

PRESENTED BY THE NEW
YORK STATE INITIATIVE TO
PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE
NOVEMBER

**WHAT PEDIATRIC
PRACTITIONERS NEED TO KNOW
TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND
PATIENTS TO PREVENT ON-LINE
SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION.**

*Brought to
you by:*



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**New York State Initiative to
Prevent Child Sexual Abuse**



The initiative is dedicated to the prevention of all forms of child sexual abuse throughout the state of New York through advancing research, policy, education and practice. We are organized as a cooperative initiative to provide state-of-the-art theory and research-based knowledge to inform, guide, and empower the public, professionals, and all those who serve children and families at all levels and sectors of society, toward the elimination of child sexual abuse. The initiative is comprised of leaders in the field of child maltreatment, child protection, and promotion of well-being in children and families.

**Learn more about us:
www.nypreventsexabuse.org**

YOUR PRESENTERS

Janet Rosenzweig Ph.D, MPA

- Author, *The Sex-Wise Parent* – www.sexwiseparent.com
- Executive Committee, The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation www.PreventTogether.org
- Original credentials as a sex educator, followed by years in public human services, and serving national child welfare NGOs

Trevor Raushi, MS

- Assistant Vice President, The New York Foundling's Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) www.nyfoundling.org
- Co-Chair, New York State Initiative to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse www.nypreventsexabuse.org

DANGERS FACING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ONLINE

TREVOR RAUSHI

TECHNOLOGY & YOUTH EXPERIENCES

- 40% of 9–12-year-olds turned to offline support such as a parent, caregiver, or other trusted adult, when they encountered a potentially harmful experience online. (Thorn, 2023)
- One in three 9–12-year-olds say they consider friends they made online to be some of their closest friends. (Thorn, 2023)
- 40% of minors have experienced cold solicitations for nudes online, including roughly 1 in 4 (28%) of 9-12-year-olds. (Thorn, 2023)
- One in four 9-12-year-olds see it as normal for kids their age to date adults aged 18-20. (Thorn, 2023)

NY STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Male, Age 8, September 2022

Child stated that while playing the game Fortnite, a user he didn't know asked him to send "inappropriate things" to him. Child stated the user asked him to call him "Daddy" and said "inappropriate" things to him. The child told his Mom and then his Mom blocked the user. Child hasn't been allowed to play Fortnite since.

Female, Age 8, October 2022

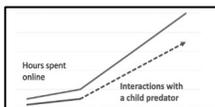
Child stated she was playing Roblox when she was put into a chat where there was "a lot of inappropriate stuff and a lot of men." The child was asked for her email and address. Child stated she was "teleported to a very weird place." The child informed her mom about this and has made a new Roblox account.

Male, Age 9, November 2022

Child disclosed that "while I was playing my video games last night, I was waiting for my friends to join and then a user I didn't know invited me to play with them." Child stated, "I went to play and then the gamer started messaging me and asking me random questions." Child added that "the person was asking me how old I was and where I live." The child told the user what they were asking was "TP" which the child explained means "too personal." The child stated he left the game and went back to waiting for his friends.

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM/STATISTICS

1. Tips to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children nearly doubled between 2019 and 2020.
2. The majority of online sexual advances toward children occur in the chat feature of a game or social media app.
3. Some of these games have built-in privacy settings and content restrictions; those only block so much.



FORTNITE
ROBLOX
CALL OF DUTY



CURRENT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THE MAJORITY OF VICTIMIZATION COMES FROM PEERS

Peer Victimization

Perpetrators' Identity in Online Crimes Against Children: A Meta-Analysis

Samantha Sutton¹ and David Finkelhor²

Abstract
While most public attention about online victimization against children has been centered on digital child predators, there are actually more than 10 million reports of children being victimized by peers online. A meta-analysis of 32 studies found that 68% of online offenders against children are acquaintances and family members, 44% of offenders are themselves juveniles. Excluding police samples, the juvenile offenders are 63%. The stereotype of the adult stranger perpetrator does not represent the true diversity of the problem of online crimes against children. (NCMEC officials report this study is retrospective interviews.)

