

Children, young people, and technology

Part 2



Definitions and Key Words

Online Child Exploitation (OCE)

When someone uses technology or the internet to harm a child or young person under the age of 18. This can include pressuring or tricking them and creating or sharing personal photos or videos of them online.

Key Words: exploitation | beware | offenders | usernames | profiles | visible | identify | security settings | inappropriate contact | online grooming | extortion | online blackmail | threaten | technology



What children and young people use on the internet:

Apps (or Applications):

Apps are programs on a phone, tablet, or computer. You can download them from app stores. Apps let you communicate with others, watch videos, play games, shop, do your banking, track exercise and many other activities.

You can help keep your child safe online:

- ✓ Learn about the apps your child uses. Learn what they do. Some apps let people chat or share photos and videos. This will help to understand how the app works and its different features.
- ✓ Make sure privacy settings are on.
 - Go to settings on the device.
 - Type in or look for privacy and security settings and/or parental controls.
 - Choose the setting you wish to turn on.
- ✓ Regularly check the apps your child uses, as the features can change.

➤ Resource: thinkuknow.org.au/find-advice/technology-settings-and-parental-controls



Social media:

Social media can be different websites and apps where profiles or accounts can be created to make and share content and communicate with others.

Examples include Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok.

Many social media platforms are not allowed to let children under the age of 16 create or have a social media account.

You can help keep your child safe online:

- ✓ Check age recommendations for social media sites.
- ✓ Create the social media profile with your child.
- ✓ Make sure privacy settings are on.
 - Go to settings in the social media app.
 - Type in or look for privacy and security settings and/or parental controls.
 - Choose the setting you wish to turn on.
- ✓ Talk to your child about the importance of not sharing personal information. This can include their name, age, suburb in their profile or username and what they are posting online.

➤ Resource: thinkuknow.org.au/sites/default/files/2026-05/ThinkUKnow%20social%20media%20starter%20kit%202026.pdf



Online gaming:

Online gaming involves playing games on devices like computers, game consoles, tablets or mobile phones connected to the internet. These games can be single-player or multiplayer which allows playing the game with other people.

Online games can help children and young people:

- Learn problem-solving skills.
- Connect with others.
- Grow confidence.

You can help keep your child safe online:

- ✓ Learn about the online games your child is playing to understand how it works and what features it has. For example, is it a multiplayer game and does it have a chat function.
- ✓ If the game does have a chat function, think about turning it off if it's not important.

➤ Resource: thinkuknow.org.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/TUK-gaming-devices_202312_web.pdf



Messaging apps:

Messaging apps allow people to talk to others online. You can send direct messages on social media, games, and other apps. You can also video chat if you have a device with a camera. Group chats allow multiple people to communicate together in a shared online space.

You can help keep your child safe online:

- ✓ Talk to your child about the importance of not sharing personal information such as their name, age, address, or where they go to school.
- ✓ Talk to your child about the risks of talking to people online. People can pretend to be someone else.



- ✓ Tell your child to ask for help if they feel unsure or unsafe online. This could include:
 - ✗ Inappropriate contact from someone they may or may not know.
 - ✗ Being asked personal questions.
 - ✗ Being asked to use or move to another app.
 - ✗ Being asked to send personal photos or videos of themselves.

➤ Resource: thinkuknow.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Fact%20sheet%20Instant%20messaging_1.pdf



Image and video sharing:

Image and video sharing involves using devices such as a computer, laptop, tablet or phone to send and receive photos and videos. Sharing photos and videos can be a fun way for children and young people to communicate with friends. Some apps have a 'disappearing' content function, where people can send photos or videos to another person that 'disappear' after a short time. While this may feel private, content can still be saved, recorded or screenshot by others.

You can help keep your child safe:

- ✓ Talk to your child about not sharing images or videos with people they don't know.
- ✓ Cover cameras. For example, use a webcam cover on a laptop.
- ✓ Have conversations with your child about not sharing any personal information such as their name, age, address, school or sporting club name or logo in their photos or video.

▶ Resource: thinkuknow.org.au/find-advice/video-and-image-sharing



ThinkUKnow's top tips for staying safe online



Have open conversations, often: The most important tip we can give you is to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and who they are talking to.

Supervision is essential: This means [knowing what your child is doing online](#), who they are talking to and what platforms, apps or games they are using.

Be approachable if your child needs help: Asking for help is not always easy and your child may not want to tell you about online issues if they believe they will be punished or have their devices taken away. This can also make children and young people more secretive about what they are doing and at greater risk of exploitation.

Check privacy settings: We recommend that you learn and understand app settings, including [privacy settings](#). This could include turning off location settings, setting profiles to private, or turning off chat functions.

Know how to report: If something goes wrong online, it is very important your child is supported. Your child will not get in trouble with the police. They are a victim of a crime. You need to know how to take action and make a [report](#).

How to report:

- ! If a child is in immediate danger, call 000.
- 📍 If you need to report a crime, call your local police station 131 444.
- 🖱️ For online child exploitation, reports can be made to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation using the Report Abuse button at accce.gov.au/report.



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