

# Child Internet Safety

A guide for parents, caregivers, teachers and  
others who work with children and youth



Public Legal Education  
and Information Service  
of New Brunswick

## Acknowledgements

Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick (PLEIS-NB) is a non-profit charitable organization. Our mission is to provide plain language law information to people in New Brunswick. PLEIS-NB receives funding and in-kind support from the Department of Justice Canada, the New Brunswick Law Foundation and the New Brunswick Office of the Attorney General.

The purpose of this guide is to help parents, teachers, and caregivers understand the risk of sexual exploitation that children and youth may face on the Internet and to promote a safe Internet experience for your child. To do this, parents must be aware of the technologies for accessing the Internet and be familiar with the devices that are being used. It is also important to know the jargon for online conversations. The guide explains Canada's law on child pornography and explains the common signs of luring and abuse. There are many tips on how to protect your child and get help if you believe that something is happening. The guide does not contain a complete statement of the law in relation to child internet exploitation. Anyone requiring advice on his or her specific situation should speak to a lawyer.

We wish to acknowledge and thank our partners, the New Brunswick Department of Public Safety, Victim Services. Their expertise and dedication in the development of the materials was instrumental to the success of the project. We also wish to thank those who reviewed and commented on the draft materials including members of the New Brunswick Task Force on Internet Child Exploitation.

*A special thanks to the Canadian Centre for Child Protection for giving us permission to make extensive use and/or adapt the resources on their websites.*

Published by:



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In collaboration with:



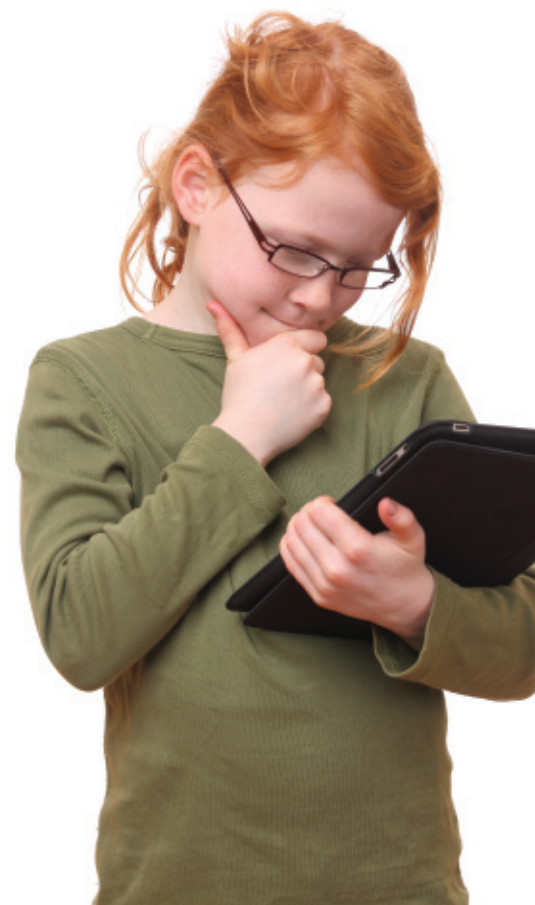
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[www.gnb.ca/publicsafety](http://www.gnb.ca/publicsafety)

ISBN: 978-1-4605-0389-8

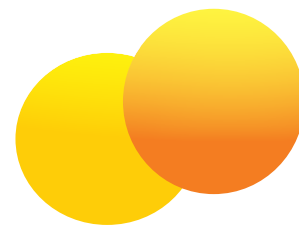
March 2015

Aussi disponible en français



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## Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to help parents and caregivers play an active and supportive role in ensuring that the children and youth in their care are aware of the dangers of, and know how to avoid, sexual exploitation while surfing the Internet. Since so many excellent resources already exist, we have sought permission to incorporate some of them into this guide. In particular, we have sought permission to make extensive use of information found on various websites of the **Canadian Centre for Child Protection**. Throughout the guide, you will see text with a reference number beside it. The full citation to the materials reproduced or adapted can be found in **References (p. 33-35)**. We encourage you to visit these sites for more information.

Increasingly young people are plugging into technologies that link them to their friends, their schools and others through an assortment of social media. The Internet is full of opportunities for learning, growth, and entertainment. Youth are instantly connected to a large global network. Devices to go online include computers, tablets and smartphones which children can use to chat or text with others, as well as share pictures and videos. But such easy and far reaching access to technology can also make children and youth vulnerable to serious risks like online harassment, exposure to explicit content, and sexual exploitation

Sometimes, as parents and caregivers, the task of monitoring these risks can seem overwhelming. In fact, at times our children's computer and Internet abilities may have grown beyond our own knowledge. But as child Internet exploitation grows it is more important than ever for parents and caregivers to know the risks that children face, learn about these new technologies, and set appropriate boundaries and rules to help keep children safe online.

This booklet will help you learn about the technologies, the risks of child Internet sexual exploitation, and how to prevent it. The guide is designed as a companion piece to other publications that can help you promote safety for children using the Internet. They are:

- Internet Safety – Tips for Youth
- Safe Internet Use - Contract for Parents and Youth
- Safety on the Internet: Tips for Kids (poster)

## Section 1: Know the Technology – Know the Jargon

To support and protect your children and youth from sexual exploitation and other dangers as they explore the Internet, you will have to know what they are facing. If you aren't up to speed on the latest technology that kids are using, how they use it and some of the "kidspeak" that helps them to communicate quickly using a vast array of acronyms, then your first step should be educating yourself on the technologies and the terminologies. The following information has been adapted from online resources of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. [See Ref #1](#)

### How Kids Communicate Online

- **Children 8 – 9**

Kids this age often enjoy online games, instant messaging and email. They may use the Internet, watch videos (e.g. Youtube) and use search engines such as Google® and Yahoo® for school work. They may start to use blogs and social network sites. Online activity may involve downloading games, music and pictures using a variety of Wi-Fi capable devices including computers, smartphones and tablets.



- **Children 10 – 12**

At this age, kids have an increased interest in spending time online for entertainment purposes, socializing, and exploring new interests. They begin to share music, upload pictures, use the webcam and create personal websites. They are comfortable with a range of Wi-Fi capable devices and use their cell phones for surfing the web, downloading apps, and texting. They may have several accounts on various websites and many children this age are aware of how to override safety settings, firewalls and pre-requisites for websites (e.g. Facebook requires a minimum age of 13 to sign up).

- **Children 13 – 15**

Teenagers' use of WiFi capable devices increases. They may spend considerable time on social networking sites, communicating with other users, sharing pictures, videos and music, sending texts and instant messages. They may play online games with other random online players. Many use their cell phones, webcams and digital cameras to talk, text, take and send pictures and surf the Internet.



## Definitions of Communication Technologies

Below are some definitions of the various technologies that children and youth use to communicate online. Online activity will vary with age. For example:

**Wi-Fi Capable Devices:** Wi-Fi technology lets you exchange data (pictures, text, videos, etc.) wirelessly over a computer network using devices such as a personal computer, video game console, smartphone, or tablet. Wi-Fi also lets you connect to the Internet and to other resources on a network such as a webcam, printer, or monitor. No longer are your children and youth restricted by dial up web connections in their home. Wi-Fi is available free of charge in many locations ranging from libraries, to airports to city parks. [See Ref #2](#)


**Applications (better known as Apps) for Mobile Devices:** Apps are software that can be downloaded to a mobile device to extend the functions of the mobile device. Some apps cost money, but many are free. These may include games, chat or instant messaging tools, photo or video sharing tools, social networking tools as well as a variety of other features and tools to enhance the device's capabilities.

