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Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County

- Our Mission: We empower child abuse victims, their families, and our community through education, healing, and justice.
- We are the one place a child goes when a report of child abuse is made that meets criteria. We are mandated in the Texas Family Code to provide core services.
- We coordinate the investigation and prosecution of severe child abuse cases.
- We provide trauma-informed therapy to children and non-offending family members at no cost, making the Advocacy Center the largest mental health provider in the county.

Learning Objectives



Learn the realities of potential online dangers



Identify three ways to recognize online grooming



Identify three ways to protect children



Able to implement 2 strategies to communicate with children about their online safety



Scope of the Issue

Impact of social media on youth

- 2019 study of more than 6,500 12- to 15-year-olds in the U.S. found that those who spent more than three hours a day using social media might be at heightened risk for mental health problems.
- Another 2019 study of more than 12,000 13- to 16-year-olds in England found that using social media more than three times a day predicted poor mental health and well-being in teens.



National Estimates

1 in 10 children will be victims
of sexual abuse before their
18th birthday.

...and

1 in 10 of those kids will tell
that they have been abused.

The Concern

Based on the national statistics we can assume that in Denton County, where there are approximately 200,000 kids

- 20,000 will be sexually abused
- only 2000 will tell.

98% of children that reported abuse in Denton County reported that it was by someone they knew and trusted

Abuse on the Rise: by Allegation Type

Allegation	Jan-July 2019		Jan-July 2020		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Abandonment	0	0.0	1	0.1	+100%
Emotional Abuse	6	0.8	22	2.2	+266.7%
Medical Neglect	6	0.8	17	1.7	+183.3%
Neglectful Supervision	94	13.1	160	15.9	+70.2%
Physical Abuse	56	7.8	203	20.2	+262.5%
Physical Neglect	5	0.7	5	0.5	0%
Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility	1	0.1	2	0.2	+100%
Sex Trafficking	8	1.1	5	0.5	-37.5%
Sexual Abuse	429	59.8	510	50.7	+18.9%
Unknown	112	15.6	81	8.1	-27.7%
Total	717		1006		
	60% SXAB		50% SXAB		

Percent Increase of Reports by Professional Reporters





Online cases have increased

Millions more reports of cybertips at the national level throughout the pandemic

Grooming

Targeting a victim

Gaining trust and information

Filling a need

Isolation

Abuse Begins

Identify three ways to recognize online grooming



What should you look for?



What should you look at?



When should you be concerned?

Online Grooming: Examples

Trolling social media apps for potential victims, joining online gaming servers

Gaining any identifiable information, establishing contact, sending messages, investing time

Using multiple platforms/profiles to speak to a child

Speaking to a child at all hours and/or as much as possible

Asking child to meet physically

Moving communication to secondary platform

Requesting a child send progressively more explicit images of themselves

10 arrested in Denton County online sexual predator operation

Digital News Desk

2 months ago



Denton County

NBC DFW
31 mins · 🌐

Denton County sheriff's deputies made 13 arrests in a sting operation designed to catch people looking to have sexual intercourse with a minor, according to the sheriff's office.

NBCDFW.COM
13 Arrested in Denton County Online Solicitation Sting

NBC DFW
1 hr · 🌐

Detectives announced the arrest of 15 people during a child exploitation operation. The investigation led them to the rescue of a 5-year-old victim. <http://on.nbcdfw.com/DDvCG91>

