



CHILD RESCUE COALITION

C.R.A.M.

**A Parent's Study Guide to
Managing Kids & Technology**

In partnership with **Safe Surfin' Foundation**



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About the authors

Carly Yoost *CEO, Founder, Board of Directors*



Carly Yoost's work is nationally recognized for her global fight against child exploitation. After her father's passing, Carly felt driven with purpose to carry on his legacy of protecting children. Powered by technology that was developed at her family's company, she founded Child Rescue Coalition. Child Rescue Coalition is a nonprofit organization that rescues children from sexual abuse by building technology for law enforcement, free of charge, to track, arrest and prosecute child predators.

Since founding the nonprofit, the technology is now being used by officers in 97 counties and has led to the arrest of over 13,500 child predators. In recognition of her work, Carly won the L'Oréal Paris national competition and was named 2016-2017 L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth National Honoree. In 2016, Carly received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for her lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. In 2015, Carly was awarded the M&A Advisor's 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders Award. Prior to founding Child Rescue Coalition, Carly served as Co-CEO of TLO, LLC, a technology company that specialized in investigative and child protection tools.

Carly holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Florida Atlantic University. Prior to founding Child Rescue Coalition, Carly served as Co-CEO of TLO, LLC, a technology company that specialized in investigative and child protection tools. Carly is a proud mother of two young children. Being a mother has strengthened her belief that children's innocence is something we should all be fighting for.

Moe McClanahan *Director of Training, Safe Surfin' Foundation*



Ret. Investigator Moe McClanahan recently retired after 20 yrs of service from the Christiansburg Police Department (CPD) in Virginia. Moe served her last 8.5 years at CPD as the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigator working both reactive and proactive cases. First trained and certified in the CRC technology in 2012, Moe used our technology to arrest child predators in her community and the surrounding areas.

During her time as an ICAC Investigator, she also trained and educated over 10,000 children, parents, and police officers in internet safety. Since her retirement she was hired as the Director of Training and Education with the Safe Surfin' Foundation, which is a non-profit organization with the mission of educating and equipping both parents and kids on being safe online. Moe also serves as a High-Tech Crime Specialist with the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) where she instructs law enforcement officers on how to best investigate cyber crimes to include crimes against children.

Moe received both her bachelor's and master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Northern Colorado. She serves on the Board for The Children's Trust, a local non profit working to prevent child abuse by educating and advocating for youth in the community.

Why We are Writing this Study Guide *by Carly Yoost*



Every day around 200,000 children go online for the first time. Unfortunately, the online world has not been designed with child safety in mind. The problem with the online space is that it just isn't regulated in the same way the "real world" is.

Cars require seat belts and must meet minimum safety standards designated by law. The same goes for your toaster or your new stove. But there are no requirements for the internet.

At Child Rescue Coalition, everyday we track predators around the world trading illegal images and videos of very young children. To date, we have led to the arrest of over 13,500 dangerous child predators and we have identified 70 million IP addresses, or individual computers, engaging in this predatory illegal activity. The unfortunate truth of the matter is that there are far more predators in our system that will never be arrested.

What You See Isn't Always What You Get

Online predators will go wherever children are online - they may even try to pass themselves off as children. You would never let your child go to the local park to meet with a group of men who are strangers. Yet we allow these same strangers into our homes with direct access to our kids via Internet connected devices.

Building Skills for Safety

Learning to drive in the online world is just as important as learning how to cross the road or to drive a car - the key lessons are the same!

- What is dangerous?
- What are the signs to look for?
- What do I need to know BEFORE I head out?
- What do I do when something goes wrong?

That's why we are sharing this study guide. At Child Rescue Coalition, we get asked all the time by supporters how to prevent childhood sexual abuse and online predators from harming our children. The answer: KNOWLEDGE.

Parents Keeping Kids Safe

It's our job as parents to arm ourselves with the information and technology to protect our children. We are joining forces with Moe McClanahan, a former CRC Technology investigator and educator at Safe Surfin' Foundation to give you the tools you need to succeed!

The Safe Surfin' Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit Cyber Safety and Responsibility educational initiative. It was created by law enforcement professionals in 1998 and dedicated to the protection and pro-active education of youth about safe and responsible use of technology. The Foundation is improving and saving lives by joining forces with schools and youth groups nationally and providing them with our Cyber SWAT program where kids teach kids about the dangers of the internet. They also educate adults on emerging trends and dangers.



Tools You Need To Succeed

We put together this guide to help you navigate the changing pace of social media, gaming, and the internet. We've sprinkled in some conversation starters to open up the lines of communication and settings to check regularly on our children's devices to keep them safe.

We hope you will study up, keep communicating with your kids, and take our advice seriously. They only get one chance to be a child, let's protect their innocence and let kids be kids while using the internet safely.



A Different Type of Epidemic, Predators on the Rise *by Moe McClanahan*

The numbers don't lie. Online victimization of children is on the rise, and we want to help YOU better protect your kids.

I first started investigating Internet Crimes Against Children cases in 2006 and have watched the evolution of these crimes move at the same pace as the ever evolving advancement of technology. Educating the public has been more difficult. More than ever our children are connected to the internet, especially with virtual learning during the pandemic of 2020. Statista reports that in 2020 of the 313 million people in the United States, 85.8% had internet access, and 274 million were mobile users.



Online Safety Experts

@safe.surfin

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children CyberTip, reports for online enticement of minors increased by 97.5% in 2020 alone.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools closed and students were sent home with some form of an electronic device, whether it be a chromebook or tablet, to continue to learn virtually. Parents were still required to work in the office or virtually, leaving children unattended with access to the internet.



“Online child predators are continually using unique and clever tactics to get in touch with children”.

Police Investigators from around the country saw an increase in cybercrimes involving children. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported a 28% increase in sexual exploitation cybertip reports in 2020 alone! The number of reports involving images of child sexual abuse material increased from an average of 250,000 reports weekly prior to the pandemic, to almost one million weekly reports in July of 2020.



