What app  is this logo?

# Houseparty

Houseparty is a free video chat app where you can talk to people one-on-one or in groups of up to eight, with people you know and people you might not. You can also play games with the people you're chatting to.

## 13+

Official age rating

# At a glance

## Kids use this to...

**Play**

**Create**

**Learn**

**Connect**

## Expert view of the risks...

**Sexual**
High Risk

**Violence & hatred**
Medium Risk

**Bullying**
High Risk

**Suicide & self-harm**
Medium Risk

**Drink, drugs & crime**
Medium Risk

# What you should know.....

People can video call you without you having to accept (including people you might not know)

Houseparty finds your friends through your phone contacts, as well as through [Facebook](#) and [Snapchat](#).

Houseparty is not automatically set to private. This means that when you're using the app, your friends (or even friends of friends that you may not know) can automatically start a video chat with you, without you having to accept.

# Know how to use Houseparty privately

There are a few things you can do to boost your child's privacy. With your child, go to settings (click the smiley face and then the cogwheel button) and switch on private mode. This way nobody uninvited can join one of your chats without you giving them permission.

If you're in a chat, you can also click on the padlock icon to lock your chat and keep it private. If your child feels uncomfortable in chat, show them how to exit by clicking the 'X'.

You can also change your child's location settings by going to the permissions section and switching location off. Making sure your child's location is private helps to keep their personal details and whereabouts safe.

## NSPCC thinks it's more appropriate for over 18s

Because Houseparty isn't automatically private it might connect you with people you don't know, the NSPCC advises that it's best if under 18s don't use Houseparty. If all the privacy settings are set up properly, it might be appropriate for those aged 16+. However, whatever your child's age, if you decide to let them use it, take the time to set it up together

Exploring apps, sites and games together is a great way to involve your child in the decision-making process.

Be positive about what you see, but also be open about your concerns. Ask them what they think is appropriate and what worries them.

If you decide it's not appropriate, then make sure you explain your reasons why (and be prepared for an unhappy child).

Help your child think about what they share online and who sees it. Compare it to what they would be happy to share offline.

You might want to start by asking:

- What kinds of things do you share online?
- Should we share everything?
- What shouldn't we share?

Use examples that are easy for them to understand: "You wouldn't give your number to somebody you don't know on the street. Is somebody online you don't know any different?"

Listen to their answers. And be positive and encouraging. Remind them that they shouldn't share private things, such as:

- personal information, like emails, names, phone numbers, school names
- photos of themselves
- photos of your body, such as sexual photos or videos
- gossip

Your child might receive upsetting or inappropriate messages or comments from other users on Houseparty.

If this happens, they can 'ghost', report, block or unfriend other users by clicking on the smiley icon and selecting 'My friends'.

For each friend you can:

- **Ghost** - stay anonymous from certain people without deleting them. It means they won't see when you're online but you can still choose to talk to them
- **Report** – report someone if they've sent something that breaks the community guidelines (these are called the [Party Guidelines](#))
- **Block** – choose to block someone without them knowing. This means they can't contact you. You can also unblock them if you want
- **Unfriend** – stop being friends with someone, which means they can no longer contact you. Unlike blocking, you can't undo this without the other person being notified

In settings, make sure 'Private Mode' is switched on so your child's chats are kept private. This should help keep your child's contacts to people they know.