



# **CYBER SAFETY:** The Essential Guide To Protect Your Children Online



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FAMILY INSITES  
Keeping Your Family Safe Online



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The essential guide to protect your children online



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# INTRODUCTION

## Identifying the dangers of the digital world

When the World Wide Web first weaved its way into our lives, many were dubious about whether or not it was here to stay. Nowadays, with the average workplace, university, household, and school heavily relying on the internet, it's fairly safe to say that the answer is yes. While many of us still have fond memories of life before the popularisation of digital media, modern children are growing up with no other frame of reference, which places great significance on breeding a safe and informed cyberculture.

Tackling cyber safety can feel like an insurmountable task for some parents. Oftentimes, efforts made to keep loved ones safe are met with resentment, and can be quickly undermined. Nevertheless,

vigilant risk management and appropriate parental intervention is essential in order to manage the increasingly pervasive dangers of the digital world, such as:



### **Unwanted Sexual Solicitation**

Online predators, grooming, sexting and sextortion



### **Cyberbullying**

Harassment and trolling



### **Social Media & Apps**

Digital addiction, self esteem implications, sleep deprivation, distraction from homework, and privacy



### **Offensive & Illegal Content**

Graphic or violent images, pornography, and illegal material





## **While children do grow better at evaluating risk and consequence with age, they still require ongoing guidance from their parents as they explore new social contexts.**

Cyber safety is a formidable topic, and while the above list does identify some of the most prevalent cyber safety risks that modern day children and teens face, it is not an exhaustive one. The harrowing reality is that young digital citizens are not always able to fully comprehend the consequences of their actions, and can find themselves in some pretty perilous circumstances as a result.

While children do grow better at evaluating risk and consequence with age, they still require ongoing guidance from their parents as they explore new social contexts; and, given that cyberspace is a relatively new and unpaved terrain, it is crucial that parents work proactively to help their young children and teenagers navigate it.

Despite past perceptions, the Internet has proven to be a new-age necessity; not a

novelty. Whether we like it or not, modern day children are growing up in a digital world, and they need to be equipped with the necessary skills to succeed in that world. Completely prohibiting use of electronic devices or access to the internet is no longer a viable solution when you consider that the average child's life and livelihood is greatly weighted upon having strong digital literacy.

Therefore, it is essential that every parent take the time to understand which new media technologies their children are using, the potential risks associated with them, and what measures can be taken to manage those risks. This Essential Guide to Protecting Your Children Online will not only help you to better understand the potential dangers that your child faces in the digital world, but will also provide you with the tools that you need to tackle them.





# UNWANTED SEXUAL SOLICITATION ONLINE

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**Topics:** Online predators & sex crimes, online grooming, sexting, and sextortion

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## Definitions:

**Online Grooming** refers to the process used by online sex offenders whereby they attempt to gain a child's trust online by saying nice things and feigning similar interests in order to take advantage of that trust for sexual purposes

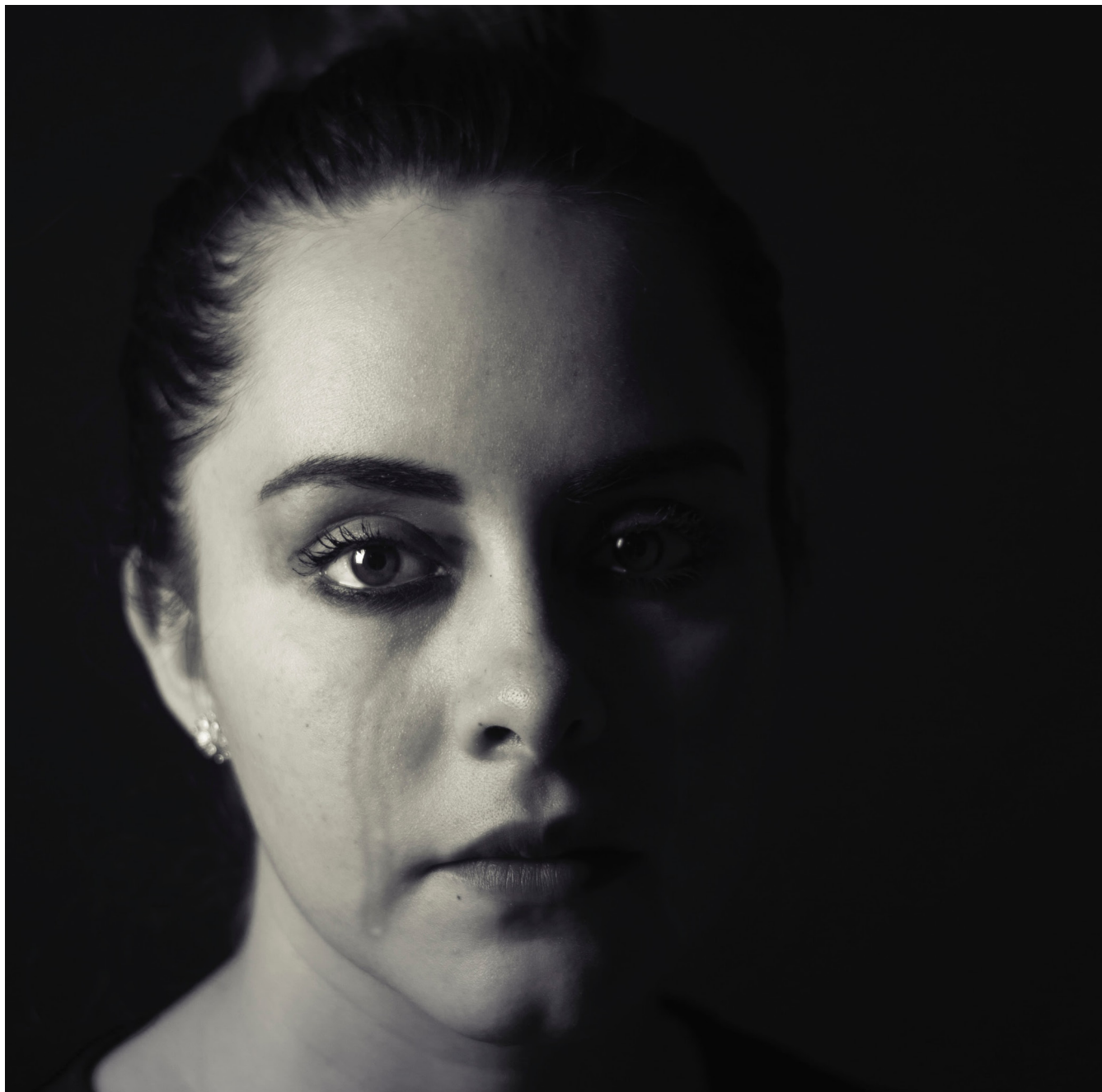
**Online Sex Crimes** refers to unwanted sexual contact or sexual contact with a minor that takes place online

