



Protecting vulnerable children and young people from exploitation

An information and awareness event for the parents and carers of children and young people with special needs/disabilities living in Enfield

Striving for excellence
★★★★

www.enfield.gov.uk 

Today's speakers



Angela Bent
Head of Service – Practice Improvement/Centre of Excellence and Strategic Lead for Exploitation.

Catherine Goodwin
Head of School for Key Stage 4 - West Lea Special School

Angela Poplar
Head of ICT at West Lea School

Maddy White
Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

PC Andy Palmer
Metropolitan Police 

Aims of today's session:



- ❖ What is exploitation
- ❖ Signs of exploitation
- ❖ Online safety tips
- ❖ Communication tips
- ❖ Signposting to:
 - Activities and services for young people
 - Further support and information for parents



Emoji and Slang Quiz

1



2

AITR

3

Bando

4

Bagging

5



6



Emoji and Slang Quiz Answers

1



Penis

2

AITR

Adults in the room

3

Bando

An abandoned house usually occupied by drug dealers/ drug users.

4

Bagging

Stabbing someone in the lower body

5



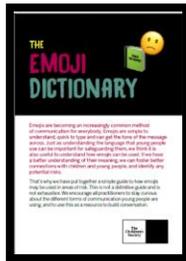
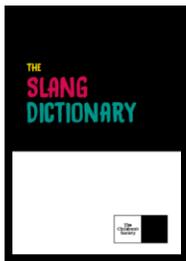
Send Nudes

6



Breasts





What is Exploitation

Child Exploitation

Children can be exploited in many ways, including being trafficked, sexually exploited and used to run drugs. All of these come under the banner of child exploitation.

Safeguarding Network

Definition of child exploitation

Child exploitation refers to the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child.

These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimisation, oppression or ill-treatment.

Save the Children, 2020



What is Exploitation

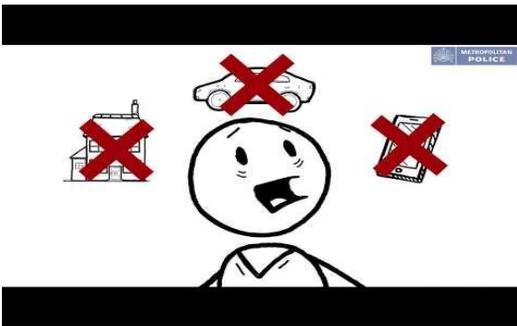


CCE = Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes.

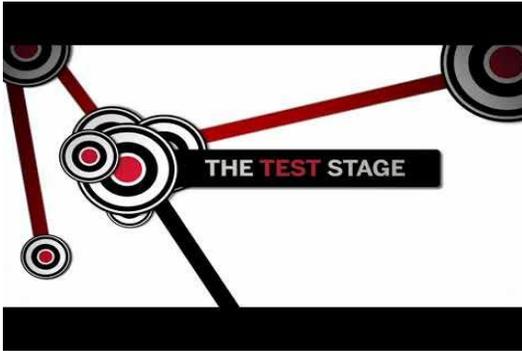
CSE = Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.



"Taylor's Story - Child Sexual Exploitation"



Stages of Grooming



Signs of Child Exploitation



- Going missing
- Skipping school
- Coming home late
- New friends
- Unexplained gifts, possessions or money
- Health problems
- Overtly sexual behaviour
- Marks, bruises or unexplained injuries



Contextual Safeguarding

Dr Carlene Firmin MBE University of Bedfordshire



Exploitation Locations in Real World

Peak Times of Concerns

15:00 18:00

Unsupervised Locations





Exploitation Locations in Online World



Online
Exploitation

What does your child love doing online?
What services and devices do they use?

The online world can be exciting and inspiring. It has lots of opportunities to offer young people. However it is important to manage and minimise the associated risks.

What is Online Safety?

The internet's a fantastic place. To find our information, to connect and have fun. But some websites, apps, games and videos aren't suitable for young people.

See

Meet

Behave

- It's about risk; it's about being aware of the possible threats that online activity can bring, and how to deal with them

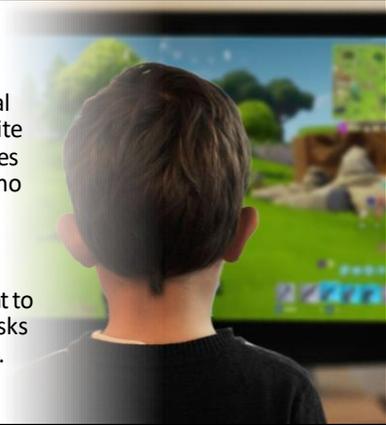
Online Grooming

What parents need to know

Grooming is when someone seeks to build an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for sexual or criminal purposes. It happens both online and face to face.

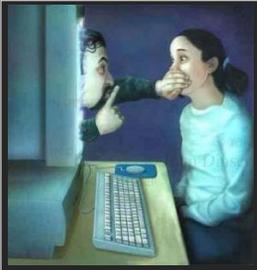
Children may meet people through social networking sites or gaming sites that aren't who they say they are.