**Blog Sites (e.g. Tumblr®, Blogger®):** A blog site lets people post information which shows up in reverse chronological order. The author of the blog may focus on a specific topic or use it as a personal diary. The author may post text and images. There may be links to other blogs, web pages and media on about the topic. Most blog sites let users leave comments and some let users message each other.

**Chat Sites:** Chat sites let you chat with other users in a group or room setting. Users can post messages for everyone to see or just one particular person. Some sites let you voice chat or share pictures, videos and files with one another. On some sites, the users may be chatting with random strangers who they know nothing about or where they are located.

**Instant Messaging (e.g. Facebook® Chat, Google Talk, Gmail®, Skype®, Windows Live® Messenger):** Instant messaging (also known as IM) lets users send real-time messages to other users who may be known as contacts, friends, or buddies. Short text messages are sent back and forth, and some IM programs also include file transfer, webcam viewing, voice chat, and other applications. [See Ref #2](#)

**Peer-to-Peer Programs (e.g. BearShare):** These programs let users connect through the peer-to-peer (also known as P2P) network and have direct access to shared files on each other's computers. The network allows the exchange of files (e.g. videos, images, music, games, etc.) without going through a central server.



**Downloading:** This lets you receive files such as videos, music and pictures, from the Internet to your own device.

**Social Networking Sites (e.g. Facebook®, MySpace®, Bebo®, Twitter®, etc.):**

Social networking sites encourage users to create their own profile, post personal photos, update their “status” and send and receive short text-based messages. Users can also engage in chats, email contact, instant messaging, and networking with groups. These sites let users share ideas, activities, events and interests within the network. Individuals can post personal information (pictures, thoughts, etc.) and chat with others in real time. Social media sites for younger children such as Club Penguin, Nick, and LEGO include online games that have a social networking component. Kids can watch cartoons/videos, send messages back and forth with friends, and do activities such as arts and crafts.

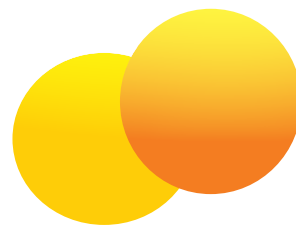
**Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game (MMORPG):** A MMORPG is a type of online game where a large number of players interact with one another in a virtual/fantasy world (eg. RuneScape®, World of Warcraft®). [See Ref #2](#)

**Video Game Consoles (e.g. Nintendo® Wii™, Xbox 360®, etc.):** A video game console is an interactive computer or electronic device that uses a TV or monitor to display the video game. Recent game consoles can connect to the Internet so multiple players can interact online. While players can talk to each other through these games, the conversation history cannot easily be saved on these devices. [See Ref #2](#)

**Webcam:** A webcam is a video camera that is built-in or connected to a computer or wireless device through a wired connection or over Wi-Fi. Video captured by a webcam can be shown over the Internet in real time and is often used along with instant messaging or chat applications. A webcam may also be used to capture still images.

**Texting/Messaging Services on Cell Phones/Smartphones (e.g. SMS/MMS, BlackBerry® Messenger (e.g. BBM, iMessage):** Short Message Service (SMS), commonly called text messaging, lets users communicate with other users through brief, typed text. Malicious users can easily delete messages, leaving no trace of what they sent, or saved and distributed. Users send messages that include multimedia content such as pictures and videos. In addition, many mobile devices/smartphones now offer a free texting service with the same capabilities so individuals can freely send messages to other similar devices.

**Avatar:** An avatar is a pictorial representation of an individual. It may take the form of an animal, creature, or person, and is often used in chat forums, games, and personal profiles. [See Ref #2](#)



## Glossary of Terms used on Facebook and Twitter

These terms have been reproduced from resources of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. [See Ref #3](#)

**Tag:** Facebook allows you to “tag” individuals in photos posted to the social networking site so they are easily identifiable in the image. An individual’s name and profile are associated with the photo once s/he has been tagged in it.

**Like:** Facebook allows you to “like” a post made to the social networking site by another user. Individuals use this to show a positive interest in a photo, video, comment, etc. that has been posted.

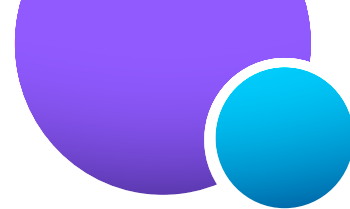
**Poke:** Facebook allows you to “poke” other users to get their attention. The user will receive a notification that they have been poked by another user.

**Tweet:** Twitter is an online social networking service that enables its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters known as “tweets”.

**Retweet:** A “retweet” is when a Twitter user re-posts someone else’s tweet to their followers. Sometimes users type “RT” at the beginning of the tweet to indicate that they are re-posting someone else’s content.

**Hashtag:** Twitter users type the hashtag symbol “#” before a relevant keyword or phrase (with no spaces) in their tweet to categorize the tweet and help it show more easily in Twitter searches.





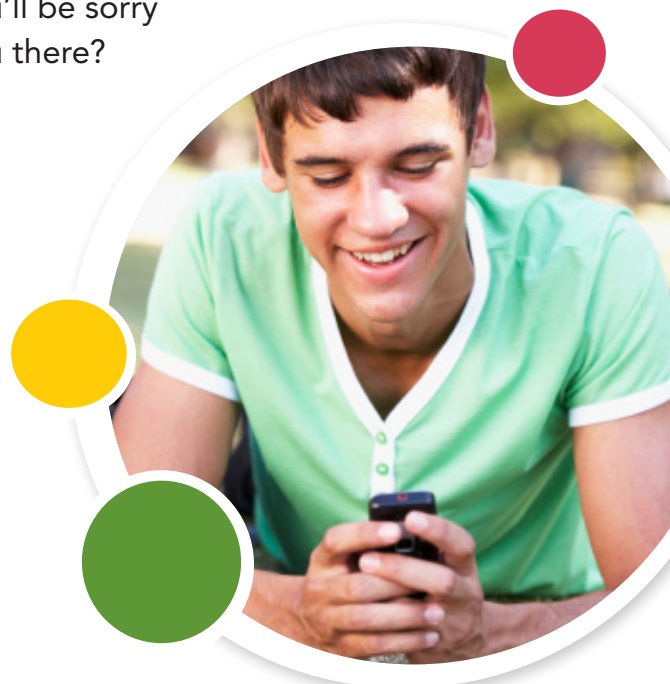
## Online Lingo

If you want to translate what your teen is saying to others online, you should know their lingo. Here are a just a few popular expressions:

<b>AITR:</b> Adult in the room	<b>OMG:</b> Oh my God
<b>B4N:</b> Bye for now	<b>PAW:</b> Parents are watching
<b>BRB:</b> Be right back	<b>PCM:</b> Please call me
<b>BFF:</b> Best friend forever	<b>PM:</b> Private message
<b>CMB:</b> Call me back	<b>ROFL:</b> Rolling on the floor laughing
<b>GAL:</b> Get a life	<b>RYS:</b> Are you single?
<b>GTG:</b> Got to go	<b>QT:</b> Cutie
<b>KIT:</b> Keep in touch	<b>SUL:</b> See you later
<b>KPC:</b> Keeping parents clueless	<b>TC:</b> Take care
<b>IDEK:</b> I don't even know	<b>TMI:</b> Too much information
<b>IDK:</b> I don't know	<b>TTLY:</b> Totally
<b>IDTS:</b> I don't think so	<b>TTYL:</b> Talk to you later
<b>IMS:</b> I am sorry	<b>VM:</b> Voicemail
<b>JK:</b> Just kidding	<b>WAYF:</b> Where are you from?
<b>JWTK:</b> Just wanted to know	<b>WTF:</b> What the f***
<b>L8ER:</b> Later	<b>WTGP:</b> Want to go private?
<b>LMIRL:</b> Let's meet in real life	<b>YBS:</b> You'll be sorry
<b>LOL:</b> Laughing out loud	<b>YT:</b> You there?
<b>MorF:</b> Male or female	
<b>MOS:</b> Mother over shoulder	
<b>FOS:</b> Father over shoulder	
<b>NIFOC:</b> Naked in front of computer	

You can search the Internet for various sites that explain online acronyms.