**Sexting** refers to the sending or sharing of sexually explicit content such as nude photos or videos, or provocative messages

**Sextortion** refers to the non-consensual distribution of sexually explicit images or information, and is also commonly referred to as revenge porn or image-based abuse

**Unwanted Sexual Solicitation** refers to the act of attempting to engage or actively engaging in sexual activities or conversation that is either unwanted, or involves a minor





## KEY STATISTICS

- 1** Most victims of cyber sex-crimes are aged between 13 and 17 [\[24\]](#)
- 2** Most unwanted online sexual solicitations take place whilst the victim is at home on a desktop or laptop computer [\[13\]](#)
- 3** 1 in 5 Australians [\[8\]](#) have experienced sextortion or image-based abuse
- 4** The vast majority [\[13\]](#) of online predators/online sex crime offenders are male
- 5** Perpetrators of sextortion tend to be male, [\[8\]](#) and known by the victim
- 6** The majority of online sexual solicitation victims are young females [\[4\]](#)
- 7** The second-most targeted group [\[24\]](#) for online sexual solicitation are young males who are either gay or questioning their sexuality; often as a result of feeling unable to discuss homosexuality freely with family or friends

While there are many widely acknowledged advantages to having household access to the internet, many parents have good reason to fear what types of interactions their children could become tangled up in while accessing the web.

Of particular concern are online predators. It's difficult to think of a more monstrous crime in this world than the sexual abuse or solicitation of children. The recent and radical evolution of technology has harboured a new age of cyber sex crime, and redefined the way that sexual predators target and engage their victims. Yet, while the thought of an innocent child being targeted by an online predator is enough to make any parent want to throw their internet modem out of the window, it's important for contemporary parents to know that there are ways that they can protect their children online.

### **#1 Be A Digitally Informed Parent**

People are compelled to act irrationally when they are afraid, so it's important for the actions of parents to be governed by knowledge, not by fear or panic. If parents are properly educated on current cyber safety issues and how to manage them, then they can be empowered to proactively protect their children.

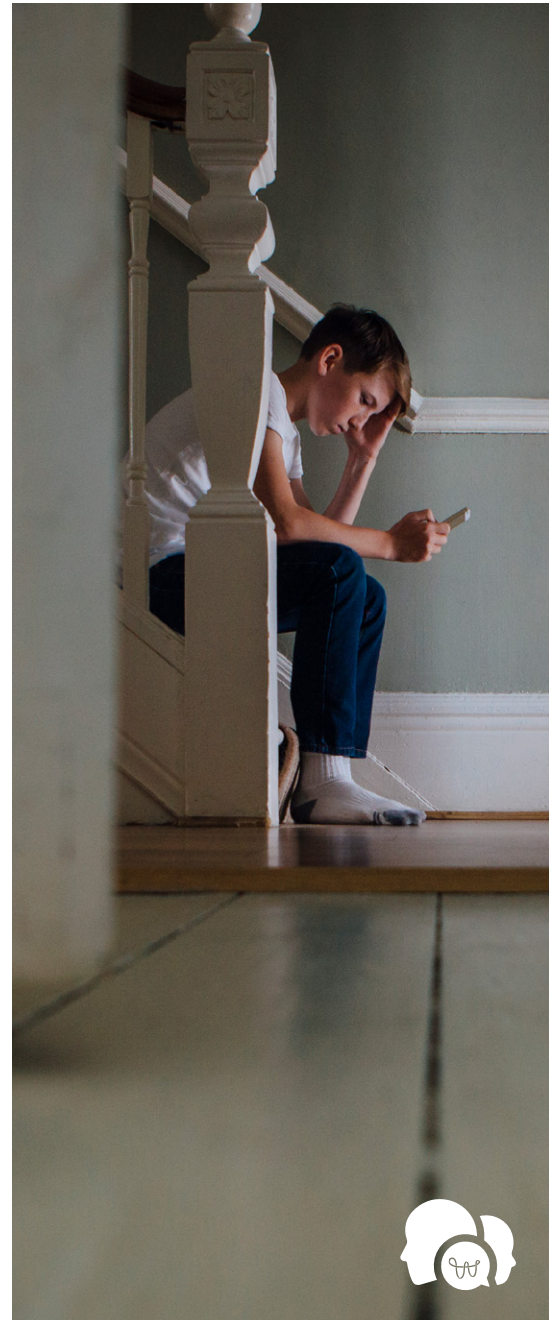
Stories that play on parents' fears (like one of an adult online sex offender) tend to make for popular news, and can therefore give the impression that a problem is more common than it actually is. The fact of the matter is that unwanted sexual solicitations are usually instigated by other minors, and the most distressing sexual solicitations tend to be committed by a person that the victim knows personally; often another child or young adult [13]. An integral part of protecting your child's safety online is to know which risks are most likely to affect them - and, unfortunately, warning them to stay away from adult strangers on the internet is not guaranteed to completely shield them from the threat of unwanted sexual solicitations.

