Kaggle for kids and teens: age rules and first tutorials

Peabody blog · AI for kids · updated 2026-10-29

What Kaggle's age rules say (no under-13s; parent consent from 13 to 16), the free Kaggle Learn courses for teens in order, and what younger kids can use instead.

Kaggle isn't for children under 13: its privacy policy says "if you are under 13 years of age, please do not use or access the Services at any time or in any manner," and 13- to 16-year-olds may not use it until Kaggle has received verifiable parental consent. For a teen who has that consent, the free Kaggle Learn courses are an excellent first path into Python and machine learning: start with Intro to Programming, then Python, then Intro to Machine Learning. For elementary students and younger children, there's no Kaggle tutorial to look for; free tools like Teachable Machine and Scratch teach the same ideas at their level.

This guide is from Peabody (peabody.kids), a free reading and learning site for kids, free through the end of 2026. Kaggle isn't ours and nobody paid to be listed. We read Kaggle's privacy policy (effective 5 February 2024), its terms of use (effective 22 June 2025) and its Learn pages on 29 October 2026. Our Kaggle Learn page in the software directory has the facts table.

Kaggle's age rules, word for word

Kaggle, whose privacy policy names Google LLC as its parent company, puts its age rules in the section "Our Commitment to Children's Privacy":

- Age: Under 13 · What Kaggle's privacy policy says: "IF YOU ARE UNDER 13 YEARS OF AGE, PLEASE DO NOT USE OR ACCESS THE SERVICES AT ANY TIME OR IN ANY MANNER." No part of the site is directed at under-13s
- Age: 13 to 16 · What Kaggle's privacy policy says: "You may not use the Services until Kaggle has received verifiable parental consent for your use of the Services"
- Age: 13 to 17 · What Kaggle's privacy policy says: May not enter any competition until Kaggle has verifiable parental consent "for your entry into a specific competition", and each competition's own rules must allow minors
- Age: 18 and up · What Kaggle's privacy policy says: No extra rule

Three things a parent should take from that:

- The rule covers using the site, not just signing up. For a 13- to 16-year-old, get consent sorted before they start, even to read the lessons.
- Consent is per competition. A teen entering three competitions needs a consent form on file for each, and the policy says to check that each competition allows minors at all.

- If an under-13 has an account, the policy says a parent can contact Kaggle Support and ask for the child's personal information to be deleted.

The terms say anyone not old enough to form a binding contract should read that section and contact Kaggle Support about the parental consent process.

What is Kaggle, and is it free?

Kaggle is a data science website: people share datasets, write code in browser notebooks, and enter machine learning competitions, some with large prizes. Kaggle Learn is its free course section. The Learn page says the courses "pare down complex topics to their key practical components, so you gain usable skills in a few hours," that they're "provided at no cost," and that you can earn certificates.

What we found when we tried it on 29 October 2026, without signing in: the lessons open and can be read, but an exercise notebook shows "Sign In or Register to continue editing." So doing the exercises, and getting a certificate, needs an account.

Two more things to know. Kaggle shows a banner saying it uses cookies from Google to analyse traffic, and its policy names Google Analytics. And anything a member posts in a public profile or a forum is visible to other members or the public, including adults. Talk with your teen about using a username that isn't their full name.

A first Kaggle tutorial path for teens

Kaggle's courses are short and practical. This order works for a teen with no coding experience. The lesson names are Kaggle's own, from its course pages in October 2026.

1. Intro to Programming (Kaggle estimates 5 hours, taught by Alexis Cook): Arithmetic and Variables, Functions, Data Types, Conditions and Conditional Statements, and Intro to Lists. Each lesson is a short tutorial, then an exercise.
2. Python: the language itself, in more depth.
3. Intro to Machine Learning (about 3 hours): How Models Work, Basic Data Exploration, Your First Machine Learning Model, Model Validation, Underfitting and Overfitting, Random Forests, and Machine Learning Competitions.
4. Intro to AI Ethics: practical tools for thinking about how AI systems are designed. Worth doing early, not last.
5. Then pick by interest: Data Visualization for a teen who likes charts, Intro to Game AI and Reinforcement Learning for a gamer ("build your own video game bots"), Computer Vision or Intro to Deep Learning for one who wants to go further.
6. The Titanic Tutorial ("make your first submission"): the classic first competition, once a parent's consent for that competition is on file.

An hour or two a week is plenty. A teen who finishes the first three has written real Python and

trained a real model.

What a teen needs: a laptop or Chromebook and an internet connection. The notebooks run on Kaggle's computers, so there's no software to install and no graphics card to buy. Our guide to machine learning for kids by age covers equipment for every age.