Samantha Sutton & David Finkelhor: Perpetrators' Identity in Online Crimes Against Children: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 1-13, 2023.

- This meta analysis of 32 police and survey studies shows that 68% of online offenders against children are acquaintances and family members. 44% of offenders are themselves juveniles. Excluding police samples, the juvenile offenders are 63%.
- The stereotype of the adult stranger perpetrator does not represent the true diversity of the problem of online crimes against children.
- (NCMEC officials report this study is retrospective interviews.)

UNDERSTANDING SEXTORTION

- NCMEC defines it as "a form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public nude or sexual images of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from the child."
- Sextortion cases have doubled between 2019 and 2021, and teenage boys are the most common targets, according to NCMEC.
- Victims have committed suicide rather than face their families and communities.
- Predators use a child's sexual arousal to trap them.

CALL TO ACTION!

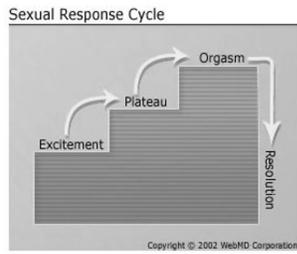
- The most damaging impact of 'sextortion' of any kind is the shame felt by the victim when they are exposed.
- Set a norm for your family – which will impact your community – that we empathize with victims and NEVER shame them.
- Encourage schools, youth services agencies and other places serving children and youth to do likewise.

STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

1) ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY

PHYSICAL FACTS WITH EMOTIONAL IMPACT FACT 1:

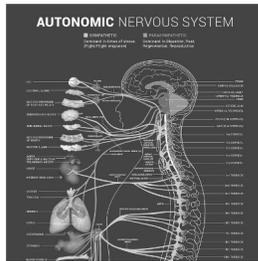
The human body will react to various kinds of stimulation with very specific physical manifestations.



PHYSICAL SEXUAL AROUSAL

The Autonomic Nervous System:

The part of the nervous system responsible for control of the bodily functions not consciously directed, such as breathing, the heartbeat, and digestive processes.



KEY WORDS!

...not consciously directed, such as breathing, the heartbeat, and digestive processes.

Physical sexual arousal is an autonomic response.

KEY REASONS WHY KIDS NEED TO KNOW THIS

- Victims may experience a physical, sexual/genital response while being victimized.
- Predators may use the response against them, convincing the child they are a willing participant because they 'enjoyed' the act.

KEY REASONS WHY KIDS NEED TO KNOW THIS

- Victims may experience a physical, sexual/genital response while being victimized.
- This is wildly confusing for children who have experienced sexual abuse prevention education as only 'good touch/bad touch'.



KEY REASONS WHY KIDS NEED TO KNOW THIS

- Kids may confuse a physical/genital sexual response for an emotional attachment, making them vulnerable to predators.
- Adolescents and teens are particularly vulnerable.
- Physical sexual arousal decreases sexual self restraint.
- Physical sexual arousal may lead a victim to believe they participated in a sinful/forbidden act, unnecessarily adding to guilt and confusion.



ACCOUNT FROM A VICTIM

Child TV star describes being molested by his pedophile

"Pull your pants down," he said.

I didn't want to lose everything he had given me. And so I did.

He put his mouth on me. I got hard. I didn't know where to look or how to feel.

I squirmed against the back of the seat. He kept on going, getting into it.

I hoped it would be over fast.

Then it happened. I came.

As confused and upset as I was, I liked the feeling.

"No one had ever talked to me about sex before, but somehow I knew it was wrong for a man to do that to a boy. I was really confused because having an orgasm had felt good."

Bridges, Todd with Sarah Tomlinson. Killing Willi. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2010. Page 68.

