



# HOW2SPOT ONLINE PREDATORS



*Teens: Some adults can exploit (take advantage of or use) you or your peers in many ways. Sometimes, people who seem safe become unsafe, and they do things or ask you to do things that make you uncomfortable. Police and other adults often call people who do these things predators because they prey on others — but to you, they may just feel like friends or people you know online. They may be friendly, approachable and loving — and they may be someone you already know and trust. Know2Protect is here to help you spot online predators and keep you safe.*

## **Safe people won't:**

- ☐ Ask for personal information, such as your phone number or where you live.
- ☐ Share inappropriate images or try to engage you in a sexual conversation.
- ☐ Try to get you to send inappropriate pictures or videos.
- ☐ Threaten or blackmail you to get you to send more inappropriate pictures or videos, money or online gift cards.
- ☐ Ask to meet you in person.

If you feel uncomfortable or suspect a threat, report it to the authorities via the Know2Protect Tipline at **833-591-KNOW** (5669) or call **911**.





# HAVE THE TALK



*Parents and trusted adults: Summer provides a much-needed break for children and teens, but it also brings increased screen time. Set healthy #DigitalBoundaries by discussing your expectations and teaching them to talk to you about suspicious online behavior. Regular reminders help instill safe digital habits.*

## For Tweens and Teens



- Talk about how they should never post personal information or inappropriate content.
  - Discuss sexting and the risks of sharing self-generated intimate images and the permanency of online data.
  - Explain the warning signs that characterize online predators.
  - Tell them that safe adults won't ask them to keep secrets or disrespect their boundaries.
  - Help them identify a trusted adult or guardian they can go to for help.
  - Explain that minors shouldn't disseminate self-generated intimate images because it's illegal.
  - Discuss steps they can take if a friend confides in them about inappropriate online interactions, such as telling a trusted adult or pointing them to Know2Protect resources.
  - Teach them how to avoid online predators by setting up privacy controls on their devices, like restricting apps' location access.
  - Explain that even if they've already shared self-generated intimate images or been involved in inappropriate online interactions, it's not too late to tell an adult and get help.
  - Discuss cyberbullying and its implications.
- To learn more visit [schoolsafety.gov/bullying-and-cyberbullying](https://schoolsafety.gov/bullying-and-cyberbullying).

## For Younger Children



- Teach them what pop-ups are and why they should never click on them.
- Create a series of steps they should follow if they see inappropriate content, such as looking away and telling a parent or trusted adult.
- Teach online etiquette and how to be respectful of others, and let them know they should tell someone if they feel disrespected.
- Warn them not to trust people they meet online, and tell them they should tell a trusted adult if someone makes them feel nervous, scared or uncomfortable.
- Explain that they should never share passwords, addresses or personal information with people they don't know online.
- Help them identify a trusted adult or guardian they can go to for help.