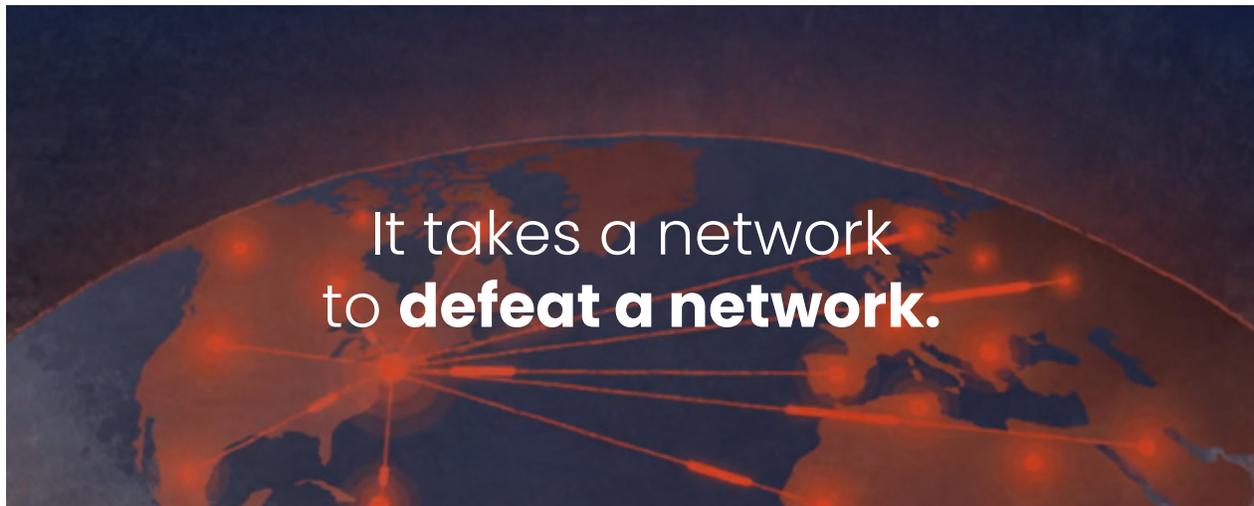
Online child predators are continually using unique and clever tactics to get in touch with children. In a recent Virginia case, a man who was posing as a teenager online created relationships with young teens by convincing them to take inappropriate pictures and videos of themselves. Sadly, this went on for several years until he was caught.

Like this man, predators are communicating with each other to learn better ways to identify victim's vulnerabilities to create trust with them online. This is what we call ***grooming***.

Victimization ranges from cyberbullying, sexting, sextortion, sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse material, and human trafficking. Children who fall victim to the predators suffer from depression, anxiety and PTSD. It is our mission to help you identify these crimes, learn how to prevent them from happening to your children, and why reporting is crucial.

Predators cast a wide net to find a vulnerable child to groom, it's not a matter of if your child is contacted by a predator, it's when. If your child is being victimized, you are not alone. We want to help you be aware of the dangers and learn how to take back control when it comes to safeguarding your children and your family.

It takes a network to defeat a network, let's do this together and protect our children.



How to Talk to Kids About Online Safety & Predators by Age *by Moe McClanahan*

As an ICAC Investigator, I educated the community on Internet Safety, presenting to kids and adults on the basics of online safety and trends of victimizations. I spent most of my time discussing the dangers of sexting, sextortion, and exploitation. My message is: What you post today will affect your future. My presentations are based on real cases involving child victims.

In January of 2016 our community suffered a tragic loss of 13-year-old Nicole Lovell. She met a Virginia Tech student online, developed a relationship with him, and after she told him that she may be pregnant, she was killed. He lured her out of her home late at night, took her to a remote area and stabbed her many times. He disposed of her body on the side of the road.

I learned later that she was present during my presentation and realized I needed to change the way I delivered my message, because I wasn't reaching the kids. Nicole has been my driving force to not give up on educating and reaching more people.



A Better Way Forward



It helps to talk to your kids in an age appropriate way concerning online dangers. I learned to be specific about the message based on the age of the child and that what I said had to be relevant to their specific experiences.

Here are some conversation starters you can use based on your child's age. Start with simple topics at a young age and then build on those conversations with more important topics. These conversations need to happen regularly. When the conversation is constant, kids feel comfortable sharing about their online activities. There's no fear of punishment over the inappropriateness of others, just guidance on how to address it next time.

K-2nd Grade - Key Messages for Early Elementary School Aged Children ***Teach them to:***

- Never share passwords with anyone other than you, the parent. Write passwords down and keep them in a safe place
- Netiquette - how to act online. Always be kind. Learn more about Netiquette on the NCMEC website.
- The difference between real friends and "friends" online. Set up rules and expectations that kids can't add friends that you don't know, and to ask your permission first.
- Never add or chat with anyone they've never met in person before. Explain that there are some bad people out there who want to hurt kids online.



3rd – 5th Grade – Key Messages for Tweens
Teach them the above plus:

- Report any inappropriate behavior from friends online. This includes bullying and talking to strangers
- YouTube/YouTube kids viewing should be age-appropriate. Place restrictions to protect them from seeing violent, pornographic and inappropriate material.
- Only use devices in common areas. This means no devices in bedrooms or bathrooms. Kids are less likely to post or share inappropriate content in public areas of the house.



8th–9th Grade Key Messages for Teens
Teach them the above plus:

- Sexting & Consequences. It can cause embarrassment, lead to bullying, and it's not something you can take back or delete. It also is against the law depending on the state
- Don't keep secrets. Teach them to report any inappropriate or sexual requests to a trusting adult, and reassure them they won't get in trouble
- There's an open door policy. Tell them they can come to you about anything and you will listen without discipline. Set up expectations well in advance.
- How to deal with Cyberbullying – it's okay to tell an adult when it's happening. They should learn how to stick up for themselves and others, and how not to be a bully.



10th – 12th Key Messages for Young Adults

- All the above
- Post with the future in mind. Talk about how what they post or share online will affect their reputation and their future, like being accepted to a college or getting a job



5 Tips from a Psychologist to Prevent Childhood Sexual Abuse

by Carly Yoost



We hear it and see it all the time. A gymnastics teacher got too close to the girls he was coaching. A doctor downloaded child sexual abuse material. Sadly, the statistics are true. Every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and every nine minutes that victim is a child. With the internet, it's becoming even easier for predators to find and sexually abuse our children.

Childhood sexual abuse doesn't discriminate based on race, culture, socioeconomic background, or religion. While we can never protect our children 100%, there are things we can do to reduce the risk of abuse and recognize the warning signs it might already be happening.

Here are 5 tips from a psychologist to **prevent childhood sexual abuse**:

1.

Communicate on a Regular Basis- Ask yourself, "Am I actively involved in my children's life and present, not distracted?" Do you show interest in your child's life? One way to do this is to ask your children questions every day after school. What was the best part of your day? How are you feeling, what are you doing in class, and who did you eat lunch with? Pay attention to changes! Maybe they sat with April every day for two months and then for three days it was Pam. Did something happen? What impacts them and how does it make them feel? These are important questions.

