

Independent Tests of Anti-Virus Software



Parental Control Certification

Kaspersky Safe Kids for Windows

TEST PERIOD: MAY 2024

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Introduction

Amongst other things, parental control software allows parents to restrict which websites their children can see, in order to avoid the children being exposed to materials the parents consider unsuitable.

Parental Control Certification

AV-Comparatives provides certification for parental control software. In order to be certified¹, a product must block at least 98% of pornographic websites, have zero false alarms on child-friendly websites, and have no severe unresolved bugs (or design flaws) discovered during the review. A certification is valid for one year and vendors can apply for certification once a year. Only products which were submitted for the Parental Control Test, and which passed the test, are published. Five vendors submitted their products for certification in 2024, of which only one reached the requirements.

Parental Control Test

We tested the effectiveness of the parental control software against 1,000 websites with inappropriate content for children, such as sites displaying pornographic images and text. We chose the appropriate settings for blocking pornography. We additionally tested 100 obviously child-friendly websites, such as lego.com, to check for false positives.



Test Results

	Block Rate
Adult	98.1%
False-Positives	0

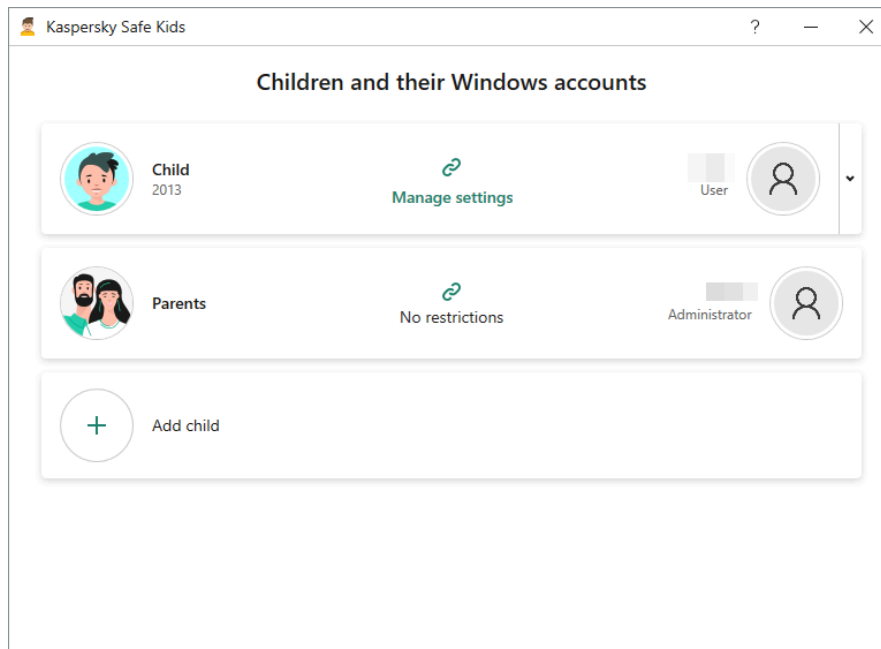
Kaspersky Safe Kids for Windows blocked 98.1% of pornographic websites.

¹ Beginning in 2025, the threshold for blocking pornographic websites will be lowered to 95%. Additionally, the number of child-friendly websites used for false-alarm testing will be increased to 200.

Review

We have included a short review of the product in this report, so that parents have an idea of what the product is like to use and what other features it has.

Kaspersky Safe Kids for Windows



Summary

Kaspersky Safe Kids for Windows is straightforward to install and has extensive options that are easy to configure using the cloud console. There is a wide range of monitoring and control functions available. We were impressed with the speed at which settings applied in the console are activated on the child's device, this occurred instantaneous.

About the product

Kaspersky Safe Kids is a standalone parental control program. There is a free and a premium version available; the latter includes additional features, such as scheduled time limits. There is a free trial of the premium version available. For this review we have looked at the premium version.

Which versions of Windows are supported?

Windows 7, 8.1, 10, 11

What parental control features does it have?

The product includes web-content filtering; website black and whitelisting; daily device-usage time limits; application control; safe search; YouTube history; precise scheduling of computer and application usage times. For mobile devices, there is also battery-level monitoring and location reporting.

Which Windows browsers are supported?

Google Chrome; Mozilla Firefox; Microsoft Edge; Internet Explorer; Opera; Yandex.

What categories of material does it block?

