

OUR KIDS ONLINE

ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION EVENING FOLLOW UP

Thank you for joining us to learn about the potential online dangers our children face and how we can better protect them.

This interactive PDF contains a recap on the main points we covered and some of our tips and recommendations in relation to solutions. Please note further information/detail can be found by viewing our [documentary](#) and on our [website](#).

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PORN RECAP

ACCESSIBILITY

- Porn no longer behind the counter.
- Devices provide 24/7 access.
- Hand-me down Smartphones.
- No Age Verification on Porn Sites
- Can be accessed on Smartphones, Tablets, iPads, Gaming Consoles, Smart TVs.
- Can be accessed via Apps. including Social Media Apps.

TAMARIKI EXPOSURE

- Accidental - typing in innocent words, pop-ups etc.
- Siblings/Friends - not bad kids, kids naturally show others things they find.
- Curiosity - natural for kids to be curious about sex.
- Curiosity - biggest threat to our kids online safety is the myth 'Not My Kid'.
- Pornhub stats show most popular viewing times as between 3pm & 5pm and 10pm & 1am.

POTENTIAL FALLOUT OLDER TAMARIKI

- Objectification of each other.
- Possible Porn Induced Erectile Dysfunction.
- Vaginal & Anal Damage.
- Sexual Aggression in both males and females.
- Missing each other.
- Trauma/Anxiety/Depression
- Sexual Assault Charges

COMPULSIVE VIEWING ('CV')

- Porn is a super-stimulus.
- CV linked to rewiring of brain.
- CV can create need for 'more but different' to satisfy dopamine hit levels, which leads to viewing of more hardcore/violent/degrading content.
- Porn industry rises to meet demand and readily available genres change.

POTENTIAL FALLOUT YOUNGER TAMARIKI

- Trauma/Anxiety - a lot of very young children do not know what sex is and are unable to process an exposure.
- Tweens are in the highest age group of naked selfie sharing/sexting.
- Porn has been identified as having an influence on rises in child on child sexual assaults.
- Not all children will be negatively affected to these degrees, but, there is no way of telling which ones will be and which won't.

PORN CULTURE IN SOCIETY

- Normalisation of porn culture has contributed to an increase in hyper sexualisation.
- Premature sexualisation in children before they are emotionally, mentally & physically ready.
- Porn can be found in social media apps.
- Social media apps are common ways for youth to share explicit photos and videos.
- #WAP controversy - lyrics and dance moves imitating sexual acts copied by 7/8 year old girls.

PREDATOR RECAP

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Predators are no longer just the 'man in the van with puppies and lollies'.
- There are predator manuals online to assist predators groom children.
- Over 40% of NZ children are engaging with strangers online.
- Predators can and do show children porn as part of the grooming process to desensitise them.
- Results in sextortion.
- When parents do not step in to educate & protect children can become stuck, unable to talk to anyone and break free from the predator.
- Can result in self-harm, suicidal ideation, death by suicide of victim.
- Images/videos can be traded online.

DANCE VIDEO EXAMPLE

- Children uploading themselves posing or dancing may be exposed to predator posing as a pop star/talent scout.
- Tell the child they are a great dancer and may use them in the next dance video/talent video.
- Ask child to dance for them, possibly starting with "in a bikini" so that they can decide which outfit would be best.
- Child then gets asked to do more and more sexual acts.
- Child may not realise these are sexual acts.
- Requests escalate under the threat of telling parents.

ONLINE GAMING EXAMPLE

- Predators can find out information about your child by observing times your child is online, what time they have to leave for dinner, when parents are around, what school they go to etc.
- Gaming credit is used as a persuasive tool by predators.
- Predators posing as attractive girls are also a tool used by predators to forge an online friendship/relationship.

TWEENS/TEENS EXAMPLE

- Contact made by predator posing as a peer online.
- Create a friendship by providing empathy to/agreement with things victim may be annoyed/upset about.
- Escalates to online relationship.
- Naked selfie sharing/videos sharing.
- Ends up in sextortion scenario.
- Could escalate to meeting up in person.

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SOCIAL MEDIA RECAP

TECHNOLOGY

- **"Technology is not the enemy**, it does however create tremendous complexities in the lives of our children." - Russ Tuttle - Stop Trafficking Project
- We need to help our children navigate the online space in a healthy way.
- Combination of both awesome content and extreme materials such as Christchurch massacre and live suicide can be found online.
- As adults we struggle with our own technology usage.
- Kids need us to be present, not attached to our phones.
- We need to reconnect with our kids.
- We need to model healthy behaviours.
- If we teach them through our behaviour that everything we do must be showcased online, this will become their narrative.
- DELAY, DELAY, DELAY personal - Give their brain a chance to develop correctly first.