It is important to discuss the risks with children.





Groomers are not always strangers. Children may not be aware that they are being groomed believing they're in a relationship with the person



Once groomers have gained a child's trust they may encourage them to share sexual images, or videos of themselves, live stream, or arrange to meet.



Sextortion – tricked into providing sexual images and then blackmailed provide more images.

The groomer works to gain the victims trust by typically:

Pretending to be a child or a late teen who is a bit more experienced.

Some groomers even use voice changing software so they sound like a kid when they are speaking on multiplayer games.

Posing as someone who is in distress and needs help. This makes the teen feel empathetic and willing to help them.

Offering encouragement & attention. Being sympathetic to the child ifraises problems at home or school

Knowing the latest music, games, hobbies and trends that are of interest to teens.

Filling a need

The groomer identifies what the child values and would love to have and then fills the need through gifts and promises.

These can include:

- Online credit for new computer games.
- Gift vouchers to buy mobile apps.
- Promises of opportunities for modelling, especially to young girls.
- Lots of flattery and compliments in order to make the child feel special.





Sexualizing the relationship

- Sharing pomographic images and videos – quite often of child or teen pomography.
- The relationship progresses to the stage where the groomer requests the child to take photos or videos of themselves and share them with groomer, which often leads to a two-way exchange between the groomer and the child.
- These images and videos can be shared through Snapchat, Instagram direct messages, Private video messages, and webcam or text messages.



The groomer will attempt to keep in control by using methods such as:

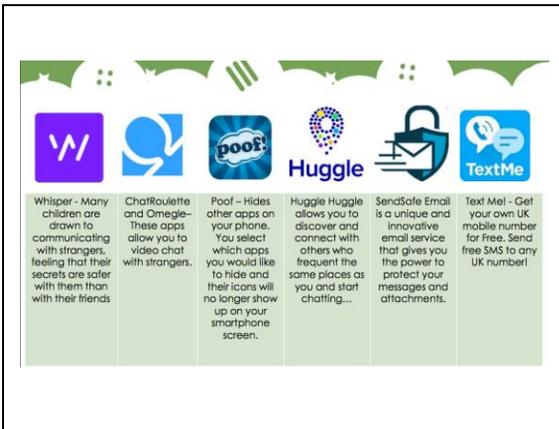
Making the child feel that they are to blame for how the relationship has developed sexually – that the child is responsible for what has happened. The child can feel very confused and feels that the groomer is someone who is helping them keep the secret.

Bullying and threatening to tell the child's parents what has been happening.

Blackmailing the child with the threat that if they don't continue they will post the images and videos to their friends on Facebook and Instagram or will email them to the child's parents.

Threats that they will kill a family pet or a family member if the child does not continue with his demands.





Whisper - Many children are drawn to communicating with strangers, feeling that their secrets are safer with them than with their friends.

Chatroulette and **Omegle** - These apps allow you to video chat with strangers.

Pool - Hides other apps on your phone. You select which apps you would like to hide and their icons will no longer show up on your smartphone screen.

Huggle Huggle allows you to discover and connect with others who frequent the same places as you and start chatting...

SendSafe Email is a unique and innovative email service that gives you the power to protect your messages and attachments.

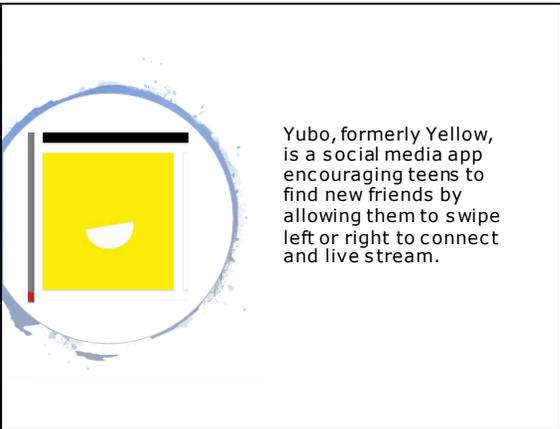
Text Me! - Get your own UK mobile number for free. Send free SMS to any UK number!

Ghost Apps

What exactly are these 'ghost apps'?

- A search for "photo vault" apps on both Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store reveals dozens of listings
- The majority of them are disguised as simple calculator apps; however, once they are opened, users can type in a passcode that reveals a private stash of photos and videos.
- Many of the apps boast "discreet icons" in their app store descriptions – some are even designed to look like Apple's built-in calculator app.

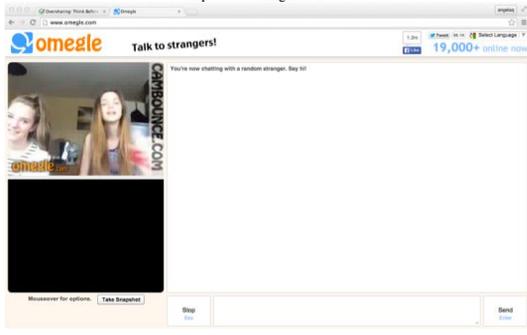




Yubo, formerly Yellow, is a social media app encouraging teens to find new friends by allowing them to swipe left or right to connect and live stream.

