



Sexting Safeguarding Checklist

How to Protect Children from Child Abuse

How to talk to your child about sexting



Sexting isn't harmless fun

Just because everyone else is doing it that doesn't make it right



Your body belongs to you and to nobody else

Explain that once that picture is sent, they lose all control of it and who sees their body



Images taken now might impact your future

If the image or video is posted online, it might even make its way onto many different websites including porn sites



Strangers online aren't always who they say they are

Explain the dangers of messaging strangers online. The teenager they think they're speaking to might actually be an adult

Signs your child is sexting



Your child is very secretive with their phone or when they are online



Spending more time on the internet



Switching screens when you're near them while they're on the computer



Has an older boyfriend or girlfriend



Show signs of worry or anxiety



Other parents at school have found nude images of their child



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What to do if your child has been sexting



Reassure your child that you will do what you can to help and that they are not alone



Find out who they sent the image to and whether it has been shared. Ask the person who it was sent to delete it



Keep a record of the mobile or online conversations as these may be needed as evidence in future



If the image was shared online, you may be able to get it taken down by contacting the website. Or you can contact ChildLine who can work with the Internet Watch Foundation to have the image or video removed



If the image or video was shared with an adult you must immediately report it to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) - the national policing lead for online sexual exploitation



Inform the child's school of the incident so that they can offer support and advice to you and your child

Top tips to monitor child safety online



Monitor what your child has access to by adding parental controls to their phone, computer, tablet and games console so only you can authorise apps for download and websites they can view



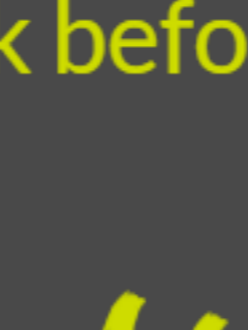
Make it clear to your child that you will be checking their online history regularly



Make a habit of checking what is being said online on social networks about your child



Consider using an anti-sexting app, such as Selfie Cop or Zipit, to help your child to stop and think before they share photos



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Getting legal help

Under current law, it is illegal for a child to make and distribute naked images of themselves. If they are requested to do this by an adult, this is child abuse.

It is also child abuse for an adult to encourage a child to participate in any sexualised messaging, even if nude images are not involved.

If you are a victim of this, you are able to make a claim for compensation against the adult involved. In addition, if the abuse took place while at school, at a youth club or anywhere else where adults are expected to be responsible for the care of that child, you could make a claim for compensation against that institution.

Source

Icons used: 'hashtag' by Henry Gatard from the Noun Project, 'checked' by Michelle Fosse, 'mobile phone' by Cengiz SARI, 'road sign' by Zlatko Najdenovski from the Noun Project