Fear is a natural human instinct that repels us from danger. Yet there is, in itself, a danger associated with instilling blind fear in our children, because it risks creating unrealistic expectations of the threats that they face online. Words like 'predator' and 'sex offender' paint mental images of people that most children would decisively want to avoid anyway. Telling your child to avoid creeps won't arm them with the insight nor savvy that they need in order to avoid charming and charismatic online strangers who engage in interesting conversation and share common interests with them.

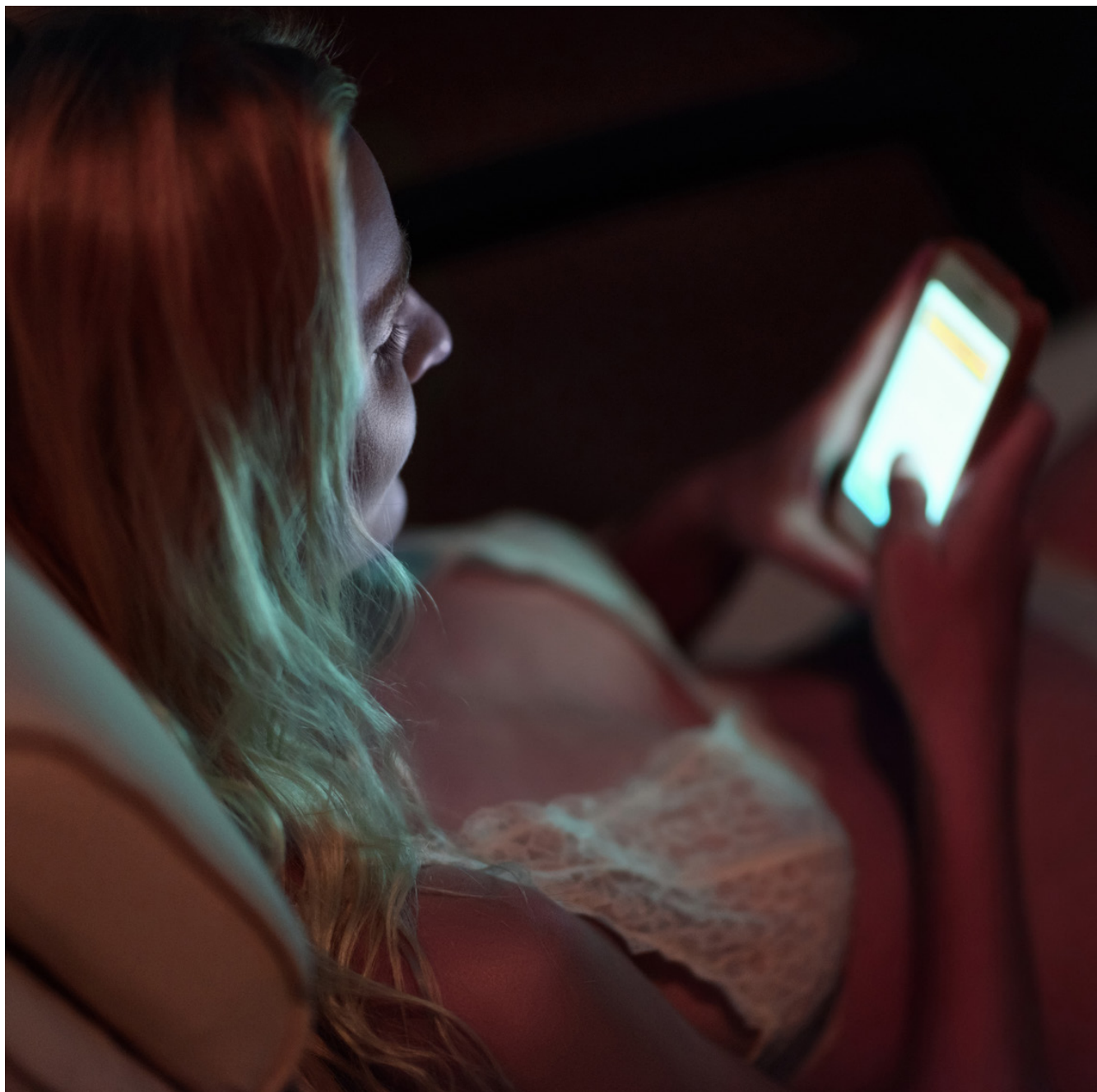
## #2 Remember That Trust Facilitates Online Grooming