2.

Be Careful Who You Leave your Children with – Do you know the parents of your children's friends? Who else is in those homes when your child is dropped off? Do your children's friends have older siblings, and will the sibling's friends be present? It's important to always know who is going to be with your kids.

3.

Talk about Our Bodies & Use Correct Terminology – From the very beginning, always talk to your children about their bodies and body parts (including genitals), and about appropriate boundaries. When talking about our bodies, teach kids the proper names. This tells them it's not shameful to use those terms and allows them to talk to you about anything. Also make sure they know that their privates, or anywhere their bathing suit touches, can only be touched by themselves. If a physician needs to touch your child for treatment, a parent must always be present.

4.

Boundaries– Teach your children what's healthy in terms of boundaries. It's their body and they get to decide what they do with their bodies. For example, don't force your children to hug or kiss a friend or relative. Verbally reinforce that to your kids and ask permission, "Is it OK for me to hug you?" Try to think about it differently. It's their choice who they hug and kiss, and if they say no, they need to know that you respect that. Download coloring pages to help discuss body boundaries [here](#).



5.

Secrets – Surprises are fun but secrets are not safe. What do people normally ask you to keep secrets about? Birthday gifts, a special trip to Disney World...those are surprises. But if someone asks you to keep a secret about your body, or if they tell you that they will hurt you or someone you love if you tell the secret, that means to tell your parents immediately.

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Surprises are fun but secrets are not safe.

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What's the Solution? C.R.A.M by Carly Yoost

At Child Rescue Coalition events we get asked all the time, “**But how do I actually keep my child safe online?**” Unfortunately there is no ‘one size fits all answer.’ Most families choose to give their children tablets, phones or laptops at all different ages and stages. What works for one family doesn’t always work for another. We know that in this digital world we have to parent with our children, not against them. Here are a few pieces of advice for when you hand over that first key to the digital world to your child.



Parents Lead Technology



When a parent decides to allow their child to use technology, it’s usually to watch videos, or play an educational app. Maybe they want their child to learn to write their letters, or watch the latest PBS show. As children get older, so do their tastes and interest in the internet. First, it might be a server based video game, and later, phones and social media. Before handing over that first device, please make sure you are prepared for the following:

1. Your children's needs and maturity level. Do you understand your child's wiring and are you **prepared to set limits?**
2. Are you ready to **learn all the forms of technology your children are using?**
3. Will you **invest in the proper tools to monitor** your child's actions online and oversee the technology?

If you answered YES to all three of these questions then you are ready to C.R.A.M for your technology test. We have developed this acronym to help parents all over the globe navigate the online world and keep kids safe from online predators.

C.R.A.M

C isn't just for Cookies, it's for a **CONTRACT**

One way to ensure our children understand the rules of online responsibility is to have them sign a contract before powering up their new device. As we've done research into creating a Child Rescue Coalition contract, we've found there are many online that focus on phones and social media use, but we wanted ours to have a more holistic digital feel. It's not just for kids to sign either.

Child Rescue Coalition founder and CEO Carly Yoost says,

"It is just as important for parents to learn internet safety as it is for their children. Parents could unknowingly be putting their children at risk by sharing online about their children. Our CRC contract is a new way of thinking about family internet safety. Showing your child that you will follow safety rules as well sets a great example for your children to do all that you can to remain safe online."

Child Rescue Coalition

Family Contract for Online Safety & Responsibility



Being safe online is the #1 responsibility for everyone in the family. In a time where technology is an important part of each family member's life, whether it's for fun, education or work, this contract will help to guide us in the best ways to stay safe online.

We've created a two-way contract to be read, discussed, and signed by both parents and children before they venture online. Parents need to stay on top of new research and have open communication with their kids. Just as you need a license to drive a car, you also need to sign a contract before using the internet. Both are a privilege not a right, and rules should apply to both parents and kids.

DOWNLOAD HERE.

R- ROUTER

Did you know you could use your router to limit screen time or even pause Wi-Fi? If you have the time and patience to dig through the settings of your wi-fi router, you can filter who has access to what online content when. You can also shut off the internet when it's time for homework or bedtime. If you're ready to get serious about online safety, invest in a really good router. Some of our favorites are Bark Home, EERO, and Gryphon. These routers are easily accessible and allow parents to shut down wi-fi from remote locations.



A- APPS

The risks that children face today look different than they did in the past. With easy access to the internet, there are endless opportunities for learning and connection, but those opportunities also come with risks. Children can quickly and easily connect with adults who don't have their best interests at heart, or could take in damaging or confusing content. According to a study shared by NetNanny, 82% of children are exposed to inappropriate material online by age 11, which is a startling statistic.

How can you best monitor your kid's every move on the apps on their phones or tablets? Not easily without a little help! Thankfully there's an app that can do that. Or three! We recommend using:



- **1. Screen time through Apple** (see settings above)
- **2. Google Family Link** - great for Android users
- **3. Bark** - Monitors your child's email, social media and text messages for potential risks. You'll even get parental alerts with child psychologist recommendations to address the issues reported. Bark shares its track record as including "5.2 million children protected, 16 school shootings prevented and 34 thousand severe self-harm situations detected."

We can't be everywhere all the time, but we can use technology to manage technology!

M- MONITOR

No, you don't need to go buy a new monitor for your home computer, but you DO need to monitor who your kids are talking to online. How do you do this? Check your child's phone, emails, DM's, texts and social media accounts. Yes, it's smart to check your child's device. It's not snooping. It's important to understand what type of media they are consuming, what videos they are watching, and if someone may have said something or sent something inappropriate.

Glen Pounder, COO of Child Rescue Coalition says, "Think about it this way - would you be happy for your child to meet a 43-year-old strange man in a park while you stood only 10 or 15 yards away? Why should it be any different when your child is in their bedroom meeting a potential child predator online?"

It is 100% YOUR right to check your child's devices. Please do it, and be proactive, positive and a part of the solution.



It's smart to check your child's device. **It's not snooping**

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Does your child's perceived right to privacy supersede their safety? It is 100% your right to check their devices.

—Bill Wiltse, President Child Rescue Coalition

Tactical Solutions *by Carly Yoost*

Now that you've CRAMMED for your technology test, you are ready to implement technology in your home. Sounds like you've got all your bases covered right? Almost! There are still a few more tactical solutions you can use to make sure your kids aren't getting a technical overdose.



