For parents who have carefully installed parental controls on home computers, moderated e-mail activity, and locked down search engines, this new-found freedom for their Internet-innocent offspring can come as a bit of a shock. However, all is not lost. There are some highly-effective parental controls or "restrictions" on the iPhone. While most of them are of an all-or-nothing nature – i.e. they allow access to certain functions or they don't – they can provide some comfort that the iPhone is not going to be used in an inappropriate manner.

Getting Started

Kids love iPhones. And with more than 1,000 downloadable apps for kids in the iPhone store, you can find something to suit every age and interest. But there are also lots of apps with racy content geared just for adults that you don't want your kids stumbling across.

Fortunately, Apple offers parental controls, both on the iPhone and on iTunes. On your iPhone, you can turn on and off certain features you don't want anyone to access. At the iTunes store, you can restrict the types of content that can be downloaded. You can also set all itunes accounts to one email so you will be notified of any purchases made. If you are on the icloud, you can have all phones back-up their information to a central place on your home pc where content can also be viewed.

How to Set iPhone's Parental Controls

To set up the Restrictions on your iPhone, touch "settings," choose "general," then choose "Restrictions." Then you'll be prompted to set up a PIN that gives you access to enable or disable Restrictions.

- Once you enter the Passcode, you will be presented with a series of Restrictions that can be set to **ON** or **OFF**. Here, if you wish, you can turn off the Safari browser or restrict access to YouTube, iTunes, or the App Store. You can also turn off access to the camera or to the FaceTime video calling app. If you choose any of these options, the feature is disabled and the relevant icon is removed from the Home screen. (Apple has unnecessarily confused the Restrictions page by using the header **Disable Restrictions**. Better to focus on the **Allow** header, where ON means the feature is allowed and OFF means it isn't.)

- The **Allow Changes** section allows you to block location services or any changes to Mail, Contacts or Calendars.

- The **Allowed Content** section gives you options to restrict the type of content that can be accessed and downloaded from the iTunes Store. For example, you can restrict access to songs with explicit lyrics, or filter movies, TV shows and apps according to their age ratings. This section also allows you to turn off the ability to make in-app purchases, and require a password every time your child tries to make an iTunes purchase.

- Finally, the **Game Center** allows you to restrict access to multiplayer games and the ability to add friends to existing games.

Here are the things you can restrict:

• Explicit song titles

• The Safari browser

• YouTube

• The iTunes store

• Installing apps

• The camera

When you disable something, its icon disappears from the Home menu. For example, if you don't want anyone taking photos with your iPhone, just turn off the camera in the settings. When you go to the home menu, the camera icon will be gone.

The iPhone only allows *you* to turn on and off these programs. But let's say you want a little finer control over the types of content you can download. Go to the iTunes store on your computer. Go to Edit in the top menu, choose Preferences, and there you'll find controls for what you can download and for which TV and movie ratings you're OK with your kids downloading.

It's a similar situation with the iPhone's browser. You can turn it on and off, but there's no safe-search setting to filter results. If you don't want to turn off the browser but you *do* want to restrict the websites it can find, there are apps you can download to fine tune your browser search settings for kids. An outside app that parents can purchase is www.X3watch.com to provide even more monitoring abilities for parents.

It's so easy to set these controls, the only problem is remembering which features you've turned off. But don't worry -- your kids will probably remind you.