The notion that a child may actively trust a person who intends to cause them harm is understandably hard for parents to digest, but it's only through acknowledging this issue that we can hope to address it. Groomers build relationships with their targets, and - for young people - a relationship built online can become as real and substantial to them as the ones they build offline. It's therefore incredibly important for children to be aware that red flag behaviour isn't just overtly sexual or inappropriate in nature, but can also be:

- Compliments (i.e. comments on a photo or in an online game)
- Gift offerings
- Adding all of your child's friends to their social network (i.e. friending them on Facebook, or following them on Instagram)
- Engaging in increasingly personal conversation
- Asking for offline contact (i.e. text messaging)
- Asking to meet face-to-face







### **#3 Make Sure Your Child Knows The Importance Of Online Privacy BEFORE They Start To Interact Online**

A recent study<sup>[11]</sup> showed that 38% of children aged between 13-15 admitted to having sent a sexual picture/video of themselves to another person, and 62% reported that they had received one from someone else. When a minor shares compromising photos of themselves it can lead them becoming the victim of image-based abuse, sextortion, or revenge porn. It can also have legal implications, as being in the possession of sexually explicit photos of a minor (even if the person is a minor themselves) is a crime. Therefore, it's vital that parents educate their teens and pre-teens on the importance of not sexting others or sharing private material on the web.

For many parents, their children are already active online - but that doesn't mean it's too late to visit the subject of exercising caution with what they share online, or to take a look at their privacy settings.

### **FINALLY - Know The Signs & What To Do If Your Child Is Being Targeted**

For teenagers in particular, there can be a certain appeal to having an older 'friend' that makes them feel special, desirable, and valued during a pivotal time of growth and change in their lives.

Unfortunately this can lead to them actively and willingly engaging with predators. In fact, a survey<sup>[23]</sup> of underage victims of online sex crimes revealed that the majority had met the predator face-to-face; with 93% of those encounters resulting in illegal sexual contact.

As teenagers are often secretive about these types of interactions, it can be very hard for parents to know that this is even happening. With younger children, groomers often warn them not to talk about their relationship, convincing them that keeping it a secret makes it more special. If you're concerned, certain clues can be:

- They're unusually protective of their electronic devices, or seem to be in the possession of a new phone / phone that you didn't buy them
- They're using sexual terms or language that you wouldn't expect them to know at their age
- They have become notably more withdrawn and secretive
- They're receiving calls or gifts from unknown people
- There's pornography on their device

Regular monitoring of your child's electronic devices can help you to gauge what they're up to online, but it can come at the cost of their trust. While protecting your child from harm should be your top priority, the consequences of them not feeling that they can trust you could be dire. The most effective way to address concerns of this nature is to try and maintain open lines of communication; while avoiding accusations or overreactions.

If your child tells you that they have been involved in an online sexual solicitation, or if you've seen evidence of this on their device, here's what you should do next:

- Gather evidence - take screenshots/ save images & messages
- Talk with your child about the details (without being accusatory)
- Report it on the applicable apps or platform(s) and block the person
- Contact the police - even if the interaction never escalated, it's worth notifying the police so that they can monitor the offender and prevent any harm coming to other child

## Seek Support For Your Child Through The Following Channels:



**SUPPORT**



**REPORT ONLINE CHILD PROTECTION FORM**



**COUNSELLING & SUPPORT:  
SUPPORT IS AT HAND**



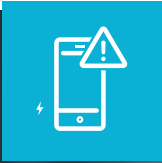
**REPORTING TO SOCIAL MEDIA SITES**



**If you believe your  
or any child is in  
immediate danger  
please phone 000.**







# CYBERBULLYING

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**Topics:** Harassment, trolling, and netiquette

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### **Definitions:**

**Cyberbullying** refers to the deliberate act of harassing, threatening, or humiliating another person through the internet or other electronic mediums

**Trolling** refers to the act of anonymously posting antagonising or insensitive comments purely to watch the way that people react

**Netiquette** is an amalgamation of net and etiquette, and refers to online etiquette



## KEY STATISTICS

- 1** As little as 10% [\[18\]](#) of parents claim to have been aware that their child was being cyberbullied
- 2** Victims of ongoing bullying are more likely to experience issues with substance abuse [\[12\]](#)
- 3** Traditional bullying and cyberbullying are closely related: children that are bullied at school are bullied online, and children who bully at school bully online [\[9,10,25\]](#)
- 4** 35% [\[5\]](#) of children indicate that they have bullied people on social media
- 5** Young people who experience cyberbullying are less likely to maintain healthy friendships [\[21\]](#)
- 6** Girls, children with special educational needs, and children from ethnic minorities are most likely to be targeted [\[15\]](#)
- 7** Being bullied over an extensive period of time can cause children and young adults to become less immune responsive, placing them at heightened risk of health afflictions and infections [\[20\]](#)





**While home might have once been a safe-haven for victims of bullying, use of online and social media within the household has extended the bully's arena far beyond the reach of the school-gate.**

With modern technology proving to be a staple in the average household and classroom, more and more children are utilising electronic devices and the internet in their day to day lives. The lives of modern day children are online-orientated, and cyberspace is where many children congregate in order to communicate, socialise, learn, and - unfortunately - bully. Society's increased dependence on digital media has fostered with it a rapid increase in the pervasiveness of social issues such as cyberbullying and continuous trolling.