Charge devices in common area

Always, and we mean ALWAYS set up a charging station in your home. It can be an actual locked box you order for your family, a fun station that allows you to charge all in one place, the kitchen counter or your nightstand. The key is to have a time that your devices must be charged, and parents have to follow through with this!

You can't fall asleep watching Netflix while your kids surf the net. Parents need to set a reminder each night to grab all devices or instruct kids to do this before the allotted time. This way you know your kids are safe and not visiting places online you don't approve of, or talking to a stranger.

No internet in the bedrooms

"20 years ago kids were safe in their bedrooms, now with the internet and social media, they are not." Glen Pounder, COO Child Rescue Coalition

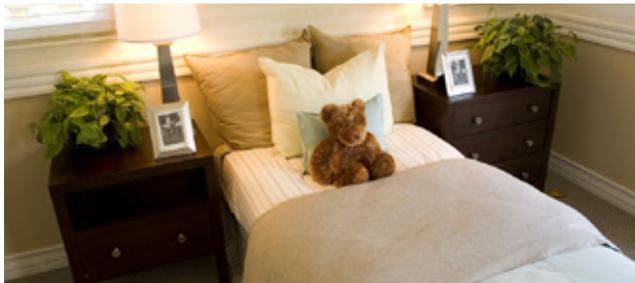
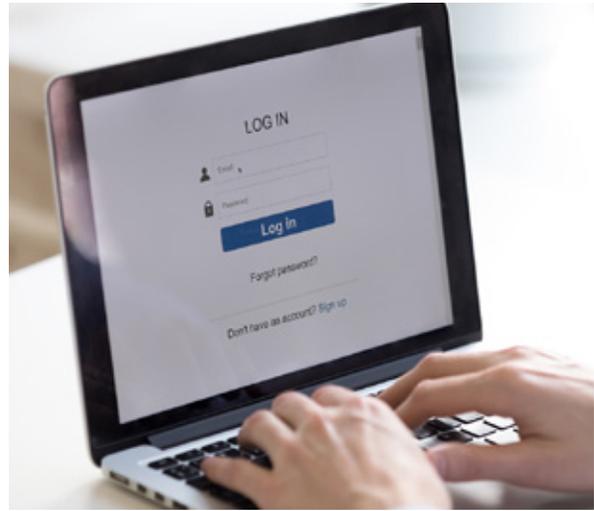
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20 years ago our kids were safe in their bedrooms, **now with the internet and a connection to the outside world they are not.**

Glen Pounder, Chief Operating Officer Child Rescue Coalition

Know all passwords and logins to every account

We hope that there is never an issue, that your kids stick to the rules of the information superhighway and never run into a tricky “friend” or online predator. But if they do, and you have to involve a school resource officer or investigator, the first thing parents are asked for is access to all accounts. Phone login, email passwords, and the logins to all gaming platforms or social media accounts. This is especially helpful in locating missing children, and trying to identify predators. It also allows your kids to know that in your home you have an open door and open device policy.



This is a hard one for all of us, but let's face it, allowing kids to be online playing video games or on social media talking to strangers is dangerous. They are literally inviting every Tom, Dick and Harry into your homes nightly. The single best strategy to combat your child from being groomed is to insist that all devices be used in common areas of the home.

Prepared Parents -The 7 P's to Recognizing the Signs of Grooming *by Moe McClanahan*



Now that you have some safety strategies in your back pocket, it's time to learn how predators work. They do something we call grooming. We talked about this a bit earlier and it's a way predators interact with kids so they can gain their trust. As parents it is important to not only to open up discussion with your children about the dangers of grooming behaviors, but also know the signs so you can intercept and end the communication.

Safe Surfin's Moe McClanahan shared with us what she saw as an investigator in terms of signs to identify your child is being groomed:

Praise (Flattery) - This can look as innocent as “you are really pretty/handsome I'd love to see more of you.” They will play into the child denying being pretty, acting shy in response and having self-esteem vulnerabilities.

Many times when I would work undercover chat investigations, I would receive flattery from predators just seeing my profile picture which was only an image of my eye with a little bit of my bangs. They would ask for more pictures after learning I was only 13 years old.

Precocious Conversation - This is a way to feel out the child and see if they are interested. The conversation will start out asking if they have a boyfriend or girlfriend, if they've ever kissed and then if they've done more. If the child reveals personal details about past relationships then the predator has started the process of gaining their trust.

The escalation may lead to asking them what the child is wearing, looking to see if the child will be willing to divulge. This may lead to conversation about masturbation, sexual contact, or sharing links to pornography or child sexual abuse material.

Photo sharing- As the predator feels out the child's responses to the above topics they will either first send a naked image to the child to gauge interest in sexual talk or contact. They might ask the child to send naked images of themselves. Most children want reassurance that they are beautiful with and without clothes on to feel better about themselves, not realizing that it's causing them harm.

Privacy - If you see your child is being asked to keep a conversation secret, it should raise a flag. Portions of the conversation may have already been deleted by the time you read it so be aware you may have missed grooming behavior or sharing of images.

Pressure - Blackmail threats come in different forms and can lead to what is called sextortion. When a child is asked to send naked images and does, the predator may request more images and threaten to expose the child to family and friends if they don't send more.

Images then lead to videos and/or requirement of sexual acts. Those images and videos are eventually shared on adult sites or sold on the dark web. This is considered sextortion.

Another form of blackmail is when the predator requests money or they will expose the child's



photos on the open web for everyone to see. Many children have committed suicide from these type of threats.

Presents - The predator will try trickery such as sending gifts to win the trust of the child if other grooming tactics are not working. They may send gift cards (even electronic, so monitor their email), clothing, cell phones, or jewelry. Be mindful of the packages in the mail and if your child has extra Robux or Vbux on their gaming platforms.

Pulling away - Another form of grooming is through emotional/verbal abuse from the predator. They will reinforce to the child that they are the only ones who truly understand them and care about them and that the child should be making more time for them if they cared about them too. The predator may even threaten to "break up" or end communication if the child doesn't give in to their wishes. Look for signs in the conversations that the predator is possessive.

Be aware of these signs of grooming behaviors to keep your kids safe from predators. One of the ways to reduce the risk of these situations is to be strategic about how you manage technology in your home.

