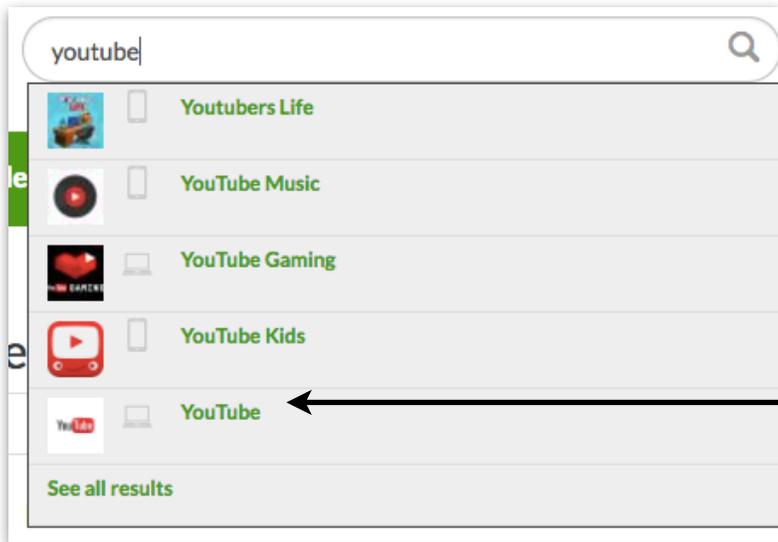
TOPICS

- Cars and trucks 3
- Dinosaurs 4
- Magic and fantasy 18
- Princesses and fairies 5
- Sports and martial arts 19

Show more

SEARCHING

If you know exactly what you are looking for, you can simply search for it using the search bar at the top right corner of the homepage.



As an example, I am going to search for the popular media site YouTube. Simply enter your search term **and you will notice that a number of search results will appear automatically in a drop-down menu.**

Select the site you are looking for, or if you don't see what you want, click on "See all results" or the search icon.



YouTube

age 13+ ★★★★★

Vast video site entertains, educates; iffy stuff abounds.
URL: <http://www.youtube.com/> (2011)

Continue reading

Here is the basic summary review. Based on the key included earlier in this tutorial, it appears that YouTube is appropriate for children **aged 13 and up, and is rated 4 out of 5 stars for overall quality. Parents should take note that "iffy stuff abounds"**

Parents need to know that there are many videos on YouTube that may not be age-appropriate for their kids. The site is entirely user-generated and relies on its community to flag videos that violate YouTube's terms of service (mostly for sexual content, language, and hate speech). Plenty of age-inappropriate content can be surfaced by typing in the most innocent of search terms, so

The more detailed review will present specific information that is important for parents to know as their children explore the media you have searched for.

Want a second opinion? Read reviews from parents and kids alike to see what they have to say!

For a more professional summary of the good, the bad, and the ugly of new media click the "Is It Any Good" or the "Talk to Your Kids About..." sections.

USER REVIEWS

PARENTS SAY

KIDS SAY

Adult

Written by [tdidjdood](#)
April 10, 2009

age 8+ ★★★★★

 Report this review

oh come on
This site isn't that bad.

Parent of a 3, 6, and 8 year old

Written by [mr.travis](#)
February 11, 2010

age 15+ ★★☆☆☆

 Report this review

WAY too many wildcards on youtube
There is a smuttiness prevalent on youtube that ultimately has made it off-limits to my kids. Example: a friend forwarded a funny Christmas video showing costum... [Continue reading](#)

[Add your rating](#)

See all [234 parent reviews](#).

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

On this comprehensive video library site, visitors can search -- and find -- virtually anything. YOUTUBE's content is entirely user-generated, so it's important to be attentive to each video's source. Plenty of age-inappropriate content can surface when you type in the most innocent of search terms, so parents will want to monitor kids' use. Videos here run the gamut, from commercial to educational to music videos to homemade clips, but for those seeking educational or instructional content,

IS IT ANY GOOD?

This video-sharing site has easily secured its place in pop culture, primarily because it offers so much to discover -- and love -- in this comprehensive video library: Information. Education. Instruction. Entertainment. Distraction. Delight. Want step-by-step guided instructions on making dozens of styles of friendship bracelets? Need to know how to create a unique Halloween costume? Want to show your kid what the robot from *Lost in Space* looked like or check out the Earth's solar

[Continue reading](#) ✓

TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT ...

- Families can talk about [appropriate content for kids](#) to view. Since there are plenty of items that are inappropriate for kids, how can you tell whether your kids are watching videos that are safe for them? What if they click on a suggested video that has mature content?
- Talk about [digital media creation](#). What appeals to you about creating videos or

[Continue reading](#) ✓

WEBSITE DETAILS

Skills: [Creativity](#): producing new content

[Communication](#): multiple forms of expression

[Tech Skills](#): digital creation, evaluating media messages, using and applying technology

Genre: [Video Sites](#)

Pricing structure: Free

Help with other topics



CommonSenseMedia also provides some powerful advice on a wide range of media topics. Head back to the home page and look in the main toolbar for the “News & Advice” section.



Here you will find lots of information on everything from Facebook advice for parents to cyberbullying.

Parenting, Media, and Everything In Between



-  [News Literacy 101](#)
-  [5 Strategies for Getting Kids off Devices](#)
-  [13 Smartest Female Characters from Movies, TV, and Books](#)
-  [Real-World Reasons Parents Should Care About Kids and Online Privacy](#)

Parents' Ultimate Guide to YouTube Kids

Caroline Knorr • 3/27/2018
Senior Parenting Editor | Mom of one

So many kids love watching videos on YouTube, it seemed like a slam dunk for Google to create a special app specifically for the online video service's youngest fans. And while YouTube Kids offers a... [read more](#)

**That's CommonSenseMedia!
Have fun exploring!**