While home might have once been a safe-haven for victims of bullying, use of online and social media within the household has extended the bully's arena far beyond the reach of the school-gate; enabling perpetrators to torment their targets from anywhere, at any time. While it's often said that the best way to deal with a bully is to ignore them, many young people are no longer afforded that luxury, and can become quickly inundated with brutal 24/7 abuse across a multitude of different platforms.

## What Is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying has proven difficult to define, but is generally recognised as being repeated harmful online behaviour. This can take many forms, with some being more deliberate and orchestrated (e.g. posting hurtful content about another person), and others being more inadvertent (e.g. excluding someone from a social media group). Other examples include:

- Gather evidence - take screenshots/ save images & messages
- Talk with your child about the details (without being accusatory)
- Report it on the applicable apps or platform(s) and block the person
- Contact the police - even if the interaction never escalated, it's worth notifying the police so that they can monitor the offender and prevent any harm coming to other child

While cyberbullying is not a unique phenomenon - but rather an extension of conventional bullying - it is a relatively recent one, and many of the long-term implications still are not fully understood. However, evidence has shown us that cyberbullying can have devastating immediate effects on victims which

range from debilitating psychiatric conditions such as depression, anxiety, and agoraphobia [2], to an inability to participate in healthy relationships, and academic failure [5]. In some particularly harrowing circumstances, the mental health implications of cyberbullying can even exacerbate suicidal tendencies [2].

## How To Tell If Your Child Is Being Cyberbullied:

- You notice a dramatic change in their online behaviour (i.e. they show significantly more or less interest in their electronic devices)
- You see a notable decline in their school work
- You notice abrupt or unexpected changes to their friend group
- They show little interest in leaving the house and constantly make excuses for not participating in activities that they used to enjoy
- They are very protective of their devices and become annoyed or defensive when asked about who they're talking to online
- They're often sleep deprived, irritable, quick to anger, or physically unwell

## **What Can Parents Do?**

Beyond maintaining open lines of communication and nurturing trust, the best method of cyberbullying prevention is to pass on skills to our children that help them understand safe and appropriate netiquette. Most importantly, we need to teach our children that they can and should come to us if they are being bullied by someone online; or indeed, if they have participated in bullying someone themselves.





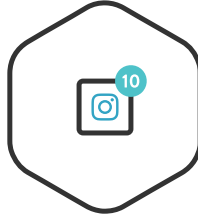


# SOCIAL MEDIA & APPS

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**Topics:** Digital addiction, self esteem,  
and privacy

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### **Definitions:**

**Digital Addiction** refers to extreme use of electronic devices; or a dependency on digital media that has a negative impact on one's life (interrupting sleep patterns or distracting from other tasks)

**Privacy** refers to the security settings of a certain app and whether the information being shared by a young person is private or available to the public; though it can also refer to the privacy permissions that a user must agree to share in order to download and access an app (i.e. location, data, and personal information)



## KEY STATISTICS

- 1** Nearly 95% [\[19\]](#) of 15-year-olds use social media daily
- 2** 23% of young girls have been threatened or abused on social media
- 3** The current average age at which most children will get their first smartphone is 11; with 51% of parents reporting that their child was given a smartphone at the age of 12 or younger [\[6\]](#)
- 4** The average child spends nearly 3 hours online after school each day [\[7\]](#)
- 5** Privacy advocates have expressed strong concern over the growing amounts of deeply personal data that is being collected through apps which could potentially be exploited [\[14\]](#)
- 6** Most social media apps utilise location-based services which enable users to publicly report their location to other users [\[16\]](#)





Another cyber safety hurdle parents face these days is deciding whether or not to allow their child to use social media and, if so, at which age (though most social media platforms enforce 13 years as the legal minimum age to register).

While certain social media platforms might seem frivolous to parents, they can be a core part of how children communicate, develop important social skills, and maintain friendships. Furthermore, some social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube are actually utilised heavily in an academic context as they are useful resources and collaborative work spaces.

However, there are a number of very real concerns that social media poses for parents. According to a recent OECD survey [\[19\]](#) many children display symptoms of digital addiction, with roughly 60% of those surveyed admitting to losing track of time whilst using their digital devices.

A 2016 study [\[22\]](#) also revealed that teens and pre-teens are most active online between the hours of 5:00pm and 10:00pm; though nearly 30% of the young people surveyed admitted to being active online until midnight. Digital addiction within younger demographics can negatively impact upon sleeping patterns, physical activity, and school participation and homework - each of which are integral to a child's cognitive and physical development.

