

Online Solicitation

Take our Survey!



Did You Know?



People will look at their cell phones an estimated 144 times a day and spend an average of four and a half hours on their phones every day.

On average, kids get their first phones at around 11 years old, and by 15, almost all kids own one.



Online solicitation is when someone tries to get you to do something online, usually by encouraging or persuading you. Sometimes, people with bad intentions do this to try to get inappropriate pictures from younger people.

Grooming Tactics

Predators are good at spotting vulnerabilities and using them to take advantage of a child. Here are some common tactics they use to build trust over time:

- Starting a conversation by talking about something that you like or something they pretend to have in common with you.
- Lying about their age—they are adults but will usually tell you they are younger.
- Giving you compliments.
- Buying gifts for you or giving you money.
- Providing you with lots of attention.
- Telling you secrets and asking you not to tell anyone about conversations with them.

What Can Parents and Guardians Do?

- Make sure your child knows they can talk to you if someone is making them feel uncomfortable online.
- Identify other trusted adults that children can turn to if they need help, like teachers or school guidance counselors.
- Encourage open conversations with your child about the importance of not sharing inappropriate photos, but ensure they feel comfortable seeking help if they ever do.



Refer to the Cyber Safe Schools website to access more resources

What did I learn today?

Today we learned more about staying safe online and how to handle people online who might not have good intentions. We learned about “grooming,” which is when someone tries to manipulate or trick young people and those around them. We discussed how this can happen and what to look out for to protect ourselves.

Notes



References

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- National Office for Child Safety. (n.d.). “Grooming.” Retrieved July 2024, from <https://www.childsafety.gov.au/about-child-sexual-abuse/grooming>
- National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. (2024). “What parents need to know about grooming.” <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/grooming/>
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Next Time: 03 - Level Up: Outsmart Gaming Risks

In the next Cyber Safe Schools presentation, we’ll discuss gaming and how to stay safe while playing games online. Students will learn why it is important not to share personal identifying information like their real name or home address. We will also begin talking about cyberbullying.