

The TechCheck Download is a short weekly tech-news show for kids, made by Tech for Everyone. Hosts Ada (a person) and Pixel (an AI co-host) cover real stories about AI, apps, games, coding, the web and staying safe online, then pause for a “Talk About It” question. New episodes every school week; each one runs about 10–12 minutes. Your child’s class may be watching it already — this sheet shows the safest ways to watch or listen at home.

The safest place to watch:

techcheck.fm/grade/6-8

Free. No sign-in. No ads. No comment section. Video plays in YouTube’s privacy-enhanced player (no tracking cookies), and there is an audio-only tab for the car or for filtered networks.

Bookmark it on the family device so it is one tap away.



Scan to open

Other places you’ll find TechCheck

Where	How to get there	Good to know
techcheck.fm (best)	Go to techcheck.fm/grade/6-8 in any browser, or scan the QR code above.	No account, no ads, no comments, no autoplay into other videos. The audio-only “Listen” tab works even where video sites are blocked.
YouTube	Open YouTube and search “Tech for Everyone TechCheck Grades 6–8”, or use the playlist link on our site.	“Made for Kids” videos: comments off, no personalized ads. Use a supervised account if the student is under 13; Autoplay off, Restricted Mode on.
Podcast apps	Search “TFE Tech Check” in Spotify or Apple Podcasts. Every grade band is in one show; the episode title says the grade.	Ideal for independent listening. Prefer a podcast app without a social feed; download over Wi-Fi so it works offline.

Digital-safety tips for grades 6–8

- **Let them choose the route, but know the settings.** Site, YouTube playlist or podcast are all fine. On YouTube: Autoplay off, Restricted Mode on, notifications off. On a phone, a podcast app with no social feed is the calmest option.
- **The rabbit hole is the risk, not the show.** Ten minutes of TechCheck can become an hour of “up next.” Agree that the episode ends the session, or watch on techcheck.fm where there is no “up next.”
- **Ask about the sources.** Each episode ends with a Sources slide. Ask your student to tell you where one story came from — it builds the habit of asking “who says?”
- **Think before sharing.** Middle schoolers repost. A good rule: don’t share a story until you’ve found the original source.
- **Privacy is a setting, not a feeling.** Do the check-up together: which apps have location, mic and camera access? Turn off what isn’t needed.
- **Pixel is an AI — use it as a conversation starter.** Your student is already using AI tools. Ask how they decide when to trust one.

Five-minute setup (do this once)

- **Bookmark the grade page.** Open techcheck.fm/grade/6-8 and add it to bookmarks; on a phone or tablet use Share → “Add to Home Screen” so it opens like an app.
- **YouTube — Autoplay off.** The Autoplay switch sits at the top of the video player (a small toggle next to the settings gear). Off means the show ends when the episode ends.
- **YouTube — Restricted Mode on.** Tap your profile picture → Restricted Mode → On. It hides most mature content across the app on that device.
- **Under 13 — supervised account; 13+ — do the settings together.** Family Link works until 13; after that, sit with them for five minutes and go through Autoplay, Restricted Mode and notification settings on their own account.
- **Podcast — Follow, then download.** In Spotify or Apple Podcasts search “TFE Tech Check” and tap Follow; download episodes on Wi-Fi so they play offline with no feed around them.
- **Device limits.** iPhone/iPad: Settings → Screen Time. Android: Google Family Link. Both let you cap time and set content ratings without touching the show itself.

What TechCheck does — and doesn’t — collect

- No accounts, no sign-in, no comments, no email list. Nothing on techcheck.fm asks a child for personal information.
- Video plays through YouTube’s privacy-enhanced (no-cookie) player; the audio tab streams the podcast file directly.
- The site keeps anonymous, cookie-free visit counts (Plausible) — no profiles, no ad tracking.
- Classroom worksheets are paper. The Google Form versions are copied into the teacher’s own account, so answers go to the teacher, never to us. If a teacher assigns the optional class survey, it asks for the school and an optional first name or initials.

If something looks wrong

- **A page called “TechCheck” asks for a name, password or payment.** It isn’t ours. Close it. Our only address is techcheck.fm.
- **An “up next” video on YouTube is not appropriate.** That is YouTube’s recommendation, not part of the show. Autoplay off + Restricted Mode on prevents most of it; the site has no “up next” at all.
- **A story sounds off.** Every episode ends with a Sources slide. Check the original — and tell your child you did; it is the habit the show is trying to build.

Talk About It at home

Every episode ends with a discussion question. Try one of these after your student watches:

- Who is affected by one of this week’s stories, and who benefits?
- What is one thing an AI helper should never be trusted to do alone?
- Where did that story come from? How do we know the source is solid?

TechCheck is made by Tech for Everyone. Every episode is free, ad-free on techcheck.fm, and needs no account. Teacher resources, worksheets and podcast links: techcheck.fm/educators