KEY REASON WHY PARENTS NEED TO KNOW THIS

- It is unhealthy to raise children who learn to associate negative emotions with their sexual/genital arousal.
- Fear, guilt and shame have no place in sexual health and safety.
 - At best, these negative emotions interfere with healthy age-appropriate sexual relationships.
 - At worst, a child can grow into someone who needs these negative emotions to experience sexual arousal.

LET'S GO BACK TO PSYCH 101 FOR A MOMENT

- Operant conditioning is a learning method in which a specific behavior is associated with either a positive or negative consequence. Thus, this form of learning links the taking of certain voluntary actions with receiving either a reward or punishment, often to strengthen or weaken **voluntary** behaviors.
 - Think B. F. Skinner...
- Classical conditioning is a learning process focused more so on **involuntary behaviors, using associations with neutral stimuli to evoke a specific involuntary response.**
 - Think Pavlov...

STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

2) UNDERSTANDING THE ON-LINE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS THREATS TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

EDUCATE

Parents/caregivers may take the step to educate themselves first:

- Search online for articles about kids and social media - read and learn!
- Talk to other parents about their experiences.
- Try out some of the apps and then talk to their own child about how they are using that app.

Parents/caregivers may then feel more comfortable educating their children:

- Use correct anatomical terms when referring to all body parts.
- Talk about risks affiliated with sharing personal information & photos online. Use real-life examples from the news & media.
- Set up a system to monitor their child and let them know you are doing just that.
- Encourage their child's school to help educate kids about social media use.

COMMUNICATE

Emphasize the importance of communication to parents/caregivers...

- Make communication a priority
- Research shows that only 25% of children who receive online sexual solicitation tell a parent/caregiver
- One of the best things parents can do is ensure their child feels comfortable talking to them if they are ever approached in person or online
- Never too soon to begin having these conversations

Hey, what's the deal with this Roblox game you like so much? How does it work?



I play games with friends, dress-up my avatar, and collect tokens!



HELP

Parents/caregivers should strive to be seen as the primary "helper" for their child...

- It is important for your child to understand that if they are ever in an unsafe or dangerous situation, they can come to you for help.
- Tell your child if they get in trouble, you will help them and stand by their side.
- Tell your child that if a friend is in trouble, to tell you or another adult.
- Teach your child to report to an adult inappropriate images and posts, and to never, ever repost or forward them.

REMEMBER!

ONLINE PREDATORS
WILL COUNT ON A
CHILD'S FEAR AND
HESITATION TO ASK
THEIR
PARENT/CAREGIVER
FOR HELP

OBSERVE

Parents/caregivers are urged to observe their child's behavior...

- Closing down the computer in your presence
- Not wanting to let you look at their phone
- Sleep deprivation signs (dark circles under the eyes, falling asleep at odd times)
- Social isolation
- Refusal to communicate with you
- Skittishness
- Changed passwords or suddenly deleted accounts

REMIND PARENTS
& CAREGIVERS
TO CONSIDER THAT A
CHANGE IN THEIR
CHILD'S BEHAVIOR,
MOOD, OR ATTITUDE
COULD BE CAUSED
BY AN ONLINE
INTERACTION OR
RELATIONSHIP

E.C.H.O. REVIEW

- **Educate:**
 - Parents/caregivers should educate themselves on these topics before educating their children.
 - Parents may explain to their child about privacy and protecting their identity by not disclosing their name, address, present location, school they attend, or phone number when online.
- **Communicate:**
 - When supporting parents, emphasize the importance of communication with their children.
 - Parents can try to engage their children in discussions about what they view/do online so that they are able to share both their negative and positive experiences. Parents should want to build trust with their child.
- **Help:**
 - It is important for parents to be willing to help their child should they run into a problem online.
 - Establish a supportive environment so the child feels safe going to their caregiver when they are in need of help.
- **Observe:**
 - Observing any changes in behavior from your child can help you determine if there is something wrong.
 - There are common behaviors that indicate that there is abuse occurring.

