

Microsoft's Family Safety App is now Available to All

It shouldn't be a surprise that kids are using smartphones more frequently during the COVID-19 epidemic. But how can you tell if they're balancing the right balance between social media, remote learning and Fortnite? Microsoft's Family Safety app is the answer. The free software, announced in March it is now out of 'preview' and available for anyone who has an iOS or Android device to download.

You can use the app to set time limits for specific Android, Windows and Xbox applications, including games that require video, such as Minecraft. You can choose to extend your child's allowance by 15 or 30 minutes, or one two or three hours. The Family Safety app can also be setup so you get an email whenever they want to buy something through the Microsoft Store, and set up various search and website filters in the (now Chromium-based) Edge browser.

If you just want to monitor your little one The app can be configured to send out a weekly 'activity report email that provides a breakdown of their screen time by device and application. The goal is to let you know when there's a problem and start conversations with your loved ones. The app also provides location tracking to instantly know where all of your family members are in the real world. Microsoft 365 Family subscribers will be able to receive notifications when a family member leaves or enters a certain area in the future. The premium plan will also offer some kind of 'drive safety habit tracking feature, too, starting in the US, Canada, Australia and the UK.

These tools aren't particularly innovative and will be of no value to your family in the event that they spend the majority of their time with iPads, iPhones, and iPads. This could be a good dashboard or a primary port-of-call, for making sure everyone is living a healthy life both offline and online.

Lalalalal

Microsoft's Family Safety app is now available to everyone