

REVEALING THE DANGERS OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

FOR CAREGIVERS OF YOUTH AGED 10 TO 17 YEARS OLD

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of Canada

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ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:

WHAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD NEED TO KNOW

Today's youth are very active online. They interact with others through games or YouTube, use computers or tablets at school daily, create, comment on and share content through social media, and often have their own personal connected devices. As they get older, they will build relationships and explore their sexuality online — and they are less likely to talk to you about it.

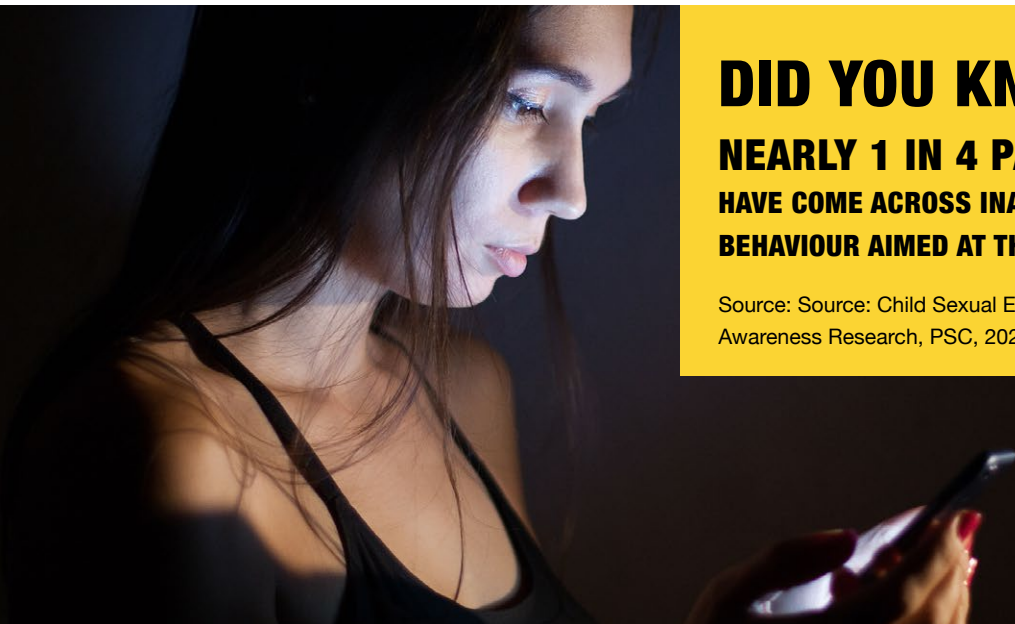
There is an upside to all this technology, but it is not without its dangers.

There have always been people who prey on children and youth — the difference is the internet allows them to do it anonymously and from a distance. It's a growing problem across Canada. Parents need to be aware of how to protect children from online child sexual exploitation and teach them to recognize potential risks and stay safe online.

DID YOU KNOW?

**NEARLY 1 IN 4 PARENTS
HAVE COME ACROSS INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE
BEHAVIOUR AIMED AT THEIR CHILD.**

Source: Source: Child Sexual Exploitation Public
Awareness Research, PSC, 2020

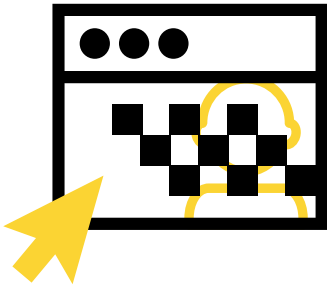


WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO KNOW



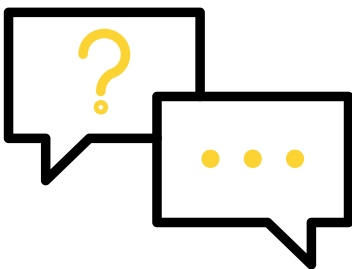
ONLINE GROOMING:

- What it is and how it might happen
- How they can reduce the risk



SEXUAL IMAGES AND VIDEOS:

- What they are and how they may not depict healthy relationships
- What to do if they are sent to your child or your child finds them



SEXTING AND SEXTORTION:

- What they are and the unexpected impacts they can have
- What to do if they've shared intimate images or someone is trying to control them



WHAT IS GROOMING?

Grooming is when someone builds trust with a child, and sometimes the adults around them, to gain access to and control the child.

ONLINE TACTICS A GROOMER MIGHT USE:

- Your child is approached — they may falsely identify themselves to make a connection as a peer, or it can be someone they know
- They sexualize the relationship by sending or asking for your child to record and send sexualized images or videos
- They talk about the child's friends or interests, give gifts and compliments
- They may threaten or pressure your child to do what they ask
- They make promises of a better life, a loving relationship or future gifts, money, drugs or alcohol
- They may ask to meet your child in person
- They cause division saying “your parents are too strict” or “don’t understand you”

SIGNS YOUR CHILD MAY BE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING GROOMED:

- They talk about a new friend you haven't heard of before
- They are very focused on spending more time online
- They have new things you didn't get them (e.g. toys, devices, video games, new apps or video game upgrades)
- They are more secretive than usual when you are around
- They use sexual language they haven't before
- They are more fragile, moody or troubled than usual (even for a teenager)



DID YOU KNOW?

**2 IN 5 CHILDREN
TARGETED ONLINE ARE 13 OR YOUNGER.**

Source: cybertip.ca

WHAT IS SEXTING?

Sexting is when someone creates, sends or shares sexual messages, images or videos with friends, people they know or even strangers online. Older kids may think it is harmless, especially with someone they know or like, but once an image is sent, it is out of their control and it can end up hurting them or someone else.

WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

Sextortion (sex extortion) is a type of blackmail where someone threatens to send a sexual image or video of your child to friends, family or other people if they don't pay them, provide more sexual content or do what they ask.

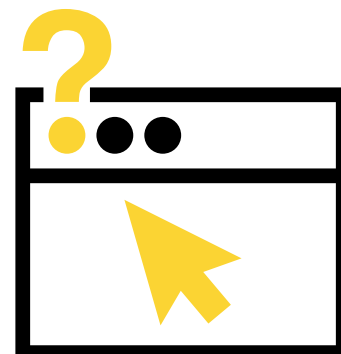




WHAT YOU CAN DO

The most important thing is to be aware and to talk openly and regularly with your child:

- Let them know you are available to talk any time
- Understand they may be hesitant to share with you
- Use real life examples they can relate to that aren't about them
- Talk about online safety, privacy, establishing boundaries, healthy relationships and consent
- Talk to them about not giving in to pressure and breaking off communication if they feel threatened or uncomfortable
- Tell them it's always okay to come to you or another safe adult, even if they think they've made a mistake
- Tell them about resources like [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca) and [NeedHelpNow.ca](https://www.needhelpnow.ca) in case they are worried and do not want to come to you





ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

LOCAL POLICE

If you know about a child who is in immediate danger or risk, call 911 or your local police.

KIDSHELPPHONE.CA

Contact Kids Help Phone by calling **1-800-668-6868** or texting **686868**.

CYBERTIP.CA

Canada's online tipline for reporting online sexual exploitation of children.

Text the crisis text line:

741741 or visit **<https://ca.portal.gs/>**

NEEDHELPNOW.CA

Help with removing sexual pictures or videos of your child from the internet.

DID YOU KNOW?

**BETWEEN 2014 AND 2019,
CYBERTIP.CA PROCESSED
OVER 1.7 MILLION
CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION REPORTS.**

Source: cybertip.ca