For example, check out [www.netlingo.com](http://www.netlingo.com).



## Section 2: Know the Risks

Children and youth generally have a positive experience on the Internet. They enjoy communicating and sharing with others via their Wi-Fi capable devices such as computers, smartphones, tablets and so on. Unfortunately, children may also face some risks to their safety and well-being. In particular, this booklet is concerned with the risk of Internet Child Exploitation. This section of the booklet outlines some of these risks. [See Ref #4](#)

### How Children Are at Risk Online

Children and youth are most commonly at risk of being exploited online in three ways:

1. Exposure to sexually explicit content
2. Communicating personal/private information
3. Connecting with strangers



#### 1. Exposure to sexually explicit content

Children using the Internet not only have fun, they can find informative and educational content at their fingertips. They are also easily exposed to adult pornography. Some of this material is very graphic and often disturbing to view. Although this material may be legal, the content is harmful to kids who view it. Research suggests that children as young as 8 and 9 years of age are coming across very sexually explicit material on the Internet, usually by accident. Children this age are not developmentally ready to see such graphic information.

Older kids, especially teens, are naturally curious about sexuality and often turn to the Internet to find information of this nature. As a result, they can be exposed to graphic and potentially harmful material, such as violence and the dehumanization of people in sexual scenes, especially women. Research suggests that viewing such material can potentially shape and influence a child's development of values and their belief of what a healthy sexual relationship is.

In addition to stumbling on sexually explicit content, it is important to know that adults trying to exploit children purposely send them sexually explicit material. Their goal is to normalize sexual activity especially sexually inappropriate exchanges between adults and children. Additionally, the sharing of sexually explicit photographs, (often of the youth themselves), can be used to blackmail and threaten children into agreeing to the adult's demands.

## 2. Communicating personal/private information

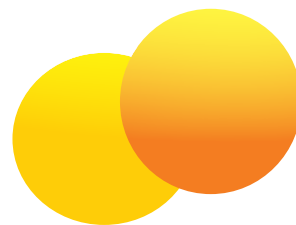
Children face a variety of risks associated with sharing personal and private information on social networking sites. What they say could reveal where they live, go to school and play. Older youth may be involved in texting, sexting, instant messaging, and sharing pictures and videos of a sexual nature. Here are some risks that youth who use social networking sites could face.

- They may accept friend requests from individuals they have not met in person.
- They may not understand that once they post a photo or personal information, they lose all control over what happens to it.
- They can be bullied or stalked by other users.
- They may send naked images to boyfriends/girlfriends or peers without understanding that the images can be forwarded or permanently posted online.
- They may not realize that when they send naked images/videos and or images/videos of a sexual nature to peers that is against the law for anyone, including them, to send nude pictures of individuals under 18 years of age.
- They may engage in conversation with adults who claim to be youth who are looking to victimize adolescents by asking personal questions about puberty and development.

## 3. Connecting with strangers online

You can review the resources reproduced for this section. [See Ref #5](#)

- Sexual offenders target online games that have chat rooms including interactive web games, computer and console games.
- Sexual offenders hijack instant messaging accounts and coerce children to send nude or partially clothed images/videos of themselves and/or coerce children/adolescents to send images/videos of themselves engaged in sexual acts.
- Sexual offenders use 3D animated characters, referred to as Avatars, to engage youth in online conversations.
- Sexual offenders target social networking sites where children and youth are encouraged to connect with new people.
- Children may agree to meet up with someone they communicated with online and think is their own age, only to find themselves in scary situation with an adult.



## How Adults Lure Children Online

This section has been compiled and adapted from a number of resources about common lures, particularly in relation to child abduction by strangers. See Ref #6 and 12 The same kinds of lures are used online. They include:

**1. Asking for help:** An adult online may seek help from a child in order to get them to do what they want. They may even pretend to be a child themselves. **Teach your child: When somebody online asks a child for help, the child should get an adult. Children should not try to respond themselves.**

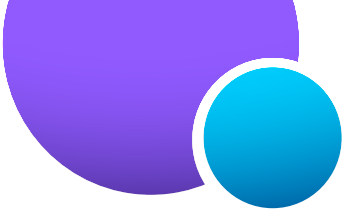
**2. Offering a gift:** An adult online may offer a child a gift if the child agrees to meet up with them or does something like send them a picture of their private parts. The adult may offer to do something special for them if they play a secret inappropriate touching game over the webcam. **Teach your child: Children must never accept anything from someone without permission from a parent or guardian.**

**3. Making threats:** An adult online may threaten to hurt the child or someone the child cares about if they don't do what is being asked. For example: "Send me a picture of yourself naked or I will send the picture I have of you in your bra and panties to everyone on your contact list." Threats to get the child into trouble or to humiliate the child may lead to compliance. **Teach your child: Children should not comply with a threat. They should leave the situation and tell a safe adult.**

**4. Knowing your name:** An adult online may pretend to know a child by saying the child's name. They may say its okay for the child to meet up with them. **Teach your child: If someone asks a child to meet up the answer is always NO!**

**5. Breaking Rules/Boundaries:** An adult online may ask to hang out with the child and be his or her friend. The adult may single out the child with compliments and praise. The child may feel flattered and special. Soon, the adult asks the child to do things online the parents or other safe adults would not allow. For example, an adult might invite the child/teen to meet up to drink and/or do drugs. **Teach your child: It is not appropriate for an adult to ask to be your friend. Adults should be role models and protect children. If an adult suggests breaking rules, the child needs to tell a safe adult.**

**6. It's an emergency:** An adult online who has gathered information about where the child lives and goes to school may tell the child there is an emergency. For example: "Your mom is sick and had to go to the hospital so I am going to pick you up at school." **Teach your child: Your parents would never send a stranger to meet you. Just say NO! Children should never agree to go with anyone, anywhere if they don't have direct permission from their parent/guardian.**



**7. Making you famous:** An adult online may tell the child that he or she can be famous. They may ask the child to take and send naked pictures or to touch themselves in a sexual way. The adult may say that this is okay because famous actors/actresses have done it.

**Teach your child: Children must not agree to such requests. They should tell the person to contact their parents directly. They need to leave the situation and tell a safe adult what happened.**

**8. Being an authority:** An adult online may pretend to be a person in authority to gain the child's trust and get the child to do something inappropriate. For example, the adult encourages the child to engage in sexual activity. **Teach your child: People on the Internet may not be who they say they are. Tell your children to be assertive and get out of the situation quickly. Always tell a safe adult.**

**9. Offering a job:** An adult online may offer a child a job or a way to make money online. For example, the adult may ask the child to turn on their webcam and take off their clothes for a reward, like access to music, games, etc. **Teach your child: Always check with their parents/guardians before accepting jobs from anyone – or agreeing to any secret touching or inappropriate acts online.**

**10. Being in love:** An adult online may chat with a youth, compliment them, and then tell them they love them and want to be their boyfriend or girlfriend. This relationship may start online. Eventually the adult will ask to meet up. **Teach your child: Responsible adults want to protect youth and would not break boundaries. When this happens, even if the youth is flattered by the attention, they should talk to a safe adult about this.**

**11. Giving compliments:** An adult online may compliment a child in order to trick the child into inappropriate activity. For example, they may say: "You are so beautiful, you should be a model. Send me a picture of you in a bathing suit so I can see what a good model you'd be." They may try to get the child to engage in inappropriate online activity using the webcam. **Teach your child: Explain that compliments can be sincere or manipulative. Adults who want children to push the boundaries are not safe adults. Encourage your children to talk to a safe adult about anyone who is giving them inappropriate attention.**

