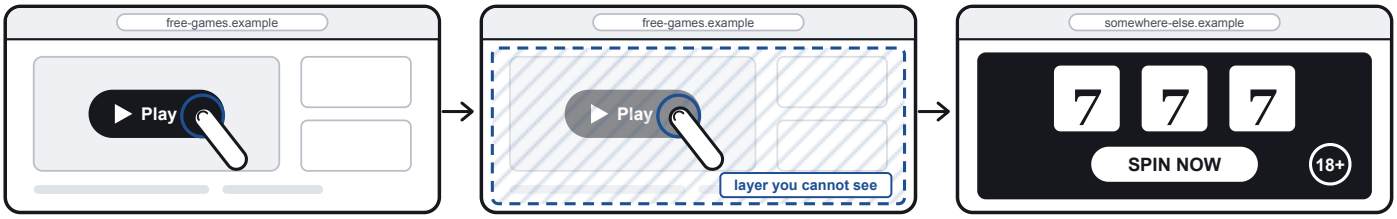
Why a free game site sent your child's iPad to a casino page

The website did it. The iPad is fine and your child did nothing wrong. This page shows the trick, then lists what to change, starting with the settings that cost nothing.

How one tap ends up somewhere else



1. Your child taps Play, Next chapter, or the X on an ad.

2. Ad code has laid a see-through layer over the page. The tap lands on it.

3. A new tab opens: a betting site, an adult site, a fake prize or a fake virus warning.

Four free settings about ten minutes

First check whose Apple Account the iPad is signed in to. On a parent's account, none of Apple's child settings are on. Apple advises a Child Account for each child, inside your Family Sharing group.

1 Block Pop-ups

Settings › Apps › Safari › Block Pop-ups: on

Stops windows a page opens by itself, without a tap.

2 Fraudulent Website Warning

Same screen › Fraudulent Website Warning: on

Safari warns before opening a page already known as a scam.

3 Limit Adult Websites

iOS and iPadOS 27, child has a Child Account. From your own iPhone:

Settings › Family › your child's name › Apps & Websites › Restrictions › Filtering

Choose Limit Adult Websites, or Approved Websites Only for a younger child (each new site then asks you first). Apple switches these on for Child Accounts by default, so check they still are.

iOS and iPadOS 18 or 26. On the child's device:

Settings › Screen Time › Content & Privacy Restrictions: on › App Store, Media, Web, & Games › Web Content › Limit Adult Websites

4 Block the site that did it

27: **Settings › Family › your child's name › Apps & Websites › Add, then enter the site and block it**

18 or 26: **on the Web Content screen from step 3, Add Website under Never Allow**

What the free settings leave

Block Pop-ups lets a new tab through when it follows a tap, and these pages wait for the tap. Limit Adult Websites limits the adult sites Apple has detected; Apple's description does not mention betting, prize or virus-warning pages. A tap on the same free site can still open one.

Who is behind it

Free game, comic and video sites are paid by "pop" ad networks for each visitor a page hands over. The network's code picks where a tap goes, and nobody checks the age of whoever holds the iPad. The virus warning is an advert too: a web page cannot scan an iPad or iPhone.

Say this to your child

- Close the tab and press nothing on that page, not even its X. Apple warns that some draw a fake close button.
- Never type a name, a number or a password into a page that turned up by itself.
- Come and tell me. You are not in trouble.

If it keeps happening

A Find the official app or site

Most games, comics and shows have one. Copies on free sites are where this trick is most common.

B Add a content blocker

Several for Safari are free, and they remove many ads and ad scripts on every site. Switch one on under Settings › Apps › Safari › Extensions.

C Add a tap guard (the writer's own app)

Undirect is a Safari extension. When a page tries to turn a tap into a new tab, or to send the tab somewhere else, it stops that and your child stays where they were. It is not a content filter or an ad blocker, so keep steps 1 to 4. In its Settings, set "Where the guard runs" to "Every site". Paid once: $1.99 in the US, a local price elsewhere. No subscription, no account, no data collected, and Family Sharing covers the family. Safari only; iOS or iPadOS 18 or later.

Setting names checked against Apple Support on 29 November 2026: support.apple.com/102524, /105121 and /127512, and the iPhone User Guide for iOS 18, 26 and 27. If a path differs on your device, search Settings for the name. Ages for the default child settings vary by country.

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