NBCDFW.COM
15 Arrested in Child Exploitation Operation; 1 Child Rescued

Trolling: Cyberbullying

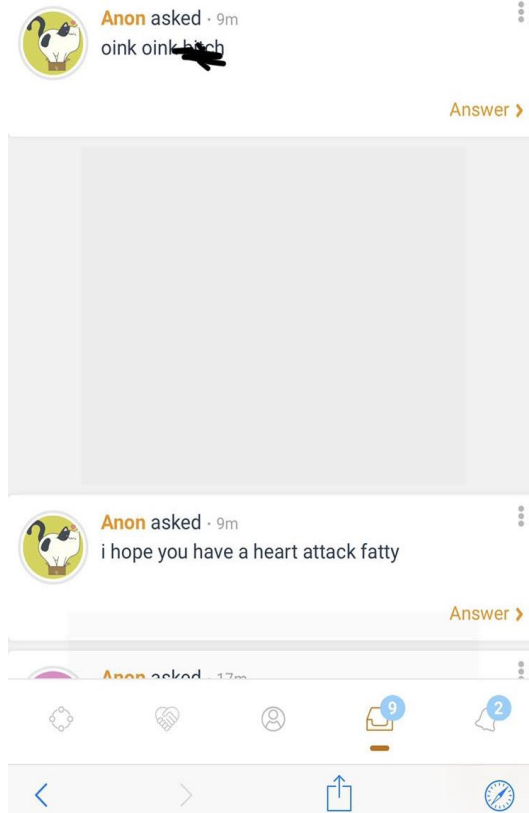


Photo: twitter.com



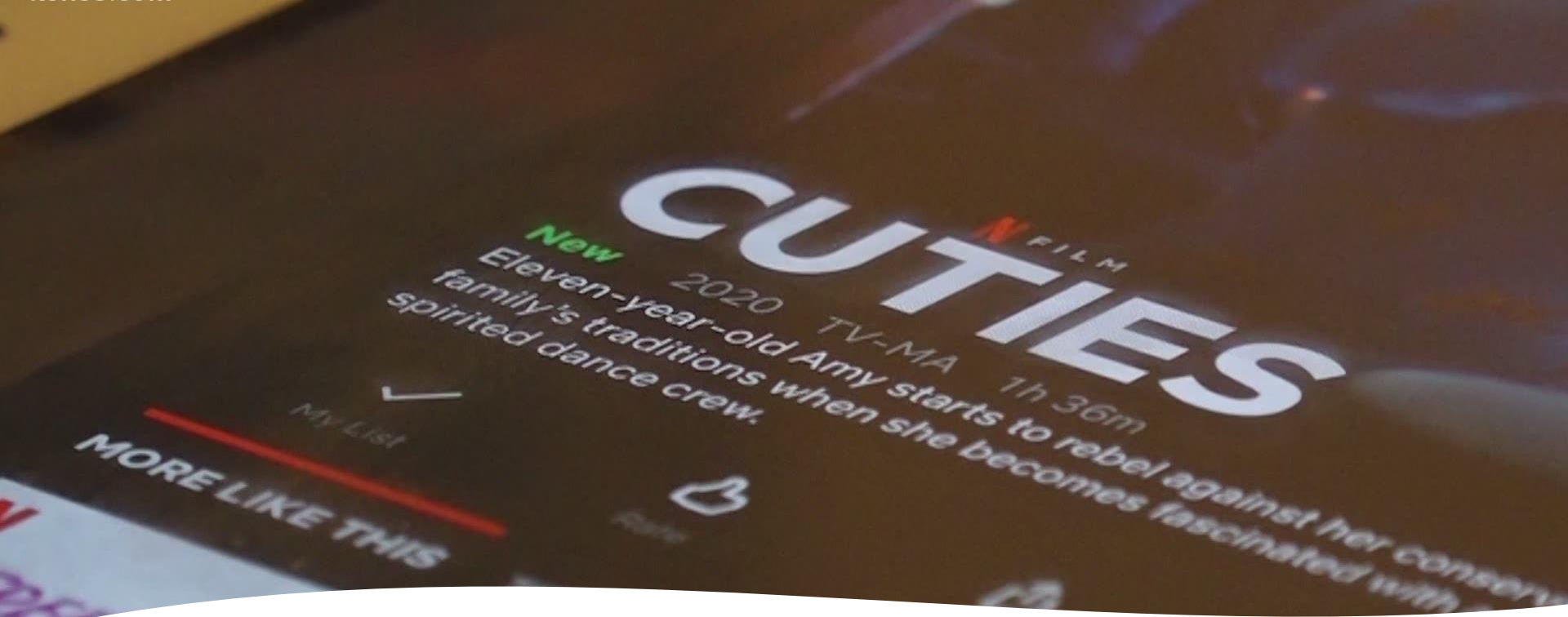
Photo: twitter.com



Concern:

It's not just
adults

33% of sexual
abuse cases
are perpetrated
by minors




How often do we encounter sexualized images of children in media?