**12. Asking to play a game:** An adult online may use pictures and webcams to ask the child to engage in inappropriate touching or watch the adult do it, saying it is just a touching game. **Teach your child: Children should talk to a safe adult immediately when someone online tries to get them to break rules or boundaries. Inappropriate touching is not a game.**

## Luring and Grooming of Children – A Matter of Persistence

Luring and grooming of children usually happens over time and it may come to involve threats to expose the child to family and friends. The contact is often persistent. In December 2012, Cybertip.ca released a study on luring. [See Ref #7](#). They found that almost 86% of victims of Internet luring were girls. The mean age of victims was 13 year old. Many chat logs analyzed in this study began with repeated invitations for the young person to go on webcam (sometimes occurring up to 30 times), followed by requests about wanting to meet in person. Persistence can be demonstrated by:

- Chat logs often began with a greeting, such as ‘hi hottie, how r u today?’, followed by a request for age, sex, and location, before quickly moving on to requests for photographs or online sex.
- Where the young person showed no resistance and did not either terminate the chat or seek help from someone else, the conversation was often explicit, and included descriptions of a variety of sexual acts.
- Even in the context of ‘romantic relationships’ the sexual content was often positioned as introducing the young person to the pleasures of sex. If the young person agreed to these requests, what quickly followed was a request to undress.

Child sexual offenders often try to break down a child’s personal boundaries to gain their trust and normalize sexual behaviour. Examples of online predators crossing sexual boundaries and engaging in inappropriate behaviour included:

- Making sexually explicit comments
- Using flattery
- Asking questions about sexual development
- Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child
- Sharing sexually explicit material

In all reported cases of luring, the content of conversations became sexual, regardless of apparent intent, very often with explicit acknowledgment that the young person was underage. [See Ref #7](#)

A young person may agree to some of the initial requests made by the predator. They may even feel flattered by the attention – that’s what grooming is all about. However, when they express reluctance to go further, the perpetrator may threaten them. At least a quarter of the luring cases reported involved the young person being threatened to go along with a predator’s requests. Predators use sexually explicit photographs (often shared by the youth themselves) to blackmail and threaten children into participating in further



activity with the adult's demands. Some of the threats used by predators include: [See Ref #7](#)

- Posting existing images of the child through social networking sites or to a list of contacts known to the young person (including their parents)
- Compromising the young person's computer or their accounts
- Offline violence if the young person wouldn't agree to meet the adult in person

## Children's Age and Vulnerability to Online Exploitation

The following information is adapted from online resources of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. Their website, "**The Door that's not Locked**" describes ways that children are typically at risk of being harmed online. The risks of harm can shift or intensify with age. So too would the ways in which parents and caregivers act to protect their safety. Here is an overview on how children's vulnerability to exploitation reflects their age and developmental stage. [See Ref #8 and 10](#)

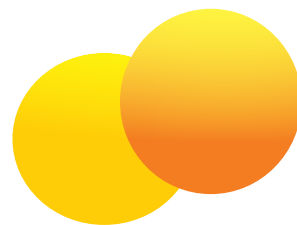
### Children 8 -9

Kids can be exposed to sexually explicit content at any age. At this age, they are not developmentally ready to handle viewing graphic sexual content. Kids this age develop relationships with others online very quickly and they can be easily tricked. They may even be chatting with someone while playing a game. Careful monitoring at this age is important.

### Children 10 – 12

Children at this age are curious and may not realize that graphic depictions of sexual activity often misrepresents what a healthy sexual relationship is. It is important to talk to kids about healthy sexual development and explain that not everything they see and read online is accurate. Since kids often start to push their personal boundaries at this age, it is important for them to know that the Internet is public space and pictures, videos and texts sent privately tend to become public.





### Children 13 – 15

It is common for teens to be curious about sexuality. But they need some guidance on what kind of content might be harmful or even illegal. Teens often underestimate the public nature of the Internet. They may share private information and pictures only to find out it has become public. This is often referred to as self-exploitation. They may think sharing with a boyfriend/girlfriend is okay, without realizing the lasting consequences of their behaviour.



## Risks of Sexting Pictures to Peers - Self-exploitation See Ref #13

We tend to think of the dangers of sexual exploitation that our children might face on the Internet as a stranger danger problem. However, it is not uncommon for teens to take naked or sexually suggestive pictures of themselves to share with their peers, usually a boyfriend or girlfriend.

This activity is called "sexting". This new word comes from a combination of 'sex' and 'texting'. It refers to the sending of sexually related text or images from one mobile phone to another. Sexting is for the most part a legal activity when it involves consenting individuals 18 years or older. See the section of this booklet on child pornography laws for an explanation of when sexting crosses the line into illegal activity.

This form of self-exploitation can have serious consequences.

- Under Canada's child pornography laws, it is an offence for anyone, including youth, to take, send, or forward an electronic image of someone under 18 that is sexual in nature.
- Two teens who consent (meaning they freely agree) to sharing sexts may intend that no one else ever see the pictures or messages. However, when teen dating relationships break down, sexts may be used by a former boyfriend/girlfriend to humiliate and shame the other as a form of revenge.
- Sexts may be uploaded to social media sites and shared with a person's entire contact list, including parents and family.
- Once sexts go public, the teen no longer has control.
- Sexts that go public can seriously damage a youth's reputation and self-esteem.
- Peer to peer sharing of pictures can turn into "cyber-bullying".



## Section 3: Know the Law

The following general information explains sexual assault law under the *Criminal Code*. In 2012, the *Criminal Code* was amended to provide stiffer penalties for existing offences that deal with child sexual exploitation and abuse. Tighter restrictions were placed on people convicted of sexual offences against children. As well, two new offences were created to deal with grooming and luring of children under 18 years of age on the Internet. This section of the booklet will discuss these new offences while offering information on the law as it relates generally to sexual offences and consent to sexual activity.

Youth who have been groomed or lured on the Internet or in the community may agree to meet up with someone and engage in sexual activity. As was explained in **Section 2 – Know the Risks**, youth may be promised gifts and rewards, or they may be threatened with exposure to family and friends. The luring techniques that predators use are extensive. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for youth to blame themselves for the exploitation or to be too embarrassed to ask for help.

The key message in this section of the booklet is: Youth under 18 years are not at fault when they have been exploited by an adult on the Internet. Predators invite youth to cross boundaries and it is the adult who has committed an offence. Even if the youth consented to sexual activity, it is the adult perpetrator who is at fault. This section will touch on the problem of self-exploitation by youth under 18 years.

*This booklet does not provide a complete statement of the law on sexual offences, and laws change from time to time. Anyone who requires advice on their specific situation should consult a lawyer.*

### Consent to Sexual Activity

- To consent to sexual activity means to agree freely. The law requires that a person take reasonable steps to find out whether the other person is consenting.
- Generally speaking, the age of consent in Canada is 16 years. This is the age that criminal law recognizes the legal capacity of a young person to consent to sexual activity.
- Although it is legal to have sexual contact with someone who is 16 years or older if they consent to have sex, there are some exceptions.

- In some situations, sexual activity with a person under 18 years of age is illegal. A person under 18 years cannot consent if:

- The other person has a relationship of trust or authority over them, or they are dependent on that person. People in positions of trust or authority include, for example, a teacher, coach, babysitter, family member, minister or doctor;
- It involves exploitative activity, such as luring, grooming, prostitution or pornography;
- They are paid, or offered payment, for sex;

**Note: In these situations, a person under 18 years of age cannot by law consent to sexual activity.**

## Near in age exceptions

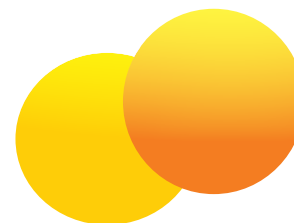
The law is not intended to criminalize consensual activities between young people. It is not a criminal offence if a young person under 16 years of age has consensual sexual activity with someone close in age as follows:

- a young person 14 or 15 years of age consents to sexual activity with someone less than 5 years older.
- a young person 12 or 13 years of age consents to sexual activity with someone less than 2 years older.