How We Manage Technology in Our Homes

Moe

I was actually 34 weeks pregnant with my son when I was promoted to the position of the Internet Crimes Against Children Investigator. We started conversations early in his childhood, so a lot of the topics shared above are from personal experience.

We watched kid videos on not sharing passwords when he was four years old. We had conversations about how mommy's job was putting bad guys in jail who would try to hurt kids on the internet.

My son mainly plays video games (Roblox, Fortnite, Among Us). My husband and I researched and played with him to learn all of the ins and outs of each game before we allowed him to play solo. We set things up so he can't receive invites from strangers. He is consistently reminded he is not allowed to play or talk with strangers in private mode.



His gaming devices are all in the living room, never in his bedroom. He has even told his friends he is not allowed to play with strangers, so they shouldn't either. He has come to me with concerns about his friends' online activities and suggested I talk to their parents. .

We removed YouTube and YouTube kids from our home four years ago. We let him watch other children who had channels and found he wanted what they had. It was hard to explain that it wasn't reality. He was comparing himself to others and it was robbing him of joy. He was told it wasn't a punishment, that it was my way of helping him be more joyful. Now if he wants to look up a tutorial he asks me first and I approve it.

He will not have social media until he is at least 13 and only then if he is mature enough. It will all be monitored and I will have the passwords. It will only be on a tablet or through his chromebook since he will not have a smartphone until he is 16 and driving.

He wants to be a YouTuber so he creates videos on my private channel and gives the link to his friends. This has been a great compromise. He is not allowed to post TikToks or reels due to issues with my account being compromised.

It can be a battle at times and I know as he gets older there will be more pressure to give in. Knowing what I know, I will stay the course and keep educating others about why it's so important to be in control of family technology.

Carly

My children are young, six and four, and luckily we haven't yet reached the years where parenting and technology becomes a difficult battle. Even though our kids are young, it is never too early to start communicating with kids about online safety and good online behavior. The internet is part of everyday life and we need to teach children about both the good and bad aspects of the online world.

We are fairly conservative when it comes to allowing our children access to technology. We do not own iPads simply because we know we would have to battle them daily about screen time. If you don't own one they really don't ever ask for it.



When grandma comes over their favorite thing to ask for is her iPad. We are fine with them using one at school or with grandma, especially while someone is watching what they do online. Personally, my husband and I find that it just makes our jobs as parents easier to simply not own any.

We do allow our six-year-old to play Roblox and Minecraft on my laptop. I was able to easily go into settings and disable all chat and friend request options. She doesn't even know that Roblox has a chat feature and so it's easy for her not to miss something she never knew existed. We have a policy that if a game allows for chat but does not have parental settings they are not allowed to play. I regularly check in with her to make sure that no one is messaging her or sending friend requests.

We do allow our children to watch YouTube. I used to let them watch it on my phone but now they only watch it in our bedroom while I am in the room. My daughter stumbled upon a video of a demonic Peppa Pig that talked about hurting kids and we learned how dangerous YouTube can be.

When it comes to home technology, we make sure that we have super secure passwords to all of our home cameras and baby monitors. Predators have hacked into cameras and monitors so we make sure they have difficult layers of protection on them.

We practice "pause before you post" with social media. I ask before posting photos of them online. We also talk about why some pictures are safe and why others are not. I remind them that we never share pictures that expose their bodies, information about where they live or go to school.

It's all a delicate balance when it comes to technology. There are dangers that come with smartphones and the internet, but we find that Facetiming with friends and family is a fun way to stay connected. I don't want our children to fear the internet, but I do want them to, even at an early age, be making good choices. If we can start making good choices now, our hope is they will continue in the future.

How will you manage technology in your family?

The Goods on Gaming

Gaming can offer kids a sense of escape, which is even more attractive through the pandemic. Games encourage creativity with building, problem solving through strategic movement and teamwork by way of shared experiences with their friends online. These are all wonderful outcomes but anytime your child is connected to the internet with these games, they are exposed to potential dangers. These dangers include cyberbullying, online solicitation and like we discussed above, grooming by child predators.

How to Play Safe and Have Fun

Take time and learn how the game works! I suggest playing with them or doing research on reported dangers. If you are allowing your child to play, it is important to know how the games work, where the chats come from and who has access to them.

Three most important things to consider when keeping your child safe on any platform are:

- 1. Activity Monitoring**
- 2. Setting App and Game Limits**
- 3. Restricting Content**

Listed below are some of the most common games kids are playing and the different ways to communicate. Each has their own type of communication. Most have text messaging, private messaging and some have voice chat depending on the platform (Switch, computer, Xbox, mobile).

FORTNITE

Fortnite: Both voice chat and text chat can be used to contact your child while playing games.

AMONG US

Among Us: Chat inside the game

ROBLOX

Roblox: There are chat features inside of each of the servers depending on the game they are playing and there are also private messages within the Roblox profiles. Settings allow.

MINECRAFT

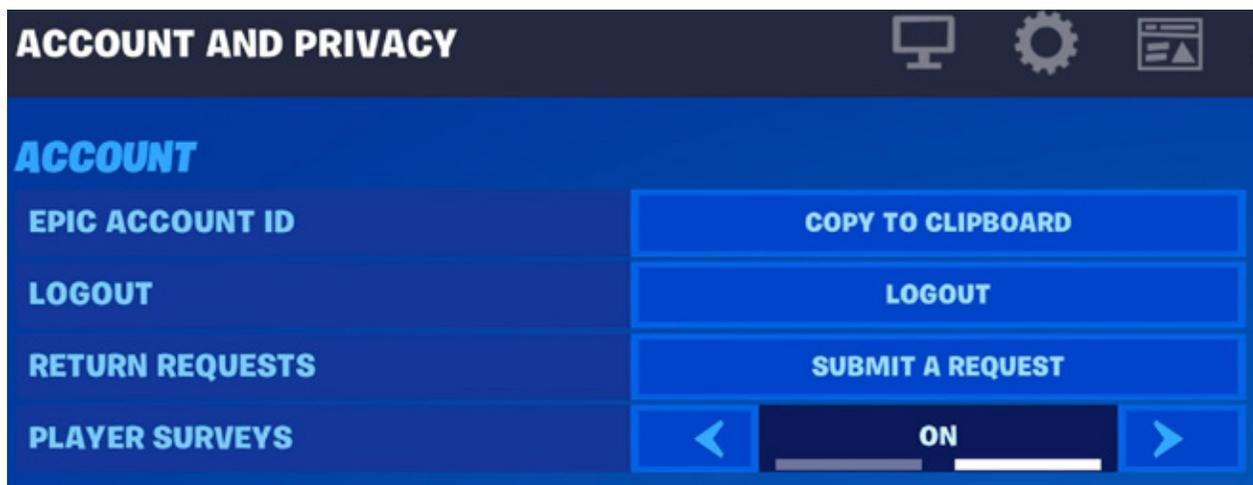
Minecraft: Both voice chat and text chat can be used depending on the different platform the game is played on.

