

How to Set Up Family Link on Android

Description

How to Set Up Family Link on Android: A Step-by-Step Guide

Google's **Family Link** is a powerful parental control tool that helps parents manage their children's digital activities on Android devices. With Family Link, you can set screen time limits, approve or block apps, monitor device usage, and even track location. This guide provides a **detailed, step-by-step process** for setting up Family Link on an Android device.

What You Need Before Setting Up Family Link

Before starting, ensure you have the following:

- A Google Account for the parent (must be 18+)
- A Google Account for the child (or create one during setup)
- An Android device for the parent (running Android 5.0 or later)
- An Android device for the child (running Android 7.0 or later)
- The Family Link app (download from the Google Play Store)
- An active internet connection

Step 1: Download and Install Family Link

1. On the parent's device, open the **Google Play Store**.
2. Search for **Google Family Link for parents** and install the app.
3. On the child's device, search for **Google Family Link for children & teens** and install it.

(Note: If the child's device is new, Family Link may already be pre-installed.)

Step 2: Set Up Family Link on the Parent's Device

1. Open the **Family Link app** on the parent's phone.
2. Tap **Get Started** and select **Parent**.
3. Sign in with your **Google Account** (the one you want to use for supervision).

4. Tap **Next** and follow the on-screen instructions to **create a family group** (if you don't already have one).
5. Select **Add a Child** and choose whether your child already has a Google Account or needs a new one.

Step 3: Set Up the Child's Google Account (If Needed)

If your child **does not** have a Google Account:

1. Tap **Create a Google Account for your child**.
2. Enter the child's **first and last name**, then tap **Next**.
3. Provide their **birthdate and gender**, then tap **Next**.
4. Choose a **Gmail username** (or let Google suggest one).
5. Create a **strong password** and confirm it.
6. Review Google's **Privacy Policy and Terms of Service**, then tap **Agree**.
7. Enter the **parent's email** for account recovery and tap **Next**.
8. Follow the prompts to **verify parental consent** (via email or credit card, if required).

If your child **already has** a Google Account:

1. Enter their **email address** and tap **Next**.
2. Follow the prompts to **verify parental consent**.

Step 4: Link the Child's Device to Family Link

1. **On the child's device**, open the **Family Link app** (or go to **Settings > Google > Parental controls**).
2. Tap **Get Started** and select **Child or Teen**.
3. Sign in with the **child's Google Account**.
4. The app will ask for **parental permission**—tap **Next** on the parent's device to approve.
5. On the child's device, tap **Join** to confirm the link.
6. Follow the prompts to **set up supervision** (this may include enabling location tracking and app approvals).

Step 5: Configure Parental Controls

Once the devices are linked, you can customize settings:

1. Set Screen Time Limits

- Open **Family Link** on the parent's device.
- Select the **child's account**.
- Tap **Controls** > **Daily limit**.

- Set a **daily screen time limit** (e.g., 2 hours).
- Choose **Bedtime** to restrict device usage during sleep hours.

2. Manage App Permissions

- Go to **Controls** > **App limits**.
- Select an app and set a **daily usage limit**.
- To **block an app**, go to **Controls** > **Apps installed** and toggle off the app.

3. Approve or Block Apps

- When the child tries to download an app, you'll get a **notification** on your device.
- Open **Family Link**, go to **Controls** > **Apps installed**, and approve or deny the request.

4. Filter Web Content

- Go to **Controls** > **Filters on Google Chrome**.
- Choose **Try to block mature sites** or **Only allow certain sites**.
- Add **approved websites** under **Manage sites**.

5. Track Location

- Ensure **location services** are enabled on the child's device.
- In **Family Link**, go to **Location** to see the child's real-time location.

6. Set Up Purchase Approvals

- Go to **Controls** > **Purchase approvals**.
- Enable **Require approval for all purchases** to prevent unauthorized downloads.

Step 6: Monitor Activity & Adjust Settings

- Open **Family Link** on the parent's device.
- Select the **child's account** to view:
 - **Screen time reports**
 - **Most-used apps**
 - **Location history**
 - **App installation requests**
- Adjust settings as needed based on usage patterns.

Step 7: Unlinking or Removing Supervision

If you no longer need Family Link:

1. Open **Family Link** on the parent's device.
2. Select the **child's account**.
3. Tap **Manage settings** > **Account info** > **Delete account**.
4. Follow the prompts to **remove supervision**.

(Note: If the child is under 13, their Google Account will be deleted unless you transfer it to a regular account.)

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Family Link not working?

- Ensure both devices have **internet access**.
- Update the **Family Link app** to the latest version.
- Restart both devices.

Child's device not showing up?

- Check if the child is signed in with the **correct Google Account**.
- Ensure **location services** are enabled.

App approvals not working?

- Make sure **notifications** are enabled for Family Link.
 - Check if the child's device has **pending updates**.
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Final Thoughts

Google Family Link is an **essential tool** for parents who want to **monitor and manage their child's digital habits** effectively. By following this guide, you can **set up parental controls, limit screen time, block inappropriate content, and track location** all from your own device.

For the best results, **regularly review activity reports** and adjust settings as your child grows. With Family Link, you can help them develop **healthy digital habits** while keeping them safe online.

Category

1. Uncategorized

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