



ONLINE DANGERS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEXTING, VIDEO GAMES AND SOCIAL PLATFORMS

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), there are 750,000 predators online worldwide at any given moment. In a recent NCMEC analysis of CyberTipline reports, it was found that nearly all the children reported not knowing the predator other than from their online communication.

The most common forms of online danger are: social platforms for communication (WhatsApp, GroupMe or Yubo); group video games (eSports include among others Minecraft, League of Legends, Call of Duty, DOTA, Super Smash Bros., and Fortnite Battle Royale); photo sharing and connecting apps (TikTok, SnapChat, VSCO); and compromising photos and videos sent via text (sexting).

Many tragic stories of children being forced into situations of exploitation begin with the 'pimp' using sexts as a means of coercion. This phenomenon is often referred to as 'sextortion'.

HOW CAN YOU HELP KIDS STAY SAFE?

1

Take the initiative, start a conversation and ask questions, listen and engage without judgment or shame.

2

Help your child understand the dangers and consequences for sexting, online gaming and communication platforms. Images/ messages can't be deleted once they're sent. They are out there forever.

3

Set up parental controls, checking game content and ratings, set up phone filters and help choose your kids games and play them together.

4

If you are receiving sextortion threats, you are not alone. **Seek advice** from a parent, trusted mentor, teacher or law enforcement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO THESE RESOURCES:

- Street Grace App-Safety-Guide
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- SafeKids.com
- <https://www.connectsafely.org/>
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>



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