

# Earn Time

## Parent Setup Guide

iOS 26+

Parental Controls

### How It Works

Earn Time is a parental-control app that lets children earn screen time by completing tasks. The parent assigns tasks with minute rewards; the child completes them and taps **Submit**; the parent approves; earned minutes appear in the child's balance. The child then taps **Play** to start a session — the selected apps are unblocked for the duration and automatically blocked again when time runs out.



#### Parent

Creates tasks, approves completions, configures which apps are controlled and when.



#### Child

Sees available minutes, completes tasks, taps **Play** to use blocked apps.



#### Timer Sessions

Child taps **Play** to spend earned minutes. Apps unblock for the session duration.



#### Auto-Block

When the timer ends the extension blocks selected apps — even if the app is closed.

### Requirements

1

#### iPhone / iPad

iOS 26 or later on both parent's and child's device.

2

#### iCloud signed in

Family Controls permission requires an active iCloud account on the child's device. Earn Time will prompt for permission automatically.

3

#### Same family code

Parent and child join the same family using a 6-character code or QR code.

## Initial Setup

Complete these steps once. After that the app remembers everyone automatically.

- 1 Install Earn Time on the parent's device**

Open the app and tap **Create Family**. Choose an avatar and a name — you are the parent account. A 6-character family code is generated for you.
- 2 Install Earn Time on the child's device**

Open the app and tap **Join Family**. Enter the family code shown on the parent's device (or scan the QR code from the Family tab). Create a new member, choose the Child role, pick an avatar, and confirm.
- 3 Grant Family Controls permission on the child's device**

The app will automatically request Family Controls permission via a system dialog. Tap **Allow**. Make sure iCloud is signed in on the child's device.
- 4 Set a Parent PIN (on the parent's device)**

In the parent's app, go to the **Settings** tab and tap **Parent PIN**. Enter a 4-digit PIN. This PIN syncs to all child devices automatically — a Parent Access button will appear in the child's Settings tab.
- 5 Configure Screen Time settings for each child**

On the parent's device: **Family tab** → **tap child card** → **Settings**. Turn on Screen Time Control, set daily bonus minutes, and configure App Groups.

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## App Groups — Selecting Which Apps to Control

App Groups define which apps get blocked when the child has no remaining time. Setup must be done on the child's physical device while signed in to your parent account.

**⚠ Important:** App selection must be done on the child's physical device. The iOS Screen Time API identifies apps by a device-specific token. Selecting apps on your own phone will *not* block anything on the child's device.

- 1 Take the child's iPhone**

Install Earn Time if not already installed.
- 2 Sign in with YOUR parent account**

Open the app and sign in with your own account — not the child's.
- 3 Open child settings**

**Settings** → **Parent Access** → **enter your PIN** → **tap the child's name**.
- 4 Add a group**

App Groups → tap **+**, give the group a name (e.g. "Games", "Social"), then tap **Select Apps**.
- 5 Select apps on the child's device**

The system App Picker will appear. Choose the apps to block, then tap **Done**.
- 6 Save**

Tap **Save** in the App Group editor, then **Save Settings**. The group syncs to your phone automatically.
- 7 Hand the phone back**

**Sign out** of your account → **sign in with the child's account** → give the phone back to the child.

💡 On your phone: open child settings → assign the group to a schedule slot. After that, manage everything from your phone.

## Daily Workflow

- 1 Parent creates tasks**  
Parent's app → **Tasks tab** → +. Enter a task name and minute reward.
- 2 Child completes a task**  
Child's app → **Tasks tab** → tap task → optionally attach a photo → tap **Submit**.
- 3 Parent approves**  
Parent's app → **Tasks tab** → tap pending item → **Approve**. Minutes added instantly.
- 4 Child starts a session**  
Child's app → **Home screen** → tap **Play**. Timer counts down; selected apps unblock.
- 5 Session ends**  
When the timer reaches zero the extension blocks all selected apps automatically — even if Earn Time is not open.

## Schedule Slots (Optional)

Schedule Slots restrict when the child can use earned time. Configure in the parent's app: **Family tab** → **tap child** → **Settings** → **Schedule Slots**.

- **Per-slot earned minutes** — Each slot has its own setting — when adding or editing a slot choose: **Forced block** (Play unavailable during this slot) or **Allow earned minutes** (child can tap Play during this slot).
- **Allow bonus outside slots** — When enabled, the child can spend earned minutes outside scheduled time windows.
- **Show schedule to child** — When enabled, the child can see the active schedule in their app.

## Troubleshooting

### Apps are not blocked after the timer ends

Make sure Earn Time has been granted Family Controls permission on the child's device. Open Child Settings in the parent's app and toggle Screen Time Control off and on again.

### App selection doesn't block anything

Apps were likely selected on the wrong device. Redo the App Group setup on the child's physical device while signed in as the parent (see App Groups section above).

### No Parent Access button in child Settings tab

The parent must set a PIN first (Settings → Parent PIN). Once saved, the PIN syncs automatically. Restart the app if the button doesn't appear.

### Child deleted the Earn Time app

When Screen Time Control is active, Earn Time prevents its own deletion. If deleted before this was enabled, reinstall and complete setup again.

## Family code doesn't work

Codes are exactly 6 characters. Check in the parent's app: Family tab → share icon. You can also scan the QR code directly.

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