ONLINE IDENTITY

- Children are trying to find out their place in the world, who they are, how they fit, what it means to be human.
- Unlimited number of role models influencing our kids.
- Girls in particular taking "the perfect" selfies and then waiting for affirmation in the form of 'likes' and 'shares'.
- How are they coping when the filtered, false version of themselves are not deemed good enough?
- "Remember when we used to take pictures of other people? Today, we are turning our girls into narcissistic voyeurs of their own bodies." - Dr Gail Dines - Culture Reframed.

SWITCHED ON EFFECT

- Ability to be switched on 24/7.
- Flight or fight system switches on - tired but wired.
- Lack of sleep causing issues with learning in school.
- Creating high anxiety.
- Kids are disconnected from the real world and those around them.
- Brains are not fully developed.
- Not properly wiring certain areas of the brain - empathy, body language, fine motor skills.
- Lack of resilience caused by constant distraction.
- Boredom is required to allow kids to learn how to better self-manage, for creative thinking and dreaming.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- High number of boys collecting naked selfies from girls and sharing them with others.
- Various research studies have shown social media is having a negative effect on children with increases in anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation and suicide.
- Several major tech execs limit age at which their own kids have devices, limit time spent on devices, and some raise their kids tech-free.

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CYBERBULLYING RECAP

MOTIVATIONS TO BULLY

- Internal - Boredom (a lot of children are not being able to experience boredom which is an important part of their healthy development).
- Internal - Jealousy/Revenge.
- Internal - Redirected feelings - projection.
- Internal - Seeking approval from peers.
- External - Victim looks different.
- External - Vulnerability in victim.
- External - Perception of consequences is that there are none or very little due to disassociation.
- External - No need for face to face confrontation.

UNDER-REPORTING

- Victim is too embarrassed.
- Bully feels too guilty to talk.
- Both victim & bully fear loss of technology.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Anyone can be a cyberbully - online world creates complexities in terms of boundary pushing.
- Victims can be exposed 24/7 & bullied by multiple people.
- Cyberbullying has increased in line with an increase in the use of social media by children & teens.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS FOR VICTIMS

- Sadness.
- Shame.
- Unworthiness.
- Headaches.
- Abdominal pain.
- Disturbed sleep.
- Helplessness.
- Stress
- Anxiety.
- Depression.
- Suicidal ideation.
- Death by suicide.

FORMS OF CYBERBULLYING

- Posts/Comments on posts.
- Rumours.
- Private information sharing.
- Photo sharing.
- Using fake accounts.
- Memes.
- Unwanted messages.
- Exclusion from groups chats.
- Making fun of someone in gaming.
- Screenshots of personal conversations.
- Dolly's Dream - Are Your Words Doing Damage?

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RESOURCES, TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITY

- Be aware of your child's emotional developmental stages.
- Introverted children may spend more time online.
- Very curious kids need us to step in to answer questions as well as keep them safe practically.
- Empathic/easily influenced kids more at risk re predators.
- Autism/Asperger's/Special needs may be more at risk online.
- Changes social/family circumstances.
- Identification with the Rainbow Community

GET EDUCATED

- Documentary - Our Kids Online: Porn, Predators & How to Keep Them Safe.
- Documentary - Childhood 2.0.
- Documentary - The Social Dilemma.
- Parenting Courses - these contain lots of information and guides.
- Books for parents & read along books for parents and children.
- Short videos for parents & children.
- Video Play 'Two Nights' for teens.
- Expert TEDx Talks/Interviews.
- OFACL NZ Youth on Porn Report
- Netsafe Report re interaction with online strangers.
- Bark Annual Report - 2.1 billion messages analysed
- Protect Young Eyes - info on apps, parental controls, filters & monitoring apps
- Planet Puberty - Website for Parents of kids with Autism & Intellectually Disabilities
- Common Sense Media - recommendations on films, TV shows, games & apps
- Websites for further resources.
- Sexual Behaviours chart

DEALING WITH EXPOSURE

- Stay Calm.
- 'No Shame' Policy - affects your child's judgment on whether you are a safe space & how they feel about themselves in terms of their feelings around exposure.
- Get the Facts.
- Talk to their emotions - how did it make them feel etc.
- Know the reporting procedures for anything that needs the involvement of the authorities, such as Netsafe or the NZ Police.
- Seek professional help if your child is struggling.