Privacy is also a key concern for parents, as many social media apps and platforms require the user to accept permissions before they are able to use it. These permissions often give the app access to the user's location, personal information, and data from their device. As an added risk, private information being shared on social media can become available to the public if the privacy settings on the app are not configured properly. This can have alarming consequences, with 1 in every 6 teens that are active online reporting that they have been contacted by someone they did not know [\[26\]](#).

Privacy is also a key concern for parents, as many social media apps and platforms require the user to accept permissions before they are able to use it. These permissions often give the app access to the user's location, personal information, and data from their device. As an added risk, private information being shared on social media can become available to the public if the privacy settings on the app are not configured properly. This can have alarming consequences, with 1 in every 6 teens that are active online reporting that they have been contacted by someone they did not know [\[26\]](#).





Another significant issue related to social media is the toll that it can take on a young person's self esteem; a problem that is particularly apparent for young females. A recent poll conducted by UK charity Girlguiding [7a] revealed that 36% of 7-10 year old girls and 53% of 11-21 year old girls agree that how they look is the most important thing about them; and that their experiences of sexual harassment and body shaming are far worse online than offline.

While the impulse to keep your child off social media undoubtedly comes from a place of good intentions, entirely banning them from it doesn't entirely guarantee their protection. Why? Because the internet is inevitable. Your child will need to utilise modern media in their lives at some point or another, and their online safety is deeply dependent on strong user proficiency. If we teach children that there is nothing they can do in a situation that directly impacts upon their livelihood, we run the risk of instilling a sense of despair and hopelessness in them. Children are a part of the cyber safety problem, so it stands to reason that they should be part of the solution. Furthermore, children congregate in cyberspace, so forbidding use of social media could make your child feel marginalised and ostracised.

A more constructive approach to the difficult social media dilemma is to try and help your child grow a strong sense of confidence and safety online. Three

things [1a] that will help with this are:

### **#1 Agency**

The capacity and autonomy to act and implement change. If we want to raise freethinking and upstanding digital citizens, we need to permit them to be the change that they want to see in the world; both on-and-off line.

### **#2 Competency**

An increased sense of cyber confidence will empower children to contribute to the online world in a way that is constructive and beneficial. Competency entails social literacy, media literacy, and digital literacy.

### **#3 Practice**

Growing up is a series of trial-and-error experiences and an overall process of guided practice. Continuous practice is a powerful part of learning, and it enables children to become more proficient and resilient.

Parental guidance and support is also an invaluable part of growing up digital. If you're going to allow your child to have access to social media, you should aim to be literate with social media yourself. It's also important that you take the time to properly understand what risks are associated with the apps that young people are using, and how you can configure the settings on that app so that your child's privacy is protected.



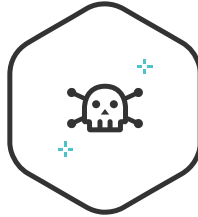


# OFFENSIVE & ILLEGAL CONTENT

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**Topics:** Graphic & violent images, pornography,  
and offensive or illegal material

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### **Definitions:**

**Offensive/Illegal Content** refers to images of child sexual abuse, footage that advocates terrorist activities, instructions that promote harm to self or others, or criminal activity

**Graphic & Violent Images** includes - but is not limited to - real or simulated violence, and sexually explicit content



## KEY STATISTICS

- 1** Continual exposure to pornography can contribute to condoned violence against women [\[6a\]](#)
- 2** Young males that are exposed to sexually explicit material are more likely to display sexually coercive behaviour [\[21a\]](#)
- 3** Teens and pre-teens report to having no clear distinction between the online world and real world [\[1\]](#)
- 4** Large numbers of children and young people throughout the world admit to having regular (largely unintended) access to pornographic material via the internet [\[1\]](#)
- 5** While 80% of young male Australian's reported to having been inadvertently exposed to explicit sexual content online, 38% admitted to actively seeking it out [\[1\]](#)



