

Tips for parents on how to deal with outside trading and skin gambling



Are there things my child should not be doing when playing a video game?

Outside game trading of game items or currency

In most games you can earn game items (mostly tools you use in the game like football shoes or weapons) or currencies (virtual money you can spend in a game). In some games you can also trade these game items or currencies within the game, but you can never exchange them for real money.

But there are illegal third-party websites that offer to buy or trade your game items or currencies outside of the game. Buying or trading items in this way is in violation with the rules of the games and illegal. It distorts the gameplay and can lead to players being excluded from the game.

If you notice that your child is active on such websites, explain why it is important that they stop this immediately:

- Players who are active on these sites run the risk of being exposed to ill-disposed actions by people they do not know. In order to trade, people often have to give their account information, passwords or other personal information - that is very risky.
- External trading is an illegal activity.

- The terms and conditions of games do not allow external trading of in-game items: they can get your child banned from their favorite game.

Skin betting or gambling

A 'skin' is a layout or a cover that you can use in a game to give your objects or characters a different look. These skins are extremely popular. Similar to children wanting the latest pair of sneakers, it can now also be about having the latest or the coolest game skin.

But another phenomenon has emerged: 'skin betting' or 'skin gambling'. It works in two ways: the skins, or other game items that you earned in a game, can be auctioned on illegal third-party sites for the highest bid and cashed out for real money. They also offer the opportunity to bet with real money on skins or other game items.

Similar to external trading, the same risks apply here: there is no guarantee that you will actually receive the money or the item you are betting on, account information can be stolen, and there is the risk of being excluded from the game. But most of all: it means you are engaging in an illegal activity that is not only in violation of the terms and conditions of the game, but is also in violation of gambling legislation. If you see that your child participates in skin betting, it is important to stop this at once, given the risks that are involved.