MODELING "E.C.H.O." FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
AUDITORY LEARNING CLIP

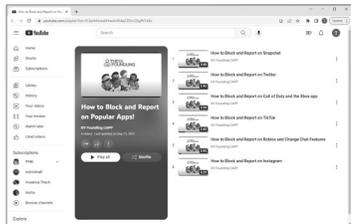
 **NEGATIVE PARENTAL RESPONSE**

 **POSITIVE PARENTAL RESPONSE**

HOW TO BLOCK/REPORT ON POPULAR APPS
VIDEO TUTORIAL: TIKTOK



HOW TO BLOCK/REPORT ON POPULAR APPS
VIDEO TUTORIALS



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CG0idm3F7E&list=PLVplhNnka0HneAr064qFZSEvQ5gtN7a9o

IF A CHILD IS CONTACTED ONLINE

WHAT TO DO

Guidelines from Department of Homeland Security

If you suspect your child has been approached by an online predator **and** there has been a history of communication:

1. Do not block/delete any information or account from the device.
2. Ask your child for any passcodes.
3. Put the device on airplane mode (to block all network connections).
4. Call law enforcement.

Nation Center for Missing & Exploited Children Cyber Tipline: www.report.cybertip.org

RESOURCES

FOR PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

A CHILD'S IMAGES ARE SHARED ON-LINE

WHAT TO DO



www.Takeitdown.ncmec.org They will also serve adults whose images were shared before they were 18.

A CHILD'S IMAGES ARE SHARED ON-LINE

WHAT TO DO



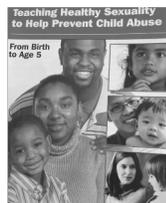
www.troopers.ny.gov/internet-crimes-against-children

RESOURCES

FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS TO USE AND SHARE WITH FAMILIES!

HOW CAN WE HELP PARENTS DO BETTER?

- Put information where parents will find it
The internet has not killed pamphlets!
- See what the AAP has to say about healthy sexual development:
 - www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Sexual-Abuse.aspx
 - www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/puberty/Pages/Talking-to-Your-Child-About-Sex.aspx
 - www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/multiplayer-games-online-how-to-help-keep-kids-safe.aspx



NEW!!! FROM THE NY STATE INITIATIVE TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE!



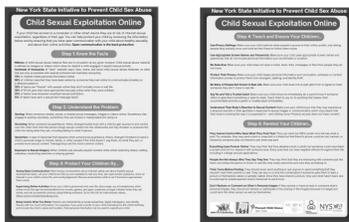
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www.nypreventsexabuse.org

HEALTHY SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT TIPS & TALKING POINTS FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS



CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ONLINE TIPS & TALKING POINTS FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS





THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY CAN PROMOTE SEXUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY -- SUPPORT PARENTS AS THEIR CHILDREN PRIMARY SEX EDUCATORS!



Advocate for resources in faith based, health and community organizations to support parents to become the primary sex educators of their children

ABOUT THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING'S INTERNET SAFETY PARENT/COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Objectives

- Provides participants with relevant statistics regarding child sex abuse internet sexual exploitation, as well as some real-life examples from our own work with young children and survivors of childhood sexual abuse.
- Demonstrates effective, age-appropriate ways of talking to children about child sex abuse and online safety.
- Increase parents/caregivers' familiarity with the tech devices and apps young children are using and increase their comfort in communicating effectively with their children about online safety.

FACILITATED ON ZOOM 1-2x A MONTH

- Friday, November 17th 9:00am - 10:00am
- Friday, December 8th 9:00am - 10:00am

NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND ACCESSIBLE VIA THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING WEBSITE

www.nyfoundling.org

THANK YOU!!

- For resources and additional information, including these slides:
 - www.sexwiseparent.com/resources
 - DrRosenzweig@SexWiseParent.com
 - www.PreventTogether.org
- For resources from The New York Foundling
 - <https://www.nyfoundling.org/>
- For resources from the NY Initiative to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse
 - <https://www.nypreventsexabuse.org/>
