



Coerced online child sexual abuse

Helping parents and carers keep their children safer online

26% surveyed girls have had some kind of experience of receiving a request for nude or semi-nude photos or videos

Children can be groomed, coerced or encouraged into sexual activities online. This is known as self-generated child sexual abuse content, or first person produced images and videos. It's where sexual images or videos of children are captured via a webcam or camera-enabled device. There is no physical presence of the abuser and the child is often in their own bedroom or bathroom. Whilst these images can be the product of grooming, blackmail and coercion, they could have also been originally voluntarily produced by the child, but then shared with others without the child's full knowledge or consent. Any child with unsupervised access to the internet is potentially at risk.

Best practices for parents and carers: Use the TALK checklist to keep your child safe online

TALK to your child about online sexual abuse

There will never be an 'ideal' time to talk about online child sexual abuse, but make sure you're having open conversations with your child without judgement or shame. Pick your moment, but don't wait for the 'perfect' age or time. Be honest, in an age-appropriate way and remember that when you speak to your child, whatever they tell you, never imply that they are responsible or to blame if someone asks them to share, or they already have shared, sexual material.

AGREE boundaries

Having a family contract or agreement sets out some expectations of how everyone can go online positively and safely. Being involved in setting the rules will help your child feel that their opinion matters. It's also crucial that adults follow the rules as well, and act as role models. You can find a template for a family agreement

LEARN about the platforms your child uses

Showing your child that you are interested in what they are doing online in a positive and open way will encourage them to share what they are doing and come to you when something wrong happens. You can also use some of the same apps that your child does; follow one another and ask and share suggestions of who else to follow.

KNOW how to use safety tools, apps and settings

Discuss and agree on privacy settings for the platforms and apps your child uses, and on more general settings for the family. Make sure you explain to your child why you prefer particular controls, or why you might restrict use of a particular app. You can also recap on



safety features that children are taught in school (primary as well as secondary) by asking them to tell you more about it.