



# Is Your Child Being Tricked by Their Favourite Game?

What every parent needs to know  
about loot boxes

[learning.kidsnclicks.com](http://learning.kidsnclicks.com)



⚠ IMPORTANT

# What Your Child Learnt in Class Today

Modern video games aren't just about high scores anymore. Many use sophisticated psychological tricks to encourage spending. Our goal isn't to stop gaming, it's to help children become critical consumers who understand the business behind the fun.

# What Exactly Is a Loot Box?

## The Mystery Box

A virtual container inside a video game that players pay real money to open—without knowing what's inside.

## The Hidden Cost

Money is often converted into "Gems" or "Coins" to disguise the real price you're paying.

## The Truth

Research shows this mechanic uses the same psychological triggers as slot machines. Odds of winning rare items? Often less than 1%.

# Spot the Red Flags

We taught students to recognise the **warning signs** that suggest a game is trying to manipulate them:



## Fake Money

Games price items in "Gems" or "Gold" instead of real currency to hide the true cost.



## Panic Timers

"Limited Time Offers" and countdown clocks create false urgency and fear of missing out.



## First One Free

Free loot boxes at the start build the habit before asking for payment.

# Top 3 Safety Tips for Parents

## 1 Check the Label

Look for "Includes Random Items" on game boxes or digital store pages. This is the official warning label for loot boxes.

## 2 Add "Friction"

Remove saved credit cards from consoles and tablets. Use physical gift cards instead to set strict spending limits.

## 3 Talk, Don't Ban

Open conversations are far more effective than strict prohibitions, which often drive behaviour underground.



# Start a Family Conversation

To reinforce what your child learnt, try asking these questions at dinner or in the car this week:

1

## The "Business" Question

*"We learnt that many 'free' games make billions. How do you think they trick people into spending if the game is free to download?"*

📄 **Goal:** Help them recognise that "Gems" and "Coins" cost real money.

2

## The "Pressure" Question

*"Do you ever feel the game tries to make you jealous of other players' outfits? Does it feel important to look 'cool' to fit in?"*

📄 **Goal:** Understand subtle social pressure without making them defensive.

3

## The "Maths" Question

*"If there's a 1% chance to get what you want, does that mean you'll definitely get it if you try 100 times?"*

📄 **Goal:** Remind them 1% odds usually means losing 99% of the time.



# Helpful Resources

## Family Gaming Database

Check if a specific game has loot boxes or is suitable for your child's age.

[Visit Website](#)

## Parental Controls

Set up spending limits and time restrictions on gaming devices.

Contact your school for detailed guidance on device-specific controls.

# Remember: Knowledge Is Power

You're not trying to stop your child from gaming. You're **empowering them** to recognise manipulation and make informed choices about their money and time.

Open conversations build trust. Critical thinking builds resilience.