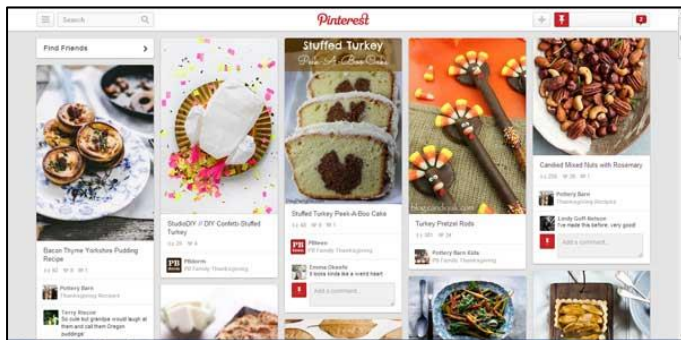


Parents' Guide to Pinterest

It's likely you're already familiar with **Pinterest**, as it seems you can't go anywhere on the web these days without seeing that little button encouraging you to pin it.

Pinterest is a social network to create customised, digital bulletin boards and 'pin' images with links to the interesting things you find on the web to share with "friends" and "followers." Pinterest is a website and there are apps available for iOS and Android mobile devices.

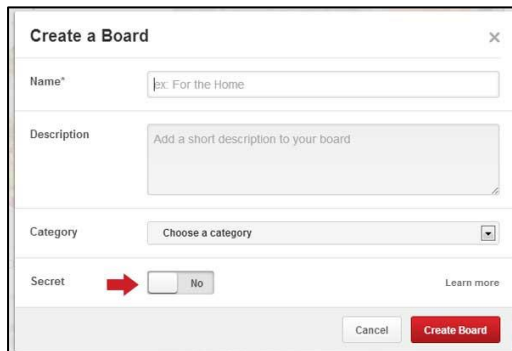


As a Pinterest user, you're encouraged to follow the boards you love from other users, and their 'pins' will show up in your account feed. You can choose to "like," comment on or "repin" ideas from other users' boards. You can also upload your own images from your computer to your Pinterest board if you wish.

When you set up an account, you have the option of signing in with just your email address or using existing login information from Facebook or Twitter. Creating your account through Facebook or Twitter integrates Pinterest with those platforms and your activity on Pinterest can be shared on Facebook and Twitter as well. Keep in mind, if you intend to maintain any sort of privacy on Pinterest, don't use your Facebook or Twitter accounts to sign in. If you do, your account will be linked to any profile info you have on those sites (that may include your full name and photo) which will reveal your identity. If you initially sign up using Facebook and Twitter and then decide you don't want your Pinterest activity connected with those accounts, you can disconnect Pinterest from those accounts in the 'Social Networks' section of your account 'Settings'.

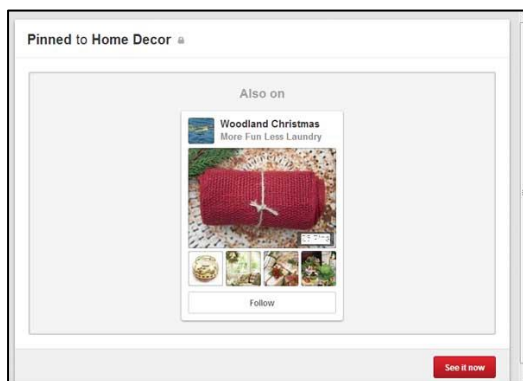
When you create a board, you have option to make it 'secret', which makes the board viewable only to you unless you specifically invite someone to view it. Without this designation, your boards can be viewed by anyone (even users without a Pinterest account). Pinterest used to limit users to only 3 secret boards, but they recently changed this restriction and now you can have an unlimited number

of secret boards. This is a great news for someone like me that likes to gather the things I love to refer to later, but doesn't necessarily want anyone following them.



The screenshot shows the 'Create a Board' dialog box. It has a title bar with a close button (X). The form includes a 'Name*' field with the placeholder text 'ex: For the Home', a 'Description' field with the placeholder text 'Add a short description to your board', and a 'Category' dropdown menu with the text 'Choose a category'. At the bottom, there is a 'Secret' checkbox, which is currently unchecked, with a red arrow pointing to it. To the right of the checkbox is the text 'No'. Further right is a 'Learn more' link. At the very bottom are 'Cancel' and 'Create Board' buttons.

Following other boards is strongly encouraged on Pinterest—actually it's the whole point of it. When you create an account, you are encouraged to select existing boards and users to follow. When you 'pin' something you like, a window will come up showing you another user that pinned what you just did and it will display their board with an option to follow them. At every turn on Pinterest, they want you to share and follow.



Guidelines for Safer Pinterest Use

- Do not provide a full name when creating an account. Encourage children to use a creative "username" and not their real name at all. Pinterest really only requires a valid email address.
- Only create 'private' boards and only invite users you know to view them.
- Do not post a profile picture with your face. Find an image or icon related to your interests or just leave it blank.
- Do not post pictures of yourself or your friends on your boards.
- Do not post any personal information (name, address, school...) on your boards.

As with all social media usage, parents should limit kids' time on Pinterest.