These exceptions only apply if the older person is not in a position of authority or trust and there has been no exploitation, grooming or luring. For example, if a 14 year old agreed to sexual activity with her/his 19 year old basketball coach, the law does not consider that the consent was freely given.

**Important! The law also says that children under 12 years of age can never legally consent to sexual activity.**





## An Overview of Sexual Offences

This is not exhaustive list of sexual offences. Since the focus of the booklet is on Internet Child Exploitation, grooming, luring, and sexual exploitation offences may be of most significance.

**Sexual assault** is forced sexual activity where the person does not physically hurt you. The law recognizes a range of offences and punishments.

**Sexual assault with a weapon or threats to a third party** is forced sexual activity where the person uses a weapon, or threatens you with a weapon, or threatens to hurt another person.

**Sexual assault causing bodily harm** is forced sexual activity where the person physically injures you. "Bodily harm" means any injury that affects your health and comfort and is more than temporary or minor in nature.

**Aggravated sexual assault** is forced sexual activity where the person seriously injures you. An injury is serious when the person wounds or disfigures you, or endangers your life.

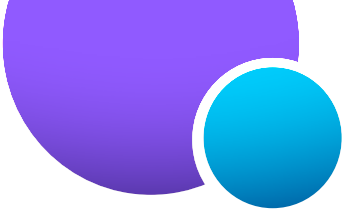
**Invitation to sexual touching** is inviting a child under the age of 16 to touch directly or indirectly, the body of any other person.

**Sexual interference** is touching a child under the age of 16, whether directly or indirectly, for a sexual purpose.

**Voyeurism** is the secret observation, by any means or recording of any person for a sexual purpose, in circumstances where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

**Sexual Exploitation:** The law considers it to be sexual exploitation for anyone in a position of trust or authority over a young person, to engage in sexual activity with them. This includes a person on whom the young person is dependent. A young person is a person 16 years of age or more, but under 18 years. The courts would determine exploitation by the wrongful conduct of the person in the position of trust rather than the consent of the young person. The law also provides for the protection of persons with mental or physical disabilities without any age restrictions.





**Providing sexually explicit material to a child** is “grooming” a child using pornography in order to commit a sexual offence.

**Luring a child** is communicating with a young person using a computer in order to arrange or commit certain sexual offences. Depending on the offence, the age of consent ranges from 16 to 18 years.

## Child Pornography Laws

In Canada, the law dealing with child pornography is found in the *Criminal Code*. Section 163.1 of the *Criminal Code* states that no one may make, distribute, transmit, make available, access, sell, advertise, export/import or possess child pornography.

Child pornography is broadly defined and includes materials that show someone engaged in explicit sexual activity who is, or seems to be, under the age of 18 years; or materials that show a young person’s breasts, genitals or anal region for a sexual purpose.

Child pornography also includes written and audio material that encourages others to commit a sexual offence against a child, or is primarily a description of unlawful sexual activity with a child that is intended for a sexual purpose. The penalties for these offences include mandatory minimum periods of imprisonment and vary up to a maximum of either 5 or 10 years.

It is important to know that the new offences of grooming and luring make it a crime to send sexually explicit material, whether it is adult or child pornography, to a child under the age of 18 for the purposes of luring them into a sexual act. It is also a crime to use the Internet to make arrangements with another person in order to commit a sexual offence against a child.

These are important law enforcement tools for the protection of children and youth because predators use computers to communicate with children, including exposing them to explicit sexual content in order to prepare them for future sexual contact.

## Self-exploitation and the Law

It is not uncommon for a youth to take suggestive pictures of themselves to share with peers. This is referred to as “self-exploitation”. However, under Canada’s child pornography laws, it is an offence for anyone, including youth, to send an electronic image of someone under 18 that is sexual in nature. Our child pornography laws are not intended to prosecute and criminalize young people. However, it is possible for a youth to be charged with making, possessing, distributing or accessing child pornography. If your child takes a naked picture of him/herself or someone else under 18 years, stores it in their mobile device or on their computer, or sends the photograph to someone else, they could get into trouble with the law.

It is also an offence to forward this kind of image on to someone else, even if you child was not the one who took it or sent it first. It is important to ensure that your child understands that sending naked or sexualized photos is a crime. Parents can teach their children to respect themselves and others including protecting their own and others’ privacy by not storing or sending sexualized images.

It is also a crime in Canada to threaten another person, even if the threat is communicated online. If your child understands that threats are illegal, not only will they know to avoid sending threatening messages to someone else when they are frustrated or angry, but they will be better equipped to respond if they receive threats themselves. If someone threatens your child in order to coerce them into sharing sexual photos or personal information, or to bully and harass them, notify the police. Let your child know that they are not alone. [See Ref #13](#)

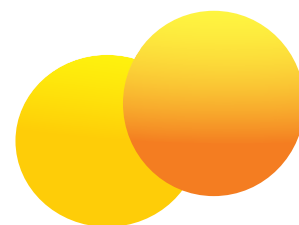


## Section 4: Know What You Can Do To Protect Children

The following table presents information from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection about the five major risks faced by youth online and how to avoid them. See Ref # 11

### Avoiding the Five Major Risks

Risks to Children Online	How to Avoid These Risks
1. Sexual offenders target online games that have chat rooms including interactive web games, computer and console games.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay involved and know what games your child is playing.</li><li>• Pay particular attention to games that have a chat component. Be cautious about allowing your child to chat with their opponents.</li><li>• Teach your child to create a username that does not give out information about their real identity. Reinforce the concept of keeping personal information private.</li><li>• Activate the parental controls on your gaming console, if this feature is available. For example, check for features such as blocking or restricting who can interact with your child. Or block your child from voice chatting with others.</li></ul>
2. Sexual offenders hijack instant messaging accounts and coerce children to send nude or partially clothed images/videos of themselves and/or coerce children/adolescents to send images/videos of themselves engaged in sexual acts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow computer best practices such as installing anti-virus, firewalls, and keeping your software up to date.</li><li>• Stress the importance of using unique passwords and usernames for internet messaging accounts. Usernames should not reveal information about their true identity and obvious passwords are an easy way for others to gain access and control over accounts.</li></ul>



Risks to Children Online	How to Avoid These Risks
2. (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach your child never to enter his/her password into anything other than their IM program and to check with you if they are not sure about the login area they are being asked to sign into.</li><li>• Explain that the ONLY person who should know their password is their parent.</li></ul>
3. Sexual offenders use 3D animated characters, referred to as Avatars, to engage youth in online conversations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be aware of the IM/game program your child uses and any associated characters they have adopted to represent themselves (avatar).</li><li>• Ensure your child's avatar is age appropriate and non-descriptive. Recognize that avatars don't have to represent a person and can be used to mislead children/youth.</li><li>• Ensure children always get your permission before sharing personal information or accepting anything. Teach them what is meant by personal information and where on the Internet they may be asked for it.</li><li>• Be aware of all the contact names on your child's IM list and set the expectation that you must approve any new contacts added.</li></ul>
4. Sexual offenders target social networking sites where children and youth are encouraged to connect with new people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the social networking sites that your child visits and ensure that their online diary, profile, or photos do not contain identifying information.</li><li>• Be aware that your child can be exposed to inappropriate content as there is little or no moderation of content on social networking sites.</li></ul>



