Discord is an app used widely in the gaming community. It allows users to invite each other to servers, which allow them to talk to each other over text, microphones and send photos to each other. Users find this platform a convenient and easier way to communicate rather than through the game directly.

How does it work?

To sign up to Discord you simply need an email and a username. It takes under five minutes to make an account with Discord. This enables the user to open up invitations and messages from people around the world.

To add somebody on Discord the user must have the other person's username. This can easily be asked through in-game chat.

Challenges

Some of the issues with Discord are that younger children may get invitations from random users thinking it is safe to chat with them. A criminal has the potential to groom the child and get various sources of information such as: credit card details, house address, school, age and much more.

Ensure that you have conversations with your young person about the potential risks involved with using platforms like Discord.

The Carly Ryan Foundation is seeing young users being asked to add people on Discord. This can create the opportunity for criminals to groom, manipulate and coerce young users through conversations that unfold via various gaming platforms.

Discord is a great app to help users communicate with their friends but without the right settings in place it can expose the user to unwanted or inappropriate contact from criminals or by strangers.

Privacy Settings Menu

Click the little down arrow next to the server name and you'll find a drop-down menu window. In addition to being able to adjust notification and server settings, you can adjust privacy settings on a per-server basis as well. Selecting / deselecting this option lets you block DMs (Direct Messages) from users in that server that aren't on your friends list. Normally, sharing a mutual server is all it takes to allow DMs. This option can filter out anyone you don't want to hear from.

Block Button

In the case that you generally like everyone in a server (except for a few individuals), the DM list has a quick-access menu to a user's profile. In your DM chat, clicking the @ Username will bring up the user's profile, you can click the three dots in the top right to pull up a menu that will let you block the user.

Report a User

To report another user on Discord you will need screen shots of the evidence. Once you have this, you will need to email Discord directly: **support@discordapp.com**

Friend Requests

For additional control, Discord's settings is adjusting friend request privileges. To find this menu, open up your User Settings and click the Friends tab, here you can set who's allowed to send you a friend request.

Everyone - Selecting Everyone means that anyone who knows your DiscordTag or is in a mutual server with you can send you a request. Having this selected will automatically include both Friends of Friends and Server Members options.

Friends of Friends - Selecting this means that for anyone to add you, they must have at least one mutual friend with you. You can view this in their user profile by clicking the Mutual Friends tab next to the Mutual Servers tab.

Server Members

Selecting server members means users who share a server with you can send you a friend request. Deselecting this means that you can only be added by someone with mutual friends as you.

Note: Friends of Friends and Server members can be both selected or deselected, allowing you to customize what ways you are willing to receive friend requests. If you only want to add friends you want to choose, you can deselect all three options, and not receive ANY requests.

App Fact Sheets available from the Carly Ryan Foundation. Please email: **info@carlyryanfoundation.com**