Exploring Sex Online

- In 2010, an average of almost 50% of youth aged 13–18 reported that they had used the Internet to look up sexual health information in the past year.
- The websites adolescents may turn to for sexual health information often have inaccurate information. For example, of 177 sexual health websites examined in a recent study, 46% of those addressing contraception and 35% of those addressing abortion contained inaccurate information.



Self Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (SG-CSAM)

1 in 5

Of girls (aged 13-17) agreed that they have shared their own nudes

1 in 10

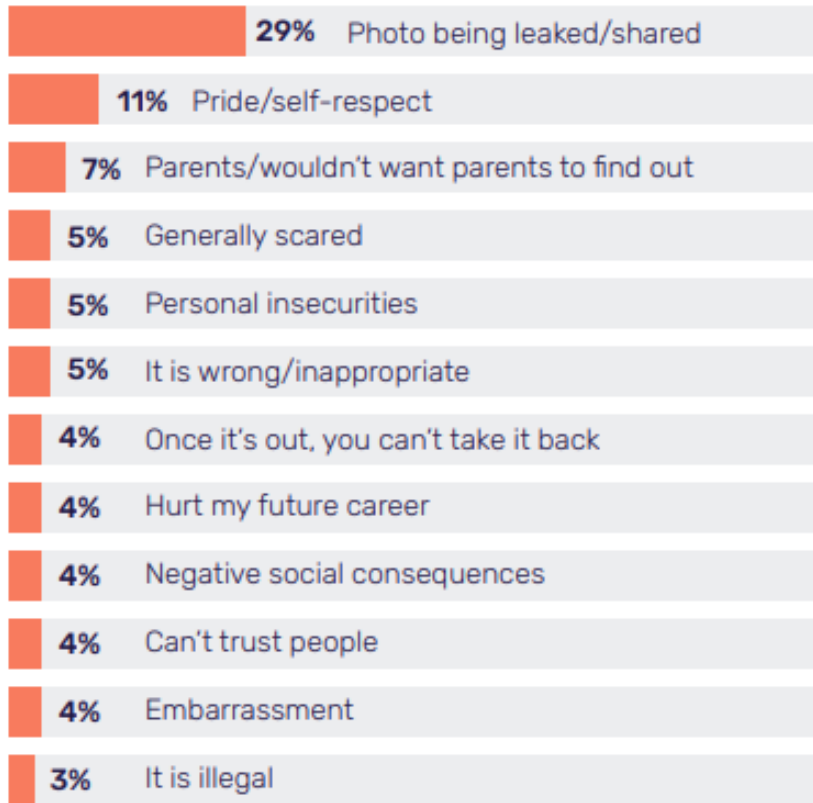
Of boys (aged 13-17) reported that they have shared their own nudes

40%

Agreed that "it's normal for people my age to share nudes with each other"

21%

Of kids say they have seen someone else's nudes




[Q56] And what made you decide not to share a nude photo in the end?
(Responses reflect open end data + verbatims on why decided not to share)

What made you decide not to share a nude photo?

How Can We Teach Children About Safety?