Here are some of the safety settings to help reduce communication from potential predators.



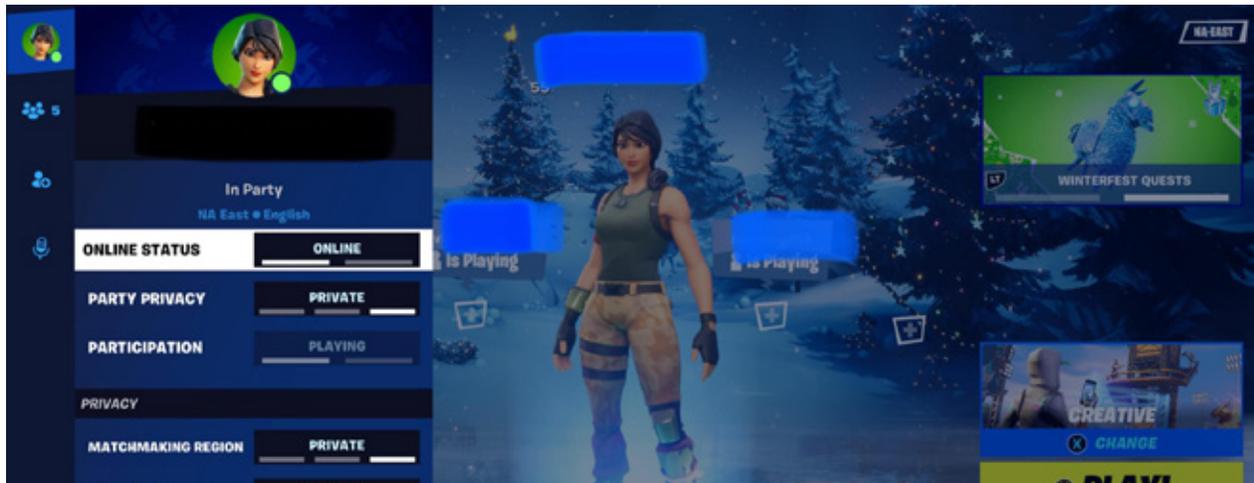
Fortnite Parental Settings

1. Launch Fortnite on your platform of choice.
2. Open the menu in the upper right of the screen.
3. Select 'Parental Controls'.
4. Confirm the email address linked to the account. If no email address is linked to the account you will be asked to link one.
5. Set a unique six-digit PIN. This PIN will be required to change parental controls in the future, so make sure it is different from other PINs you use and easy to remember.
6. Set the parental controls according to your preferences.
7. Use the 'Save' button to save your selection.



Party Settings

1. You can control your party privacy from the Party Hub settings on your Fortnite application.
2. Decide if your party is open for your friends and their friends to join, or lock the party so no one can join uninvited.
3. To lock your party, tap the lock icon on the main Party Hub screen. You can also unlock your party by tapping on the same lock icon.



Roblox Parental Controls

Parents can limit or disable online chat capabilities, restrict access to a curated list of age-appropriate games and customize monthly spend restrictions and spend notification frequency in a secure way.

See visual here:

https://corp.roblox.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FriendlyFraud_ParentalControl-1-1.mp4

How to Disable Chat & Ability to Post on Group Walls

1. Log into the account
2. Go to Account Settings page by clicking on the gear-icon located in the upper-right corner of the page followed by Settings.
3. Click on the Privacy tab and under "Who can chat with me in app?" "Who can message?" and "Who can chat with me?", select No one.
4. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click Save



Note: Turning off chat for "in-app" will disable the Team Create option in Roblox Studio.

Among Us

1. Local private freeplay games
2. Online self hosted invite-only games
3. Online public games

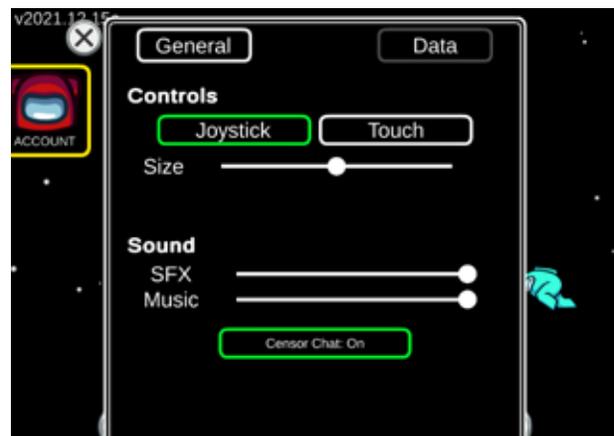
"Quick Chat Only" - if you input your age as under 13yrs of age you are automatically assigned as a filtered player and can only select preassigned comments that are game friendly like "Where" or "RIP" or other related responses.

Issues

- This can be bypassed by changing the age of the player
- Children can still see the chat from other players.

Settings

- Open Game App
- Select Settings
- Censor Chat "Toggle On" (can be changed without passcode)



Minecraft

Xbox One

- Launch Minecraft for the Xbox One.
- Head into a session.
- Press the pause button on your Xbox One controller.
- Go to "Options."
- Head to "Multiplayer Settings."
- Press "A" while highlighting the "Chat" option.
- Make sure it says "Hidden."

PS4

- Load a game of Minecraft on your PS4.
- Press the Start button on the controller.
- Select "Multiplayer Settings."
- Hover over "Chat: Shown."
- Change it to "Chat: Hidden."
- Exit the menu and continue playing.

iOS and Android

- Launch Minecraft on your mobile device.
- Head into a multiplayer world.
- Tap the Pause button.
- Select "Settings."
- Choose "Accessibility."
- Tap on "Chat: Shown."
- When it says "Chat: Hidden," you can tap "Done" and continue playing.

Nintendo Switch

- Open Minecraft for the Nintendo Switch.
- Start a game.
- Press the Pause button on your preferred controller. Choose "Options" from the Pause menu.
- Select "Multiplayer Settings" to bring up a host of options.
- Press "A" when you're highlighting "Chat: Shown."
- When it says "Chat: Hidden," save your settings, and you can go on playing Minecraft.