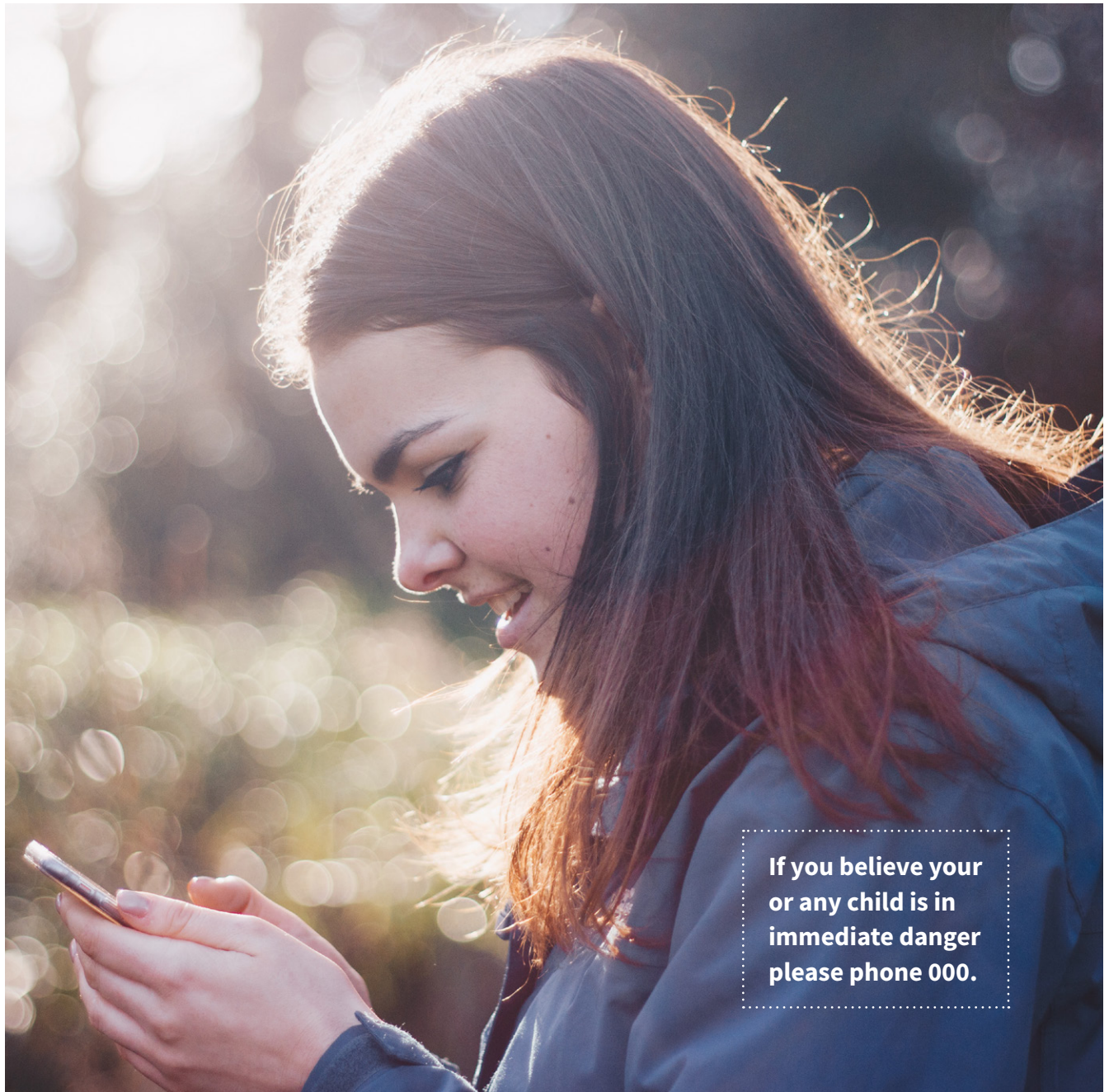
The internet has no boundaries, and is home to an immeasurable amount of content. A fact that is not lost on most parents is that a decent portion of that content is not suitable for children; pornography, graphic violence, and other offensive or illegal content is always a mere mouse-click away. While your child may not seek it out deliberately, they could accidentally become exposed to content that advocates dangerous, inappropriate, or illegal behaviour.

### **What Are The Effects?**

There is much speculation that continuous exposure to violent content in games and videos could cause children to become desensitised to violence. And, while investigations into the impact of online pornography on young people are not entirely conclusive, there is a general consensus amongst researchers that it can create unrealistic and/or permissive attitudes towards sex, skewed perceptions of gender roles, and maladaptive expectations of relationships [1].

### **What Can I Do To Protect My Child?**

- Ask them if they've ever seen something online that made them feel upset.
- Tell them to click exit or minimise the browser if they see something inappropriate. Sometimes sites will make it difficult to close the browser; in this instance hit control+alt+delete or command+option+escape and go to task manager/forced quit.
- Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they see something disturbing. Most children do not tell their parents when they are exposed to pornographic material due to feeling embarrassed, and fearing punishment [1]. They may prefer to tell a teacher, sibling, or parent of a close friend.
- Teach them about not trusting spam, pop-ups, or dodgy email offers.
- Install filters.
- Report dangerous or illegal content.



**If you believe your  
or any child is in  
immediate danger  
please phone 000.**





## KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PARENTS

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*“(Children) are less likely to come to us for guidance if they see us as so fearful, disrespectful or untrusting of them as to monitor their every move online.”*

**- Anne Collier, Executive Director of  
the net safety collaborative**

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## WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

### Helping Children Learn Self-Regulation Skills

When children are young they aren't shackled to social etiquette in the same way that adults are, because they just don't possess the same cognitive capacity. While adults communicate with considerations of things such as subtext, context, and connotations - young children simply state what they see. And, for the most part, a small child's ability to speak their mind freely and with little regard for consequences is harmless; perhaps even endearing. In their minds, pointing at an overweight person and exclaiming that they're fat is not necessarily different from pointing at a kitten and exclaiming that it's cute.

While you would, of course, expect your child to know better by the time that they are in school, parents regularly overestimate their child's ability to comprehend consequences and evaluate risk. The human brain is capable of quite a lot, which means it takes quite a long time to fully develop. While teens and pre-teens have the capacity to demonstrate impressive insights and maturity that is far beyond their years, they do not have a fully developed frontal lobes. The frontal lobe is the part of the brain that helps human beings to make judgments, measure risk, and solve problems. For most people, the frontal lobe becomes fully functional in their mid-twenties.