Risks to Children Online	How to Avoid These Risks
4. (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most social networking sites are designed for ages 13 and up but do not require age verification to become a member. It is therefore very easy for young children to join.</li></ul>
5. Youth send naked images/videos and or images/videos where they are engaged in sexual acts with peers without understanding that is against the law for anyone, including them, to send nude pictures of individuals under 18 years of age. As well, they do not realize that the images could be forwarded or permanently posted online.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reinforce the public nature of the Internet and make sure your child understands that you will monitor their online activity.</li><li>• Explain where it is appropriate for them to have privacy: confiding in a close friend face-to-face, writing in a journal, etc (there is no privacy on the Internet).</li><li>• Monitor use of webcams, cell phones, posting and exchanging pictures online.</li><li>• Explain that once a picture is sent online they no longer control what is done with it and it may be hard to completely remove from the Internet.</li><li>• Explain that it is against the law to send or receive pictures of a sexual nature of themselves or others under 18 years of age. There are serious consequences if caught by the police.</li><li>• Monitor increased independence. Even though adolescents can appear as though they can “handle” things, they actually require adult guidance and supervision.</li></ul>



## Parental Control Tools

The following information about parental control measures has been adapted from the online resources of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. [See Ref #19](#) Parental control software can be used to block access to websites, block specific types of content, select specific times when your child can browse the Internet, and block personal information from being sent out from your computer. Here are some key features of parental control software that parents can use to help keep children safe online.

**Website filtering by category:** This feature lets you filter sites based on pre-defined categories such as pornography. You can also select the specific information you wish to filter for your child.

**Personal information blocking:** This feature lets parents block personal information their children send from their computers such as a name, phone number, or address.

**Scheduling:** This feature lets you select specific times when your child can be online or chat on Instant Messaging (IM) programs.

**Chat monitoring:** You can record your children's chat sessions that take place on their own computer. Although most chat programs let you to do this, parental control software may give you the ability to protect the log files from deletion.

There are many different software packages that may include some or all of the features listed above. You may purchase such a software package from a vendor or contact your Internet Service Provider (ISPs) to find out if they offer parental control features with a security software suite for free, or for a small monthly charge. These security suites typically include other important software such as antivirus and firewall protection. The security software sold by vendors often includes antivirus, personal firewall, and parental controls all in one piece of software. For more information, type the phrase "security software suite" or "parental control software" into your favourite search engine.

**Note:** Most search engines give the ability to turn on a safe searching feature. You may be able to select a specific level to filter sites which include inappropriate content. You use this along with parental control software, although many already include a search filtering capability.



## Know the Signs of Internet Child Exploitation

Parents know their children better than anyone else. If you suspect that something is not right, trust your instincts, something is probably wrong. Children may act sad, depressed, fearful or secretive for many reasons, so it is important to try to find out why your child's behaviour might have changed, especially if the changes interfere with your child's life.

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection has created numerous resources to help parents and teachers recognize the signs that children are stressed and/or possibly being exposed to sexually explicit materials. The resources deal with the issue in an age specific way since children's developmental level plays a role in how they might react if exposed to child internet exploitation.

You should become familiar with the following:

Cybertip.ca "Online Luring", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., see [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringPrevention\\_InterventionSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringPrevention_InterventionSheet_en.pdf)

"Kids Being Exposed to Sexually Explicit Material", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_KidsBeingExposedToSexuallyExplicitMaterial\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_KidsBeingExposedToSexuallyExplicitMaterial_en.pdf)

"Luring Prevention Intervention Sheet", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringPrevention\\_InterventionSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringPrevention_InterventionSheet_en.pdf)

"Internet Safety Tools for Parents Ages 5-7", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_InternetSafetyTools\\_5-7\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_InternetSafetyTools_5-7_en.pdf)

"Internet Safety Tools for Parents Ages 8-9", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_InternetSafetyTools\\_8-9\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_InternetSafetyTools_8-9_en.pdf)

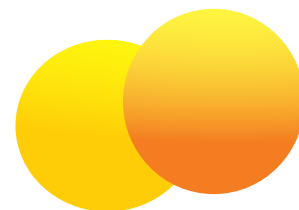
"Safety Tools for Parents Ages 10-11", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_InternetSafetyTools\\_10-11\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_InternetSafetyTools_10-11_en.pdf)

"Safety Tools for Parents Ages 11-12", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_InternetSafetyTools\\_11-12\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_InternetSafetyTools_11-12_en.pdf)

"Safety Tools for Parents Ages 13-15", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_InternetSafetyTools\\_13-15\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_InternetSafetyTools_13-15_en.pdf)

"Cellphone Safety", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/parent/10-12/mobility\\_safety](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/parent/10-12/mobility_safety)

"Internet Safety Guide for Parents (Ages 8-9, 10-11, 11-12, 13-15)", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., <http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en>



## Tips for Parents and Others to Prevent Child Internet Exploitation

This information was compiled and adapted from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's online resources. See Ref #15, 16, 17 and 18

**Be involved.** Although children may resist their parents' efforts to be involved in their life and oversee their online activities, it is important to have that presence. Remind your children that not everyone they come into contact with online is who they say they are. Let them know you plan to monitor their online activities because you care about their safety and well-being.

**Supervise.** Although this may not make you popular, monitor your child's online activities and cell phone usage. When children are younger, you can do this by having the computer in a high-traffic area in your home. Teens may try to push boundaries online especially if they think nobody is watching. Have access to your children's passwords to all their social media accounts and devices. Check chat log histories on social networking accounts and review cell phone texting history. Research shows that being present and setting limits to protect your child does act as a protective factor.

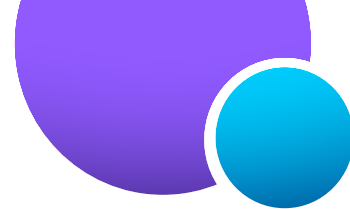
**Talk to other parents.** It may help if you talk about any concerns you have with the parents of your child's friends.

**Use Parental Controls.** Depending on the age of your children, you can use control software to block adult content.

**Explain the dangers.** It is important that children understand that the Internet is not a private place. Whatever they say or post online is likely to be seen by others. There are people who try to exploit children when they have access to private information. As your children get older, you can explain risks in more detail. Emphasize that children should never send anyone naked pictures of themselves, etc. Talk to you children about the ways that adults might try to lure children into engaging in sexual activity or even meeting up.

**Require permission.** Your children, especially younger children should never share any personal information, pictures or videos without your permission or the permission of another safe adult. Children sometimes respond impulsively to texts or emails. Explain that there is no need or urgency to respond to messages, especially when they make a child feel uncomfortable, scared or unsure. Youth do sometimes meet new friends online. Explain that it could be dangerous to do this and they should always get a parent's permission first. See the **Tips for Staying Safe When Meeting an Online Friend.**





**Discuss the difference between a friend and a stranger.** Children online may accept requests to be friends with dozens of people. Explain that these people are not friends. Their friends are people they know – other children they go to school with, play sports with and so on. Someone you meet online is a stranger.

**No secrets.** Talk to your child about what they should do if they do come across sexual content (adult pornography) online. Discuss what they should do if someone asks them to expose themselves online. Emphasize that it is dangerous to keep secrets about these requests. Reassure your child that you will not be angry with them.

**Don't overreact.** If your child does disclose something, like viewing explicit sexual content or talking with a stranger on the webcam, don't become angry with your child. Children and youth are not to blame for an adult's attempts to groom or lure them. Know how to get help for your child and where to report such inappropriate contact.

**Explain the value of privacy.** Teach your child to value their privacy and that of their friends. Explain that once they share information it is impossible to control what happens to it and others can easily misuse the information online. It can end up in very public forums for everyone to see. This may cause humiliation and shame.