Omegle - Talk to Strangers

<http://www.omegle.com>



Potential Online Risks to Children

Biggest danger is not knowing

- Know how to set up privacy settings on the apps that your children are using
- Have dialogs with children about why do they like a particular website.
- Find out if they are talking to someone online they don't know.
- Know how to check the internet history of your computer
- Set boundaries and rules
- 40% of boys/57% of girls have been asked to undress on a webcam
- 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 4 boys did.

(Childnet 2019)

Monitoring Apps

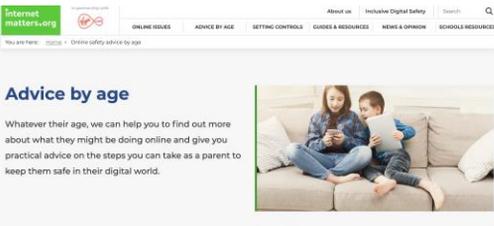
There are apps available that can monitor your child's phone or/and track their location.

There are many on the market. You can do an Internet search for Tracking or monitoring apps for your children's phone and lots will appear.

One application is Live360 or Mspy to name a few.

GPS Trackers for children





Advice and guidance on settings for different apps.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>



- Don't overshare information.
- Posting where they are going!
- Don't check in
- Give out personal information
- Inappropriate images!



- Look at the apps they are playing on. What content are they looking at.

Check profiles that they are set to private.

- Only friends
- Number of friends they have

- Check who they are talking to online? Strangers or friends.
- FRIENDS being people they know in the real world.



Have an open dialogue with children.

Keep the communication channels open.

Have an arrangement with your children's about knowing their passwords and have home rules where you will only look if worried or concerned.



Communication

As a parent would your child be able to tell you anything, even if they have murdered someone?

Would your child know that if they told you something, they would be seen, heard and understood, even if you didn't agree with what they were saying?







How to support communication



Asking the right questions



What can happen if questions are too difficult?

- Reduced ability to understand
- Avoidance of discussions
- Anxiety
- Frustration → behaviour difficulties
- Poor attention and lack of focus



Asking the right questions



What factors make a question more difficult?

- Length of question
- Topic / Vocabulary
- Environment
- Presentation
- Level of abstraction or complexity



Abstraction and Complexity



• **Lower-order questions**

- Young person asked to remember facts
- Often one correct answer
- Likely to start with 'What', 'Who', 'Where' or 'When'

• **Higher-order questions**

- Young person asked to think or reason
- Often range of possible answers
- Likely to start with 'How' or 'Why'



If a young person has difficulties with higher order questions this can impact on:



- Their ability to evaluate the consequences of their own behaviour
- Social breakdowns
- Vulnerability: Being blamed when something has gone wrong because they can't effectively explain what happened, decision making and problem solving
- Mental health impact (not being able to tell own story or reflect on own feelings)
- Unable to understand others' story
- Difficulties with emotion vocabulary



Facilitation - Visual support



- Social stories
- Comic strip conversations
- Picture sequences
- Story or event planners



Facilitation - Strategies



Make it easier for students by:

1. Pausing before helping
2. Repeating
3. Moving down a level (scaffolding)
4. Phrase questions clearly
5. Use specific praise - this helps to encourage open communication



Positive Diversionary Activities



Youth groups and activities

- Police Cadets
- Cubs, Scouts and Young Explorers
- Action for Kids – Short breaks and holiday programmes
- Enfield National Autistic Society
- Scope befriending services - provide a one-to-one befriending service for young people under 19 who need support in the local community or at home. This might be to access activities, to go the shops, meet friends or simply talk to someone.
- SEN-den - provides support and information for families with autistic children up to the age of 8 years



Support Services



Children's Portal



020 8379 5555



**Early help –
0208 379 2002**



Scenarios - What would you do?

You look at the game they are playing, which is rated 18 and notice that they have a large number of virtual coins used to buy upgrades. You know that to obtain credits in game you have to win trophies but can purchase them using real money. When you ask them how they got the credits, your child says their 'friend' gifted them to them if they sent a picture of themselves. They beg you not to do anything as they love them.

What would you do ?



Scenarios - What would you do?

Your child comes home with a new coat and when asked about it they say their 'friend' gave it to them. You notice that the coat is an expensive brand.

What would you do ?



Scenarios - What would you do?

Your child is watching drill music videos on YOUTUBE and they tell you that they follow them on INSTAGRAM, messages them and they are their friends and meet sometimes. They are excited as they tell you they have been invited to be in their next video if they do something for them. You watch the video and are concerned about content / language which appears to show local gangs holding knives.

What would you do ?



THANK YOU

Evaluation form
[Protecting vulnerable children and young people from exploitation \(office.com\)](https://office.com)