Kaggle tutorial for kids, elementary students and toddlers: what to do instead

People search for "Kaggle tutorial for elementary students" and even "for toddlers". The honest answer is that Kaggle doesn't allow under-13s, and its courses assume a reader comfortable with code. Here's what teaches the same ideas at each age instead:

- Age: Under 5 · Instead of Kaggle: "Teach the robot" sorting games with toys, no screen (preschool AI activities) · Account?: None
- Age: 6 to 9 · Instead of Kaggle: Quick, Draw!, then Teachable Machine with a grown-up · Account?: None
- Age: 9 to 12 · Instead of Kaggle: Machine Learning for Kids and Scratch AI extensions · Account?: None to start
- Age: 11 to 13 · Instead of Kaggle: RAISE Playground, MIT's AI blocks · Account?: None
- Age: Learning to code before 13 · Instead of Kaggle: Blockly Games (about 8 to 14), then the Raspberry Pi Foundation's projects, whose Code Editor needs no account · Account?: None

By 13, a child who has done some of these will find Kaggle's Intro to Machine Learning makes sense straight away, because they've already trained models with their hands.

Kaggle or Google Colab?

Both run Python notebooks in the cloud for free. Colab works through a Google account, and Google's terms ask for a parent's permission for anyone under the age to manage their own account. Colab's FAQ (October 2026) says free notebooks can run for at most 12 hours and free GPU access is "heavily restricted", and that its built-in AI features need the account holder to be 18 or over. For a beginner, Kaggle's advantage is the courses sitting right beside the notebooks; Colab's is that it's quicker to open a blank notebook and try something.

6 safety tips for a teen on Kaggle

These come from Kaggle's own rules and pages, as we read them on 29 October 2026.

1. Get the parent's consent first if your teen is 13 to 16, before they read a lesson.
2. Use a username that is not their full name. Public profiles and forum posts are visible to adults.
3. Treat each competition as its own permission. Consent is per competition, and not every

competition allows minors.
4. Keep prize and personal details out of posts. Competitions may have prizes, so ask a parent before sharing anything about yourself.
5. Know the cookie banner. Kaggle says it uses Google cookies to analyse traffic.
6. Set a weekly time. An hour or two a week is plenty for the first three courses.

Kaggle in 5 numbers

1. 13: the minimum age, with nothing allowed under it.
2. 16: up to this age, a parent's verifiable consent is needed to use the site.
3. 5 hours: Kaggle's estimate for Intro to Programming.
4. About 3 hours: Intro to Machine Learning.
5. 12 hours: the longest a free Colab notebook can run, per Colab's FAQ.

Where Peabody fits

Peabody doesn't teach coding or data science. It's a reading and learning site for younger children: free stories at a child's reading level in the library, and learning games where questions are made and marked by code. If you have a teen on Kaggle and a younger child at home, the younger one can read a story at their level while the older one works through a lesson. For a grown-up thinking about AI tools at home, the quiz is your child ready for an AI chatbot? is a quick check.

Learn more elsewhere

- Kaggle Learn: every free course, with hours and lessons.
- Kaggle privacy policy: the children's privacy section quoted above.
- Google Colab FAQ: what's free and what isn't.

For about seventy more free AI sites sorted by age, see where to learn about AI.

Questions parents ask

What is the minimum age for Kaggle?

1. Kaggle's privacy policy tells anyone under 13 not to use or access the site in any way. From 13 to 16, a teen may not use Kaggle until it has received verifiable parental consent, and anyone 13 to 17 needs a parent's consent for each competition they enter.

Can a 12-year-old use Kaggle?

No. Kaggle's policy says under-13s should not use or access it at all, and that it will delete an under-13's information if a parent asks. A 12-year-old can learn the same ideas with Teachable Machine, Machine Learning for Kids or MIT's RAISE Playground, none of which need an account.

Is Kaggle Learn free?

Yes. As of October 2026, Kaggle says its courses are provided at no cost and you can earn certificates. The lessons can be read without signing in, but the exercises need an account, and for 13- to 16-year-olds that means a parent's verified consent first.

What is the best Kaggle tutorial for teens?

Start with Intro to Programming (about 5 hours), then Python, then Intro to Machine Learning (about 3 hours). Add Intro to AI Ethics early. After that, a teen can follow their interest: Data Visualization, Computer Vision, or Intro to Game AI and Reinforcement Learning.

Is there a Kaggle tutorial for elementary students?

No. Kaggle doesn't allow children under 13, and its courses assume comfort with code. Elementary students learn the same ideas with Quick, Draw!, Teachable Machine and Scratch's AI extensions, which are free and need no account.

Can teens enter Kaggle competitions?

Yes, from 13, with a parent's verifiable consent for each specific competition, and only where that competition's rules allow minors. Kaggle's policy says to check each competition's eligibility rules and make sure the consent form is on file before entering.

Is Kaggle safe for teens?

Kaggle is run by Google and has strict age rules, but it is a public site where adults post. Get parental consent for 13- to 16-year-olds, use a username that is not a full name, and remember that profiles and forum posts are public.

Do you need an account to use Kaggle Learn?

To read the lessons, no. To edit the exercise notebooks and earn certificates, yes. We saw "Sign In or Register to continue editing" on an exercise on 29 October 2026.

Is Kaggle or Google Colab better for a beginner?

Kaggle for guided courses next to the notebooks, Colab for quickly opening a blank notebook. Colab works through a Google account, with a parent's permission for children under the age to manage their own.

What can a 10-year-old do instead of Kaggle?

Quick, Draw!, Teachable Machine and Scratch's AI extensions, and then RAISE Playground or Machine Learning for Kids. None need an account to start, and the table above gives an option for each age.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/kaggle-for-kids-and-teens