The categories that can be controlled are shown below, together with the default settings for children between 7 and 11 years old:

RESTRICTIONS FOR WEBSITE CATEGORIES

Adult content ?	Forbidden ▼	Electronic commerce ?	Allowed ▼
Job search ?	Allowed ▼	Video games ?	Allowed ▼
Anonymizers ?	Forbidden ▼	Religions, religious associations ?	Warning ▼
Software, audio, video ?	Warning ▼	News media ?	Allowed ▼
Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes ?	Forbidden ▼	Violence ?	Forbidden ▼
Internet communication ?	Warning ▼	Profanity, obscenity ?	Warning ▼
Alcohol, tobacco, drugs ?	Forbidden ▼	Weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics ?	Forbidden ▼

ADD EXCLUSIONS
Use this list to allow or block access to websites regardless of their categories.

Allowed ▼
Add

How is access to the program and its configuration controlled?

On Windows computers, Kaspersky Safe Kids provides different parental control settings for each Windows user account. This means that you should have an administrator account for yourself, and a non-administrator account for each child that will use the computer. You have to set up a “My Kaspersky” online account to install the product, and to make changes to the configuration later on.

Installing the product

It is best to first create a My Kaspersky account, and then install the software on the device the child will use, although it’s possible to do it the other way around. In the My Kaspersky web console, you can create profile for each child; this requires you to add a name, year of birth, and select an avatar or use a photo to identify the child. Next, you need to download the installer file for Windows, and run it on the PC that your child uses. Installing the software on the child’s device is very quick and easy; the wizard notes that you should have different Windows accounts for parents and children on the PC. The wizard includes an advice section for parents on how to talk to their children about the program’s restrictions and monitoring functions. You are then prompted to assign the child profiles to Windows accounts on the PC.

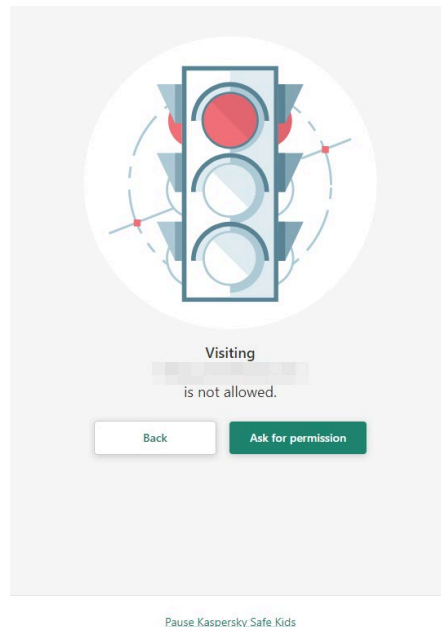
Configuring web-content filtering

Categories for filtering can be set under the settings of the internet section in the Kaspersky Kids web console. The available categories are shown in the screen shot above. There are three settings for each category: Forbidden, Warning, and Allowed, which can be changed using each category's drop-down menu. We note that you must click Save at the bottom of the page for changes to take effect.

Blacklisting/whitelisting individual sites

Blacklists and whitelists can be configured by adding a websites URL into the box in the *Exclusions* section (shown above), selecting *Forbidden* or *Allowed* as appropriate, and then clicking *Add*. There is also a option *Block all websites except exclusions*, this means the child can only see specifically whitelisted sites. In our functionality test, we found that changes made in the console were applied on the child's device instantly.

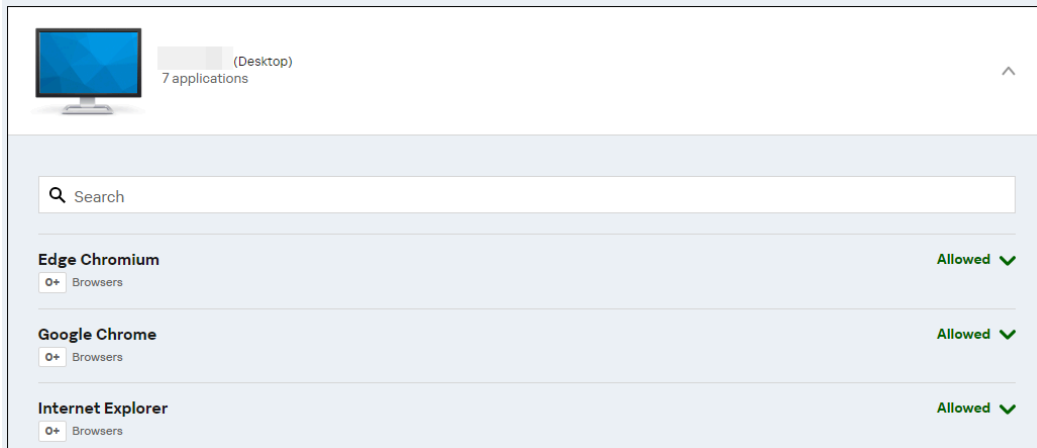
What does the child see when a page is blocked?



