



Kids Gambling Messaging

Version Two

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Popular online games for kids can have hidden and unintended social and behavioral health hazards:

- [A PBS Newshour investigation](#) on social casinos found more than 100 million Americans who regularly play on social casino apps.
- Many of these games feature loot boxes, a common reward tactic.
- The psychological reaction to loot boxes can mimic what people experience playing a slot machine.
- This prompted some gaming companies to disclose the odds of loot boxes.

Because these types of games are new for many parents and care providers, Ohio For Responsible Gambling wants people to know the warning signs early:

- When kids “lose” valuable items, that’s a red flag.
- Children may also see a decline in school performance.
- Some students lose interest in other extra-curricular activities.

Parents and care providers can help children be more responsible with screen time:

- The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University found early participation in gambling increases likelihood of developing a gambling problem later in life.
- Moderation matters. Limiting screen time is essential for our youth.

Ohio For Responsible Gambling earned national recognition for its Before You Bet campaign. Part of this work focuses specifically on children through a program called Change The Game.

- Change the Game aims to raise awareness of the realities of youth, to help those children being affected right now, and prevent future gambling problems among our youth.
- A free community toolkit has customizable resources that parents, children, and those working with children can use.
- Free educational materials for parents, educators, and young people can help everyone better understand if someone has a potential problem with gambling.
- You can live chat with an expert or call 800-589-9966.
- It’s all free of charge and can be customized for local organizations.