**Emphasize the importance of respect.** As children get older continue to foster a core set of positive and healthy values around friendship and relationships. Encourage respectful and safe behaviour along with critical thinking about what they post and see online. That means not participating in activity that might be characterized as cyber-bullying. Explain that if they feel uncomfortable with a relationship or someone they are chatting with online, they have the power to end it, for example, by unfriending and blocking that person.

**Know the law on child internet exploitation.** Teach your child that it is illegal to make, possess or distribute sexually explicit pictures of children under 18 – including their own pictures or those of a girl/boy friend. Make sure they know that it is also against the law to threaten someone else, even online. If they see this kind of content encourage them to tell a parent or a safe adult. Be sure they know that if they send inappropriate emails, they can be tracked. [For instructions on capturing and copying email message source information visit: [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ncecc-cncee](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ncecc-cncee) ]

**Set limits for Internet and cell phone use.** Set boundaries about when and where cell phones and mobile devices may be turned on. This just might help your teen to get the extra sleep they need to function well. Be sure to stick to these limits and impose some consequences when they are not followed. To help you with this, consider using the contract on the next page. It was compiled with information from other sources.

(See Ref #14) This contract is also available online at [www.youthjusticenb.ca](http://www.youthjusticenb.ca) .

# Contract

## Safe Internet Use

NAME OF YOUTH : \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Read this contract with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and then initial each item to show you understand and agree on the rules for safe internet use.

- A. Having a computer or cell phone is a privilege and I must use them appropriately. **INITIAL:** \_\_\_\_\_
- B. I will be careful about the pictures and texts that I send others. They are not private. They could be posted online or shared with others. **INITIAL:** \_\_\_\_\_
- C. If someone sends me pictures or texts that make me feel uncomfortable, I know I can talk to a **safe adult** about it. **INITIAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MY SAFE ADULT IS:** \_\_\_\_\_
- D. To access the Internet, I agree with my parent(s)/guardian to follow the Rules below: **INITIAL** \_\_\_\_\_

1. I agree to limit my texting (sending and receiving) and online activity to \_\_\_\_\_ number of minutes per day.
2. I will turn my computer and cell phone off by \_\_\_\_\_ PM each night.
3. I realize pictures I send to friends with my electronic devices are not private. Even if they promise not to share them, they might, so I will be careful to send only appropriate pictures.
4. I know I can talk to my parent(s)/guardian(s) if I see, read or receive anything on my computer or phone that I do not like or that makes me feel uncomfortable or threatened.
5. I understand that my parent(s)/guardian(s) will be monitoring my computer and cell phone use.
6. I will make sure my cell phone is turned off during school hours so I am not distracted in class.
7. Whenever I can go on the Internet, I will follow the rules set out in my this Contract.
8. I understand that if I cannot follow these rules, I will lose the privilege of using my computer or cell phone - even if I help pay for my cell phone plan.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to follow all of the above rules.

**SIGNED BY NAME OF YOUTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

For the parent(s)/guardian(s):

I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to help you follow these rules.



Public Legal Education  
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of New Brunswick



#### Published by

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## What You Can Do If You Believe Someone is Exploiting your Child Online:

If you discover that your child has been exposed to explicit sexual content or that someone has been attempting to lure your child into sexual activity, try to stay calm and explain to your child what this means. Let your child know that no matter what happened, it is not your child's fault. It is the adult's fault. Reassure your child that you are going to get through it together. You may have to seek professional support from a therapist for your family and your child to help deal with the situation.

Even though your child may not want you to take action, explain what you are going to do to report the abuse. Reassure the child that you will be careful in sharing the information. Consider the following (for more information see **Reporting and Getting Help**):

- Call the police or RCMP.
- Talk to your nearest Victim Services Office to find out how they can help and support children who are victims of child sexual exploitation.
- Contact the Internet Service Provider.
- Report the abuse to [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca)





## What You Can Say to Teens About Sexting

Teens may believe that sending nude pictures of themselves to trusted friends is harmless. Explain the following:

- Once you sext nude photos of yourself to anyone, you lose control of them forever. Those images could become public, whether by accident (i.e. a lost or stolen cell phone with your image on it) or on purpose. This could lead to unexpected consequences.
- You may trust your girlfriend or boyfriend, but if the relationship breaks up, that person may decide to share your nude pictures with large numbers of people including family, friends and people who the teen would not want to have access to them - like future employers.
- Sexting (taking, sending or receiving) images of a sexual nature of people under the age of 18, violates Canadian child pornography laws. That means even if you did not take the picture, if someone sends it to you and you share the photos with others, you are breaking the law too. And this activity may be considered cyber-bullying.





## What You Can Say to Teens About Safety When Meeting an Online Friend

Everyone recognizes that young children should never meet up with strangers. However, teens do meet new friends online and it would be offsetting to tell your child that it is NEVER acceptable to get together with another youth you met online.

Here are some rules from the **Internet Safety: Tips for Teens** booklet that should help make this a much safer action. You should review these rules with your teen.

1. **Get permission from your parents.** Always tell your parents or a safe adult where you are going and who you'll be with. Check in with them at set times.
2. **Take time to get to know each other.** Emphasize how important it is to get to know a new online friend. Encourage your teen to ask lots of questions. Explain that youth may agree to meet someone they think is their own age only to end up in a very uncomfortable, scary situation with an older adult.
3. **Don't go alone.** No matter how long you talk online, if you decide to meet up, bring along a trusted friend or go out with a group of people. Make sure you meet in a public place where there will be other people close by, such as a restaurant or a teen centre. Arrange your own transportation and don't offer to pick up the other person, or invite him/her to meet you at your house.
4. **Trust your instincts.** If something does not feel right, it probably isn't. Leave as soon as possible.
5. **Be careful with your personal information.** Until you get to know the person better, do not give out your address or any information which would help someone find you. If you want this person to call you, be safe and use your cell phone number. People can find where you live from your home phone number.



## Reporting and Getting Help

### REPORT the abuse to Cybertip.ca

You can report the sexual exploitation and luring of youth under 18 years of age on Canada's online reporting website: [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca). So, if someone has made inappropriate contact of a sexual nature online with your child, or if you come across child pornography, luring or child prostitution on the web, fill out an online reporting form on Cybertip.ca. In addition to its reporting service, Cybertip.ca offers information for parents on perpetrator profiles and what to watch out for.

### NOTIFY your Internet Service Provider

Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) will have policies and protocols around blocking or filtering abusive content. Contact them directly to find out more about the tools available to help protect you online.

### SEEK help and guidance for your child

The emotional impact of sexual exploitation can be devastating. Help your child to reach out. Share information on safe and credible places where he or she can find counselling. Some services available in NB, include:

- **Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868):** Offers free, anonymous, confidential and non-judgmental counseling and support to youth under 21. The website covers a variety of topics, including bullying, dating relationships, family violence and abuse. [www.kidshelpphone.ca/Teens/Home.aspx](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/Teens/Home.aspx)
- **Chimo Helpline (1-800-667-5005):** Crisis intervenors are available to give you immediate support or refer you to services in your area 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For a better idea of the services they offer, check out [www.chimohelpline.ca](http://www.chimohelpline.ca)
- **Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre 24 Hour Crisis Line (506-454-0437):** Anyone who has experienced sexual violence can call the crisis line for referrals and information. There is also confidential counselling available for women and girls in crisis.

### TELL the local Police or RCMP

If someone connects with your child online and tries to push the boundaries of acceptable behaviour, such as asking them to do secretive things, you should tell the local police or RCMP. If you feel a child is in danger and needs help right away CALL 911!