So while it might sometimes be tempting to yell "what on earth were you thinking?!" when your child does something foolish or reckless - sometimes the answer is simply that they weren't; and through no fault of their own. This is why it so important for parents to help their children to develop a strong moral compass, and the ability to self-regulate. They can do this by teaching them:

- Effective conflict management skills
- What the consequences of their online actions both for themselves and for others could be
- Why privacy is so important
- How to detect red-flag behaviour

The key here is to make it relevant to the child themselves. If the action you expect from a child (i.e. don't share personal information) doesn't have a clear relationship with the risk (i.e. online predation) then a child won't value it. You need to speak to their experiences and make it resonate with them.





*“What works in prevention education is simple, clear cut messages about easily enacted kinds of behaviors; wear a bicycle helmet, put on your seatbelt, don’t smoke cigarettes... the relationship between engaging in [the recommended] behavior and being safe is clear-cut.”*

**- David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire**





# CYBER SAFETY

## Helping Our Children Grow Up Digital

*“Many teens will not walk out to the lounge room and confide in their parents. Why? Because what’s worse than the abuse is the thought that their mobile phone will be confiscated...”*

### **Madonna King, award-winning journalist & author**

Cyber safety is a multilayered and complex issue, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problems that modern day parents face.

Managing the risks associated with the internet is a difficult undertaking for any parent. What makes it all the more daunting is the fact that there is yet to be a united approach to cyber safety.

Many parents believe that a child’s right to privacy is superseded by a parent’s duty of care. The potential danger of such ideologies is that children will no longer see their parents as trustworthy, and will go to great lengths to be secretive. Privacy is really important to young people, so if protecting them doesn’t have to rely on scrolling through their private messages, then it shouldn’t. If, of course, you have grounds to suspect that your child is at risk, then their safety takes precedence.

While having established ground-rules for the internet and use of electronic devices is essential, many parents resort to threatening to confiscate their child’s phone or tablet as a blanket punishment. While it’s hugely valuable for young people to learn that there are consequences associated with their actions, parents should try to avoid passively defaulting to such threats. If, for example, a child is playing games on their phone instead of doing homework, it would seem appropriate to take their phone from them until their homework is complete, as there is a direct cause-and-effect relationship between their action and the punishment.

If, however, a child fears that their phone will be taken from them as a result of behaviour that is beyond their control (i.e. they are being cyberbullied) then they may choose to suffer in silence and not confide in their parents. If your child is being hurt via their electronic device, taking it away from them may seem like an appropriate reactive safety measure, but would it not be more constructive to try and proactively prevent such threats through use of filters and parental control settings?

## Final Thoughts For Parents

Children are growing up in a digital world, and need to be equipped with the skills and savvy to be upstanding digital citizens. As with every new experience in a young person's life, from the first time walking to school by themselves, to their first time driving a car, there are risks involved. Parents need to be there to guide and support their children as they navigate the dangers that they face in cyberspace.

Cyber safety starts with two-way trust and open communication between parents and their children. It also involves educating children on the risks that they may encounter online, and what they should do if they see something disturbing, harmful, or unsafe. In certain circumstances cyber safety also entails close risk management and parental intervention; and certain parental control software can do this without rupturing trust between parent and child. Finally, it's by teaching children essential life skills such as conflict management, risk evaluation, and resilience in the face of adversity, that parents can help their children not only to survive the online world, but to thrive there.





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robyn Treyvaud is an internationally recognised expert in online safety and digital citizenship, and Head of Education at Wangle Family Insites.

Robyn has extensive experience and track record of accomplishment in educational leadership roles which have included: school leadership, parent education, professional development program design and facilitation, and e-learning and digital strategic planning preparation.

In 2008 Robyn established Cyber Safe Kids; an educational consultancy that partners with Federal and State governments, media, schools (nationally and internationally), and communities in order to deliver programs and resources to educate, empower, and engage people about cyber safety, digital citizenship, and resilience.

She has been a keynote speaker at major conferences and other events, and gave a TEDxBKK talk in 2010, entitled: **Navigating CYBERia with a Digital Moral Compass.**

**[Learn more about Robyn and explore her latest articles.](#)**

# ABOUT WANGLE FAMILY INSITES

Online child protection methods such as blocking software and spyware have brought into light some of the issues that can arise when children do not feel that they can trust their parents. Research has revealed that young people can still gain access to blocked sites and content, and often create hidden social media accounts to prevent parents from spying on their private messages. As a result, children are still being exposed to the same online threats, only without their parents' knowledge.

Wangle Technologies joined forces with Telethon Kids Institute to address these issues, and have created an innovative new approach to cyber safety; Wangle Family Insites. Through combining Wangle Technologies' secure and accelerated mobile VPN network with capacity to analyse network data in real time, and Telethon Kids Institute's years of leading research into the way that children behave online, Wangle Family Insites have created a revolutionary new way to analyse children's online activity (without spying on specific content) in real time in order to help detect potential threats.

With the Wangle Family Insites App, parents receive real time alerts when their child is exposed to an online threat, meaning that they can respond immediately. As an additional feature - the app also offers relevant resources and tools to help parents to understand the risks posed for their children, how to address certain threats, and what channels they can turn to for help.

So, if you want to ensure your child is safe online without jeopardizing valuable parent-child trust, contact Wangle Family Insites and start your free trial today.



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