- Parent, community, and staff education
- Personal safety programs

Research shows that children that participate in comprehensive personal safety programs are:

- More likely to disclose or “tell an adult” about their abuse, which increase the likelihood they will receive help.
 - Less likely to believe the abuse is their fault, which reduces self blame.
- 

% A BIG ROLE	AGED 9-12		AGED 13-17	
	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS
Your parents or caregivers	79%	83%	62%	67%
Your siblings	38%	34%	33%	32%
Your friends	53%	34%	44%	41%
An adult you trust, such as a family friend, godparent, uncle or aunt	60%	61%	47%	54%
Your teachers or guidance counselors at school	42%	50%	29%	37%
Influencers you follow on social media	21%	20%	25%	24%
Online communities or resources	18%	16%	25%	21%

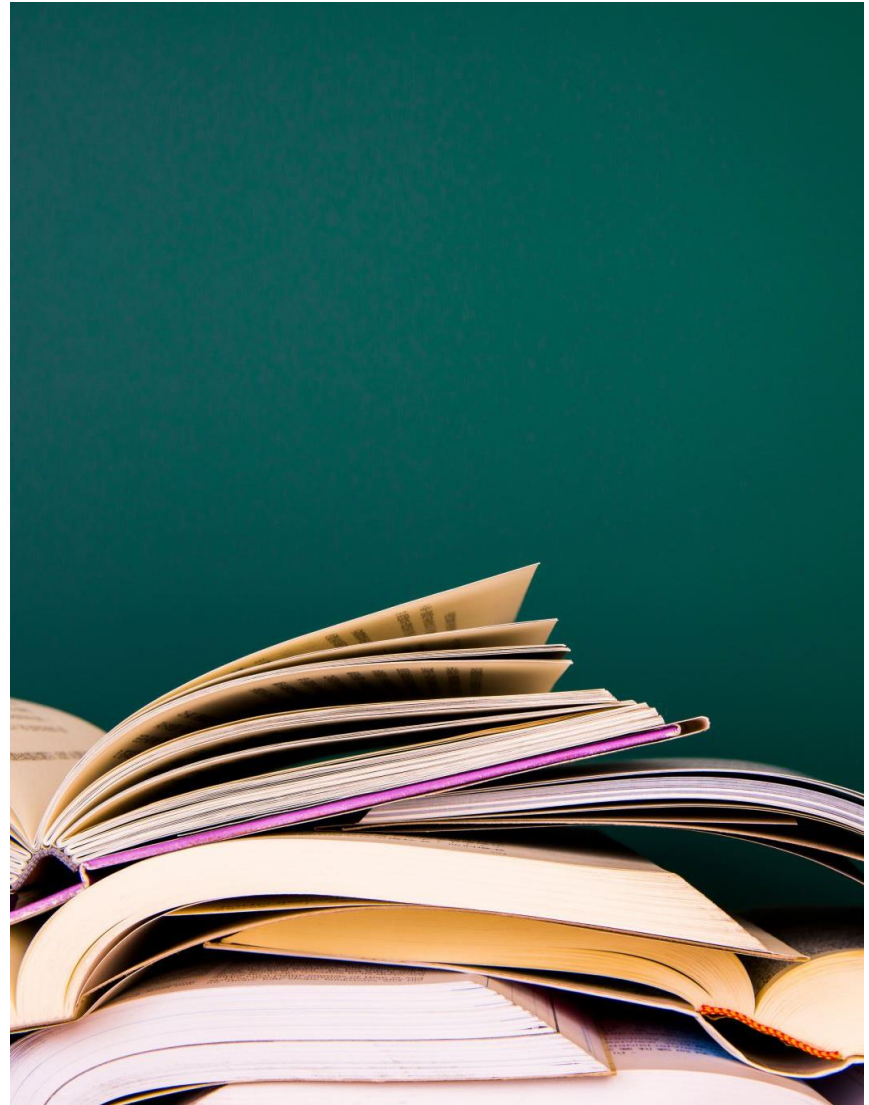
[Q80] People learn what's normal, how to behave - or just "be" - online from many different places. How much of a role has each of the following played in teaching you how to behave online?

Who plays a role in teaching you to behave online?

Solutions: Start Talking!

Be Open

- Make any topic acceptable for conversation
- Don't put shame around sexuality or body parts
- Model healthy behaviors
- Ongoing!



Solutions: Start Talking!