CREATING CRITICAL THINKERS

- Privacy online & offline.
- Online Strangers.
- Use correct terminology for body parts.
- Unsafe secrets vs Surprises.
- Walk away is an option.
- How to help a friend.
- Saying it online vs face to face.
- Age appropriate sex education.
- Perpetuity of posts.
- Am I a role model?
- Brain development.
- The role of porn in the trafficking industry.
- Fake news & algorithms.
- Other ways to fill our emotional cups.

BE INTENTIONAL

- The internet can be an amazing tool, we can do lots of cool stuff online. Let's use it wisely.
- RECONNECT with your kids.

RESOURCES, TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

FILTERS & MONITORING APPS

- Filters block adult content and the ones we recommend connect to your existing modem, allowing you to connect your children's device to the filter, while you still get to use the unfiltered WiFi.
- Nothing is 100% exposure proof, that is why education is so vital.
- Safe Surfer provide an internet filter box, especially great for younger children before they can bypass with VPNs. Also a great box for grandparents to have at their homes.
- Family Zone - your school may already have Line Wize which monitors within the school in conjunction with standard school filters. Talk to them about the service offered when partnered with Family Zone. Family zone provide a filter box as well as monitoring for issues such as porn exposure, cyberbullying etc. Also deals to VPNs.
- Bark is a US based monitoring software that will alert you to issues you select such a predator interaction, cyberbullying, porn etc. It will send you an extract of the potentially harmful content.
- Covenant Eyes is a software that sends a report to a parent of a blurred image if it meet the criteria for potentially be pornography
- BARK Guide to Setting Parental Controls on the Top Apps & Devices

APPROACHING YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE

- Always approach with a 'no judgment policy' when having a conversation with someone whose house your child is going for a playdate/sleepover etc.
- Cues are helpful, such as recent articles in the news, or talking about a film you watched, information evening you attended etc.
- Ask if it would be okay for all devices to be kept out of bedroom, if devices use can be kept to a certain time limit or in the presence of an adult.
- Examples can be found in the film, Our Kids Online: Porn, Predators & How to Keep Them Safe.

TIPS

- **No devices in bedrooms & turn off WiFi overnight.**
- Add a Youth Helpline number to your child's contacts in their phone so they have an alternative 'safe space' if needed.
- Download apps that your kids have and use them in the mindset of a child their age.
- Set parental controls/know the recommended age for apps (we recommend adding a few years!).
- For teens, help them navigate the current landscape.
- **For younger children, put off sole device ownership as long as possible**
- Work with your school, they should not have to carry the burden of the fallout from personal device use.
- Join the Parenting in a Tech World Facebook page with over 120k families discussing tech and kids.

CREATE AN ONLINE FAMILY PLAN

THE PLAN

- Create a plan & help build resilience in the online world.
- Be intentional/willing to learn
- Think about limiting beliefs - am I feeling overwhelmed? etc.
- It is normal to feel uncomfortable in this space, but it does get easier.
- Don't feel guilty if you learn something that you wish had known a while ago. We are all new to this.
- For this generation of parents, there is no precedent. We are all just trying the best we can.
- Include your children when putting together the plan, stay firm but fair.
- Create and print out/draw/paint your agreed plan and put it somewhere it can be accessed by all. Give it a name - "The Smith Family Online Plan"
- Be positive 😊 Technology can be awesome.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What ages are my kids? - different rules for different ages.
- At what age do I want my child to have their own device? Which device?
- Will we download and use a digital citizen contract?
- Is there a communal device?
- Is there a space that can be used as a supervised communal area for technology?
- What screen time limits will we have?
- How will we balance screen time in terms of fun vs school work time?
- Am I being proactive in continued engagement with my child's online world and their education around online safety?
- Do my children know what to do in an exposure situation?

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Watched 3 recommended films.
- ☐ Bought Filters/Monitoring apps for home and devices.
- ☐ Online safety parenting course(s).
- ☐ Books and/or recommended interview/information videos.
- ☐ Know where to find reporting information if needed.
- ☐ Know where to find further information resources if needed.
- ☐ Prepared for and having discussions around sex - age appropriate.
- ☐ Read-a-long book(s) if required (various to select from ages 3+).
- ☐ Considering my intentional device use and ways to reconnect/connect with family.