

CHILD & INTERNET SAFETY RESOURCES



IT'S NOT A GAME

The FBI has seen a huge increase in the number of cases involving children and teens being threatened and coerced by adults into sending explicit images online—a crime called sextortion.

There are several resources available to help caregivers and young people better understand what sextortion is, how to protect against it, and how to talk about this growing threat.



Setting Up Your Child's Device

- Limit the amount of screen time (this prevents overuse of the device, limits usage to certain times, and prevents late-night access when the parents are most likely asleep and unable to monitor).
- Request weekly usage reports.
- Set up age parameters so your child can only download age-appropriate apps (most apps are rated for age usage, similar to movie ratings).
- Limit what internet content can be accessed to ensure adult websites are not viewable on the device.
- Turn off the device's location services.
- Set a PIN (all of these settings are usually controlled by a PIN set by a parent, so the child has no ability to alter the settings).

Note: In many peer-to-peer games and other applications, there may be an embedded chat feature that allows the user to communicate by voice and/or text with other players. This feature can usually be turned off by the parent under the settings of individual apps, and a PIN can usually be created within an app to prevent the child from changing individual app settings.



If you believe your child may be a victim, or if you know someone who is, please reach out to the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or report it online at tips.fbi.gov.

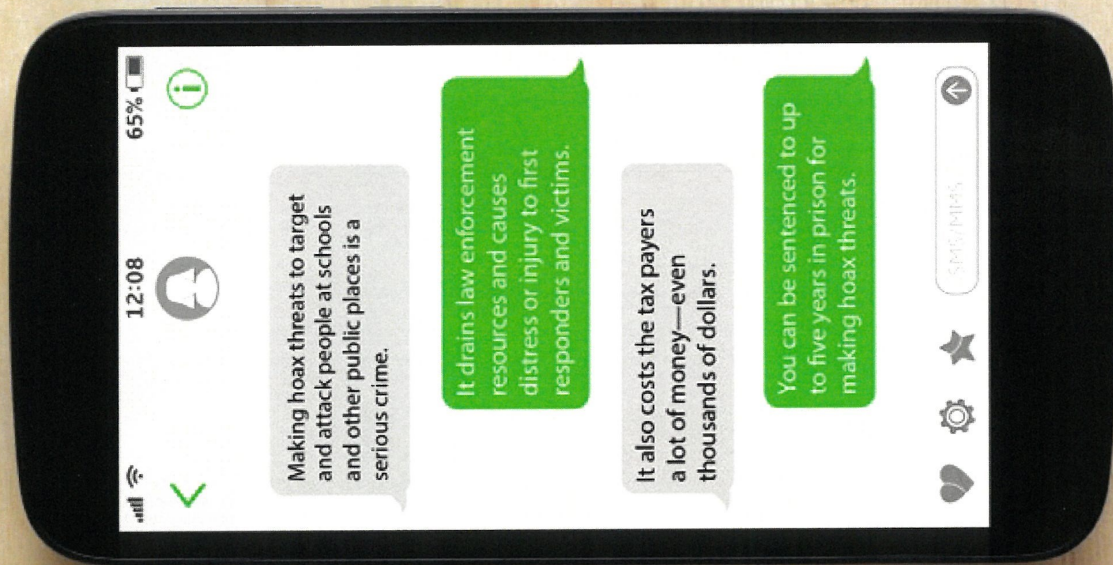
Learn more at: fbi.gov/itsnotagame.

IT'S NOT A JOKE.

#THINKBEFOREYOUPOST



www.fbi.gov



TIPS FOR PARENTS: GOING OUT CHECKLIST



Heading out for some family fun at an amusement park, movie theater, mall or any other public place? Use this checklist to make your outing safer.



REVIEW THE KIDSMARTZ RULES

Make sure your children understand the basic rules of safety – check first before going anywhere; take a friend everywhere you go; tell people “NO” if they try to touch or hurt you; and tell a trusted adult if anyone makes you feel sad, scared or confused.



PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES

Look at a map of the facilities and locate information booths or customer service centers. Carry recent pictures of your children in case they get lost. You can even take a picture of them on your cellphone just before leaving.



CHARGE YOUR CELLPHONE

Check that your cellphone is charged and your children have the number memorized. Consider giving older children a cellphone of their own so you can reach them more easily.



PAY ATTENTION TO CLOTHING

Remember what your children are wearing so you can describe their clothing to staff members in case they are lost. Tip: If your children are wearing bright colors, they will be easier to spot in crowds.



IDENTIFY ADULTS WHO CAN HELP

Teach younger children to look for people like security officers, store employees or park staff members who can help them look for you in case you are separated.



CHOOSE A MEETING SPOT

Instruct older children to go directly to a designated spot, like a store or an information booth, to meet you. They should never leave or go to the parking lot to try and find you.



PLAN FOR BATHROOM BREAKS

You should always go with younger children to the restroom. Make sure older children take a friend; it's safer than going alone.



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TIPS FOR PARENTS: SAFETY SCENARIOS



Safety is about more than memorizing rules. It's also about knowing **how** to act **when** it matters. Use these tips and practice scenarios to help your child learn what to do in risky situations.

TELL YOUR CHILD:

It's OK to be rude if someone is making you uncomfortable. Say "no," walk away and tell a trusted adult.



HOW TO PRACTICE:

Ask children to pretend they are at the playground. An adult approaches and asks for help. What should they do? (Say "no," and walk away. Adults shouldn't ask children for help; they should ask other adults.)

TELL YOUR CHILD:

Always go places with a friend and stay with the group. If a friend walks away from the group, tell a trusted adult right away.

HOW TO PRACTICE:

Ask children to pretend they are walking home with friends. One friend wants to leave the group. What should they do? (Remind the friend that it is safer to stay together.) If the friend still leaves, ask children what they should do. (Tell a trusted adult right away.)

TELL YOUR CHILD:

You should never approach or get into a vehicle without my permission. If someone is following you in a vehicle, turn and run in the other direction. Tell me or another trusted adult what happened right away.



HOW TO PRACTICE:

Using a parked car as a prop, have children pretend someone is driving along beside them. Have them practice refusing the ride and running in the opposite direction.

TELL YOUR CHILD:

When you are home alone, do not open the door for anyone.

HOW TO PRACTICE:

Ask children to pretend they are home alone when someone comes to the door with a delivery. Ask children what they would do. (Not answer the door; call you if the person does not go away.)

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PARENTS' GUIDE TO SMARTPHONE SAFETY

SMART OR SCARY?

Smartphones are essentially little computers, so you might be a little worried when handing one over to your child. Take some time to understand the risks and implement a few safeguards so that you can help your child use smartphones safely.



THE RISKS

- CYBERBULLYING

With the constant connectivity of smartphones, your child may be more susceptible to cyberbullying or have more opportunities to cyberbully others.

- GEOLOCATION

A GPS-enabled smartphone can reveal your child's location through online posts and uploaded photos.

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

With smartphones, your child has mobile access to content you may consider inappropriate, such as pornography or violent videos.

- SEXTING

Your child may use the Internet and social apps to send, receive, or forward revealing photos.

- VIRUSES & MALWARE

Just like a computer, a smartphone is vulnerable to security attacks if your child accesses unsecured websites and apps.

5 WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!

1. Be a parent and a resource.

Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child will come to you with any problems.

2. Set up smart security.

Smartphones today include a variety of security mechanisms including fingerprint scans, facial recognition and password locks. Enable these to protect access to the phone as well as apps with sensitive data.

3. Update the operating system.

New versions often contain important security fixes.

4. Approve apps before they are downloaded.

Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.

5. Understand location services.

GPS features are useful when using maps, but you'll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.

For more resources visit MissingKids.org/Netsmartz/Resources

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