Start early with appropriate information

- Use age appropriate materials
- Teach appropriate names for body parts
- Identify safe people
- Set boundaries around talking to friends and looking up information



Solutions: Start Talking!

It's About Quality

- Be creative and engage in conversation
- Be calm and confident
- Educational and empowering
- Allow time for processing and questions



What makes a person safe?


An adult is safe when:

They respect a child's body boundaries and never break any body safety rules.

They never ask a child to keep a secret (good or bad).

They ALWAYS believe a child if they report abuse of any kind, no matter who the accused abuser is.

They will help the child stay safe by removing access to the person who has harmed the child.



How can you
be a safe adult
to a child?



Boundaries—Provide Them. (*Reasonably*)

Manage device access and information flow:

Learn the apps your children have on their phones.

Be aware of privacy settings and app's information access

Have your child set their accounts on private.

Children should only be friends with people they know in real life.

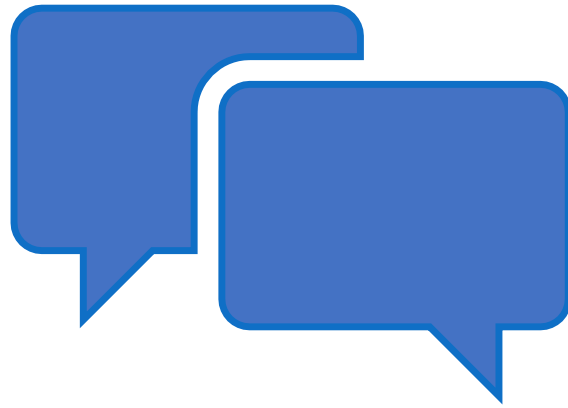
Teach your child about potential dangers and lures online.

Have technology visible in common areas of home.

Encourage face-to-face interactions with friends

Be the example. Children often imitate what they see adults doing.

Set time limits.



What are some additional boundaries?



COMMUNICATE: Talk about things

1. Have you ever seen something online you didn't want to see?
2. Can you show me which sites and apps you're using?
3. Would you feel comfortable if I checked your accounts?
4. What kinds of things do you post?
5. How do you decide who to add as a friend?
6. How much personal information do you share online?
7. Do you ever talk to people you don't know online? What do you talk about?

Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County

Recognizing and
Reporting Child Abuse –
Developed by Dallas CAC

Internet Safety For Parents

P.S. It's My Body! Happy
Bear

Kid Safety

Internet Safety

Problematic Sexual
Behavior Program





NetSmartz

TOPICS

VIDEOS

RESOURCES

INTO THE CLOUD

BLOG

English > Videos



EN SP

Overview

Elementary

Middle and Highschool

Elementary



ITC Episode 3 & 4 Trailer



Resources:
Presentation &
Information

<https://www.netsmartzkids.org/activities/>

<https://www.d2l.org/education/additional-training/protecting-children-during-crisis/>

<https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/home>

Resources: Presentation & Information

<https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline>

<https://www.d2l.org/child-grooming-signs-behavior-awareness/>

<https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/onlineenticement>

https://www.thorn.org/blog/online-grooming-what-it-is-how-it-happens-and-how-to-defend-children/?fbclid=IwAR2sqUHMqfP987Z6oLqCLmORDtAiJzMWGC5_qcnP_lIBGV3SdmxIjXU4t60

<https://www.missingkids.org/netsmartz/topics/socialmedia>

<https://anchor.fm/littleelmisd/episodes/Tuesday-Talks-Keeping-Kids-Safe-Online-e9c2n0>

<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/facts-american-teens-sources-information-about-sex>

<https://www.thorn.org/self-generated-child-sexual-abuse-material-attitudes-and-experiences/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/tween-and-teen-health/in-depth/teens-and-social-media-use/art-20474437#:~:text=Social%20media%20harms&text=Another%202019%20study%20of%20more.and%20depression%20or%20anxiety%20symptoms.>

Contact Information



CACDC



[CACDC_org](https://twitter.com/CACDC_org)



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