Clicking *Back* goes back to the previous page shown in the browser, while *Ask for Permission* sends a message to the child's parents via the web console, saying that the child has requested access.

Configuring Application Monitoring

On the *Settings* tab of the *Applications* page, you will see a device-specific list of applications that you can control. For each app you can set permissions to *Allowed*, *Blocked* or *Restricted* through the . If you select *Restricted*, you can control the number of hours per day the child can use the app, with separate settings for each day of the week.

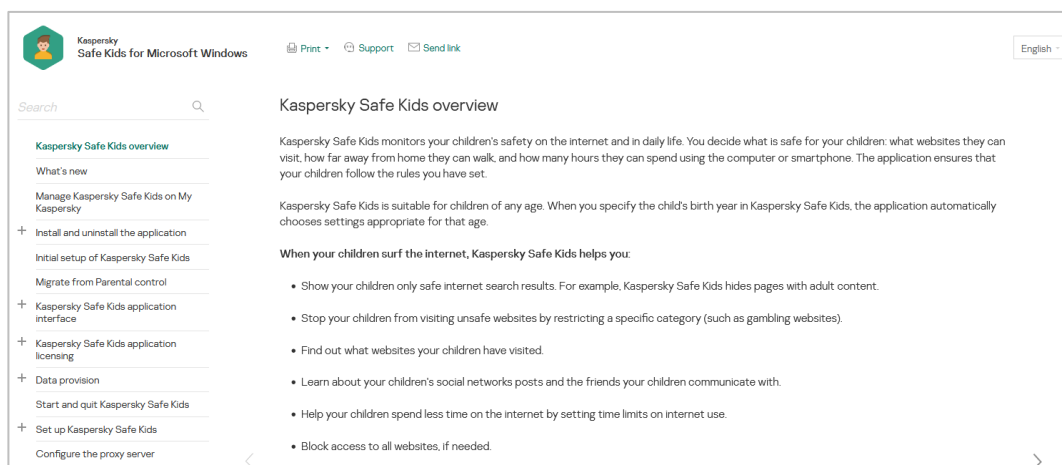


Configuring Time Limits

These are configured on the *Device use* page of the console, *Settings* tab. You can limit the total number of hours per day the child can use a particular device. You can also state whether the device should be blocked outside of the permitted times, or if the child should just be sent a warning instead. You can specify so called downtimes, times of day when the device cannot be used. The options for setting these times is very flexible; you can have individual settings for each day of the week, or for weekdays and weekends. It's possible to specify multiple use periods each day. We found both the daily usage and the schedule options very easy to configure.

Help

Clicking the ? symbol in the program window (or Help in the System Tray context menu) opens a comprehensive online manual for the product. This provides straightforward text instructions for installing and configuring the program, but unfortunately very few screenshots.



General Advice to Parents on Choosing and Installing Parental Control Software

When choosing and installing parental control software, remember that no program can replace the value of talking to your children about adult or disturbing topics they may encounter. Even with parental control software installed, children might access inappropriate content through mobile devices borrowed from friends or by using technical workarounds like proxy servers. Parental control software is most effective in preventing accidental exposure to inappropriate content for younger children.

Selecting the Right Software

Before purchasing parental control software, ensure it meets your specific needs. Standard features include web content filtering that blocks categories of websites such as pornography or weapons. Other features to consider are setting time limits on device usage or Internet access. You may want to restrict usage to certain hours or empower your child to manage their usage themselves. For a shared family computer, check that the program allows unrestricted use for adults. To be sure the program meets your requirements, try a trial version first. Don't hesitate to seek expert assistance if needed. We recommend using parental control software which is regularly tested and certified by independent third-party labs. This ensures that the software meets high standards for effectiveness and security without causing false alarms.

Installing the Software

When installing parental control software on a Windows or macOS computer, it's crucial to prevent children from easily disabling or uninstalling the software. You can achieve this in two ways: use parental control software with password protection or ensure your child's account does not have administrator rights. In either case, use a password your child cannot guess. To properly configure the software for your child, log in to their account during installation and use your administrator credentials to authorize the installation. After installation, test the software with various browsers and websites to ensure it works as expected. Verify that it prevents computer usage outside of permitted hours and cannot be uninstalled without a password. If you encounter any issues, contact the vendor's support service. Finally, remember not to save the password when configuring the software via a web browser.

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