### CALL the Victim Services Office

As part of your interaction with the police, you can get information and support services for your child about sexual exploitation from your provincial Victim Services Office. Look in the provincial Blue Pages of your phone book under Victim Assistance Services or check out:

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public\\_safety/safety\\_protection/content/victim\\_services.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/public_safety/safety_protection/content/victim_services.html)

## Websites That Teach Children Online Safety

**Cyber Safe Girl:** This site provides information to girls, parents and educators about how girls can be safe online from cyber violence, sexual risk and harm and sexual predators.

[www.cybersafegirl.ca](http://www.cybersafegirl.ca)

**The Door that's Not Locked:** This Internet safety site offers an array of brochures, interactive activities, safety tips and guidelines. This site offers a range of age-specific safety tips and guidelines for younger children. [www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca)

**Internet Safety:** The RCMP's website has lots of information on Internet exploitation of youth and tips for Internet safety. [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/is-si/index-eng.htm](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/is-si/index-eng.htm)

**Need Help Now:** This site helps youth who have been involved in self or peer exploitation (i.e. "sexting"). It explains what you can do to remove Internet photos and get your peers to stop spreading your pictures. [www.needhelpnow.ca](http://www.needhelpnow.ca)

**Smartphone Safety:** Highlights the risks that come with mobile phone technology, and offers strategies to combat them. It is co-hosted by Cybertip.ca, and links directly to their reporting service for the abuse and exploitation of children online. [www.mobility.protectchildren.ca/app/en](http://www.mobility.protectchildren.ca/app/en)

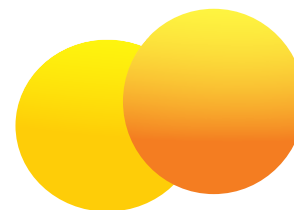
**TextED:** Lots of information for young people to explore, including discussion pages, an 'Acronictionary' with hundreds of text acronyms, guidelines for safe texting, and an ongoing competition for the best responses to inappropriate texts. [www.texted.ca](http://www.texted.ca)

**Youth Justice NB:** New Brunswick's own website for youth and the law. [www.youthjusticenb.ca](http://www.youthjusticenb.ca)

**Zoe and Molly Online:** This site is geared towards kids in grades 3-4. It offers resources for parents and educators including two comic books, lesson plans, and at-home activities, along with a section of the site that's just for kids, including an online storybook and a number of interactive activities. [www.zoeandmolly.ca](http://www.zoeandmolly.ca)

**Be Smart, Strong & Safe:** This website aims to prevent child abuse and exploitation by educating youth in grades 5-6 about healthy/unhealthy relationships and respecting/breaking personal boundaries. The site offers several lesson plans and an activity book. [www.smartstrongsafe.ca](http://www.smartstrongsafe.ca)

**Respect Yourself:** Raises awareness on the dangers of sending self-shots and videos to friends online. Uses real-life stories and cool downloads, to emphasize self-respect and safe boundaries for online exploration. [www.respectyourself.ca](http://www.respectyourself.ca)



## References

The following are references to the resources that were reproduced or adapted throughout this guide.

**Ref #1** Adapted from "*Internet Safety Guide for Parents of Children (ages 8-9, 10-12 and 13-15)*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at <http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en> on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #2** Reproduced from "*The Door that's not Locked Safety and the Internet: A Guide for parents of children 8 to 9 Years of Age*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_SafetyAndTheInternet\\_8-9\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_SafetyAndTheInternet_8-9_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #3** Reproduced from "*The Door that's not Locked Safety and the Internet: A Guide for parents of children 8 to 9 Years of Age*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_SafetyAndTheInternet\\_8-9\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_SafetyAndTheInternet_8-9_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

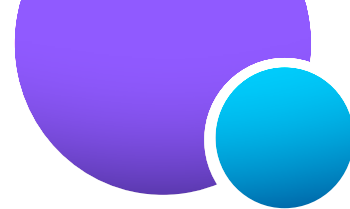
**Ref #4** Adapted from "*The Door that's not Locked, Kids Being Exposed to Sexually Explicit Material Online*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_KidsBeingExposedToSexuallyExplicitMaterial\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_KidsBeingExposedToSexuallyExplicitMaterial_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #5** Reproduced from "*Top 5 risks to Canadian Children on the Internet*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringSafetySheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringSafetySheet_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #6** Adapted from Cybertip.ca, Luring Prevention Intervention Sheet: "*What can parents do to help keep their teens safe online*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringSafetySheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringSafetySheet_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #7** Reproduced from: Cybertip.ca "*Online Luring*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringPrevention\\_InterventionSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringPrevention_InterventionSheet_en.pdf) on January 20, 2014.

**Ref #8** Adapted from "*Internet Safety Guide for Parents of Children (ages 8-9, 10-12)*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at <http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en> on January 29, 2014.



**Ref #9** Adapted from "*The Door that's not Locked, The Vulnerability of Adolescents*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_VulnerabilityOfAdolescents\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_VulnerabilityOfAdolescents_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #10** Reproduced from: Cybertip.ca "*Online Luring*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringPrevention\\_InterventionSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringPrevention_InterventionSheet_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #11** Reproduced from "*Top 5 risks to Canadian children on the Internet*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/top5\\_risk](https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/top5_risk) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #12** Compiled with information from "*Common Lures*" accessed online at [https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/safety\\_sheet\\_common\\_lures](https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/safety_sheet_common_lures) on January 29, 2014 and "*Media Fact Sheet: Common Lures*", accessed online at [https://missingkids.ca/pdfs/MK\\_CommonLures\\_en.pdf](https://missingkids.ca/pdfs/MK_CommonLures_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014, both being publications of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.

**Ref #13** Compiled with information from "*A Resource guide for Families Addressing Self/Peer Exploitation*", accessed online at [https://needhelpnow.ca/pdfs/SPEX\\_FamilyGuide\\_Web\\_en.pdf](https://needhelpnow.ca/pdfs/SPEX_FamilyGuide_Web_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014, "*Cellphone Safety Ages 10-12*" accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/everyone\\_else/10-12/mobility\\_safety](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/everyone_else/10-12/mobility_safety) on January 29, 2014, both being publications of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.; and "*Sexualityandu.ca Sexting: Considerations for Canadian Youth*", Sex Information and Education Council of Canada, accessed online at <http://sexualityandu.ca/uploads/files/CTRsextingEnglishApril2011.pdf> on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #14** Compiled with information from "*The Door that's not Locked contract for Internet Use*", accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_ContractForInternetUse\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_ContractForInternetUse_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014 and "*The Door that's not Locked Contract for Cellphone Use*", accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_ContractForInternetUse\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_ContractForInternetUse_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014, both being publications of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc.

**Ref #15** Reproduced from Cybertip.ca "*Online Luring*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringPrevention\\_InterventionSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringPrevention_InterventionSheet_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

**Ref #16** Reproduced from "*The Door that's not Locked Kids Being Exposed to Sexually Explicit Material*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL\\_KidsBeingExposedToSexuallyExplicitMaterial\\_en.pdf](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/pdfs/TDTNL_KidsBeingExposedToSexuallyExplicitMaterial_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.



Ref #17 Reproduced from "*Luring Prevention Intervention Sheet*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP\\_LuringPrevention\\_InterventionSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.cybertip.ca/pdfs/CTIP_LuringPrevention_InterventionSheet_en.pdf) on January 29, 2014.

Ref #18 Adapted from: "*Internet Safety Guide for Parents (Ages 8-9, 10-11, 11-12, 13-15)*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at <http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/> on January 29, 2014.

Ref #19 Adapted from: "*Internet Safety Guide for Parents of Children: Parental Control Solutions (8-9)*", Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc., accessed online at [http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/parent/8-9/parental\\_controls](http://www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca/app/en/parent/8-9/parental_controls) on January 29, 2014.







# **Child Internet Safety**

A guide for parents, caregivers, teachers and  
others who work with children and youth



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