Safety Settings on Devices by Moe McClanahan



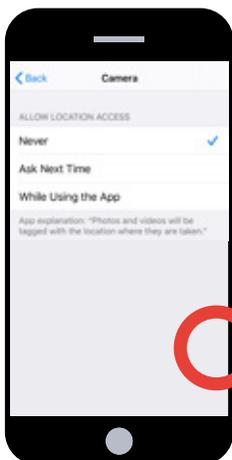
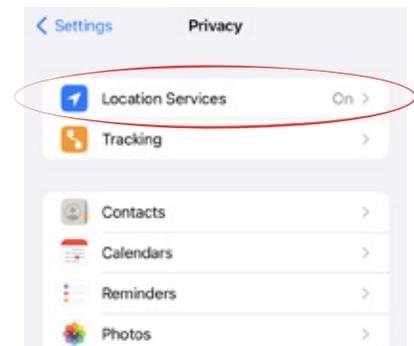
If your child is going to have a smartphone, there are important safety and privacy settings you should know about. We're going to show you how to use them to keep your kids safe and reduce the risk of them coming into contact with distressing or confusing contact. Whether you have an Apple or an Android, follow these tips to lock down your devices.

Mobile

iPhone

1. **Location** - make sure to turn off location on your child's device unless you're using a tracking app. Here's where you do it:

- a. **Settings** **Privacy** **Location Services**
(toggle on or off based on personal preference.)



IPHONE HACK TO KEEP KID'S SAFE

On an iPhone, make sure you set the camera to **NEVER** allow your child's location to be seen.

- 1 To do this go to **SETTINGS**
- 2 **PRIVACY**
- 3 Location Services (**ON**)
- 4 Camera set to **NEVER**

To further protect your child, turn the location off on their camera so no one can see where their photos were taken. **Do this in:**

Settings

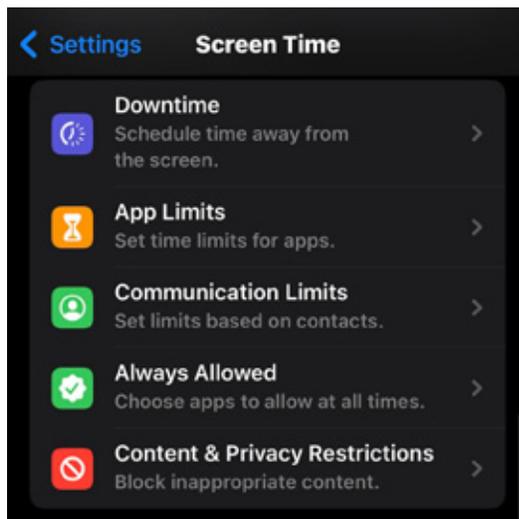
Privacy

Location Services (ON)

NEVER

Please note LOCATION SERVICES must be ON to turn these off for your camera.

2. Screen Time - This is such an amazing resource for iOS users! Stay in Control as the parent.



To access Screen Time, go to:

Settings

Screen Time

Downtime

schedules shut off time (no more arguments)

App Limits

set time limits on individual apps

Communication Limits

Limits apply to phone calls, Facetime, messages and iCloud contacts

Always Allowed

Limit contacts

Select allowed apps during downtime

Content & Privacy Restrictions

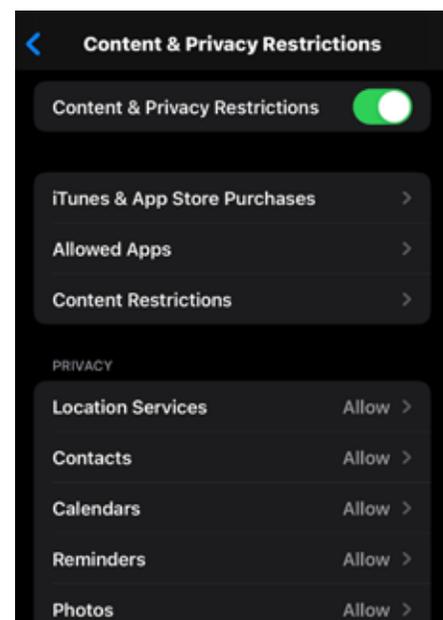
block inappropriate content by age

iTunes purchases - be in control of what kids can purchase

Allowed Apps - Turn off apps such as camera, web browsers, Facetime if you choose

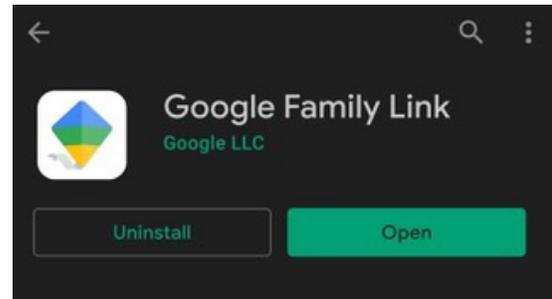
Content Restrictions - restrict web content, what they can search using Siri, and put guidelines in place for Game Center (turn off private messages, adding friends, profile privacy changes)

Turn off Passcode changes, cellular data, account changes, background app activities



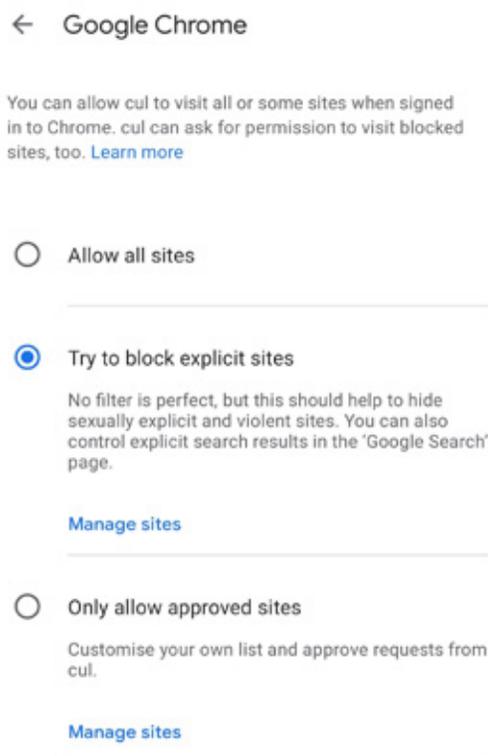
Android

Install the Family Link App through the Google Play Store. Google Family Link allows you as a parent to set limits and access permissions for Android phones. You can use it to manage Google Play purchases, set content restrictions, and require approval for app installs. With SafeSearch, you can remove sexually explicit and violent results in:

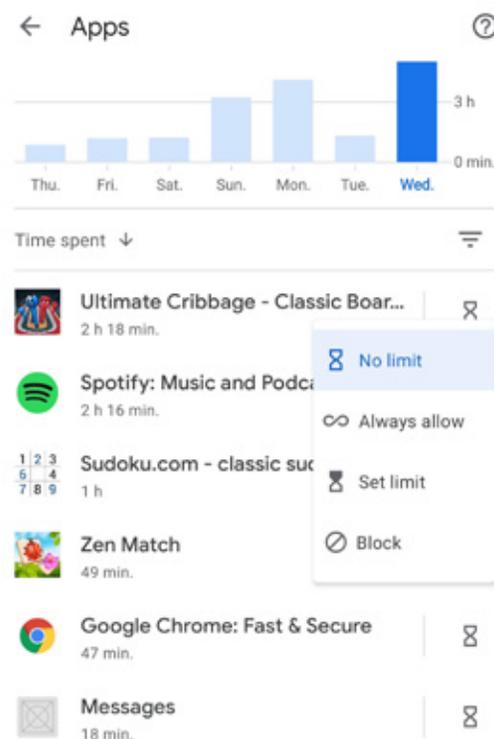


Google App **More Menu (...)** **Settings** **General** **Safe Search** (toggle on and off).

Here's how to set filters on Chrome, including custom black and whitelisting for websites.



You can use it to monitor Android app activity and set limits for each app.



You can also use Location tracking to find your child's device.

The screenshot shows the 'About supervision' page for a child's Google Account. It includes sections for 'What parents can see and do', 'Stopping supervision', 'Account data settings', 'ACTIVITY CONTROLS', and 'OTHER ACCOUNT SETTINGS'.

About supervision
Account that you're supervising

What parents can see and do
You are supervising your child's compatible devices and his Google Account, including:

- Account settings and controls
- Apps on supervised devices
- Location
- Screen time on supervised devices
- Google Chrome, Search and Play filters

Stopping supervision
This will remove supervision from cul du's Google Account and any devices that are being supervised.

Account data settings
Manage data that gets saved to your child's Google Account

ACTIVITY CONTROLS
Also allow your child to change these settings

Web & App Activity
Choose whether to save your child's activity on Google sites and apps, including searches and associated info like location. You can also choose to save audio recordings and save additional activity from sites, apps, and devices that use Google services, including Chrome history.

YouTube History
Choose whether to save the videos your child watches and the things they search for on YouTube

OTHER ACCOUNT SETTINGS
Your child can also change these settings

Contact info from devices
Choose whether to save information about your child's contacts from their signed-in devices

App info from devices
Choose whether to save information about the apps installed on your child's signed-in devices

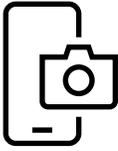
You can save your child's web and YouTube history

3 Steps To Take When A Child Predator Contacts Your Child

You've installed monitoring software on all of your child's devices. You don't allow screens in the bedroom. You're careful about where you let your kids hang out online. But somehow, your child still gets contacted by a child predator. What do you do now?

Don't despair. Don't blame yourself or your child. This sometimes happens, and with the dangers of child predators on the internet, many parents have questions about what to do when they realize their child has been communicating with a predator. If you find that your child has been contacted by a predator, here is exactly what you should do.

1. Document everything.



Screenshot the evidence of the conversations between your child and the predator. Make sure that you capture the username and time stamps of the conversation and what was said. Do not report the predator's account to the social media or other platform just yet (we'll do that in step #3).

Many parents who find themselves in this heartbreaking situation ask if by documenting with screenshots they would be considered to be in possession of child sexual abuse materials and subject to prosecution. The answer to that is "No." You will not be prosecuted for screenshotting images that get turned over to law enforcement.

2. Get help & contact law enforcement.



Don't try to handle this on your own. Local law enforcement agencies are important partners in addressing the issue of child predators and keeping your kids safe. Contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)'s Cyber Tip Line and submit a report with your evidence. NCMEC will review your tip and will work to find a potential location for the incident reported so that it may be made available to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation. They will know what to do and what needs to happen to make sure everyone stays safe.

3. Follow law enforcement instructions to block and report to online platforms



Once you're in contact with law enforcement via NCMEC, follow their guidance on how and when to report to social media or other online platforms. This is important because when you make a report to the online platform, the predator's account will get shut down, and inadvertently alert them that they have been found out. This then leads to the predator avoiding detection, creating a new account and continuing to abuse more children. Ensure that you block and report only after law enforcement gives the green light to do so. You need to make sure that they have everything they need for their investigation and that your actions don't compromise the take down.

Finding out your child has been contacted by a predator is a heart-wrenching experience, but if you follow the steps we've outlined you will be able to help protect even more children from being abused. Taking the time to document the interactions, getting help, reporting what happened to law enforcement, and following their instructions will greatly increase the odds the predator will be successfully apprehended and brought to justice.

Finally, take care of yourself and your family and seek counseling to deal with the feelings that come from such a traumatic experience. You can do everything by the book and still have a predator slip through the cracks and contact your child, so it's important not to blame yourself. All parents are doing the best they can to navigate the complicated world of online safety.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A **CHILD PREDATOR** CONTACTS YOUR CHILD



1. Document everything
2. Report the contact to law enforcement first
3. Follow law enforcement's instructions on when to report to the online platform

Helpful Links

Knowledge is power and we want you to be prepared for what's out in the digital world so you can prepare your kids. Cell phones, gaming and social media can have special considerations when it comes to setting guidelines for your family. Here are some resources that will help you learn more about keeping your kids safe online.

- Watch our **video series** on the risks of online sexual abuse and how to keep kids safe.
- Download our **free coloring pages** to talk to kids about consent and body boundaries.
- Here are helpful tips about kids and social media.
- Learn more about video gaming safely **here**.
- Find more parenting tips on the **Child Rescue Coalition blog**.

Follow us on social for more tips and tricks:



Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/childrescuecoalition>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/childrescuecoalition/>
Twitter <https://twitter.com/childrescueco>
Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/childrescuecoalition>
Website <https://childrescuecoalition.org>



Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/safesurfinfoundation>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/safe.surfin/>
Website <https://safesurfin.org>



Join us in our mission to keep kids safe online and donate today.