How to Review Apps & Online Games

1 A great place to start for reviewing apps is the App Store or Google Play. Both will guide you on the recommended age a child should be to have an account and it will also give you information around the content. This will include things like Swearing, Violence, Nudity and references to drugs and alcohol.

The information that is not included is around some of the functionality of the app and available privacy settings.

Now it's time to do a little research of your own.

The Tech Mum

2 Firstly, I recommend that you visit commonsensemedia.org and use their search function to search for the app or online game you are interested in.

Commonsense Media will outline the age and content for the app as well as give you an explanation on what the game is about. They include reviews from other parents whose children have played the game and reviews from the children themselves. I highly recommend that you read the parents reviews. This is where you discover things about the app that are not necessarily documented anywhere else.

common sense media

3 It doesn't hurt to 'google' reviews of the app either. You can generate further parental reviews. Also be on the lookout for functionality within the app such as chat and the privacy settings.

4 Download it and play it yourself! Use it for a few days and get a feel for it before making your final decision about whether it is right for your child.

5 Subscribe to websites that regularly share information about the current trends in apps and online games such as the [Family Zone](#) Newsletter.