

HOME LEARNING ACTIVITY FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND CHILDREN

LEARNING ABOUT ONLINE SUPERVISION

K (PREP) – YEAR 2
(AGES 5–8)

THINK
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KNOW



The content within this activity pack references aspects of online child sexual exploitation and online grooming. The activity itself is age appropriate for younger audiences, however the context and information behind it may raise concerns for some readers.

If you need help or support, please refer to the end of this activity pack.

How to use this home learning activity

This home learning activity provides background information for parents/carers to assist them guide their child through learning about the importance of adult supervision when online.

The video provided is designed for co-viewing, with discussion points and conversation guide to assist with learning. Children who have not had previous exposure to technology may need more assistance in understanding key concepts. You may wish to pause the video at times to explain anything confusing or different for your child.

What parents/carers need to know

Supervision for young children can be a significant factor for preventing unwanted contact and online grooming.

Many incidents occur when a child is using the internet alone, without supervision. This could include:

- Uploading private information or images
- Making in-app purchases by mistake
- Engaging with online child sex offenders, in extreme cases.

Supervision can involve:

- Making sure a parent/carer is in the same room as their child, while they are online
- Not allowing devices to be used alone in a closed room, or after a certain time
- Having audio from online games played through speakers, so parents/carers can monitor the conversation
- Regular conversations and monitoring their child's online activities.

Supervision is not only critical to prevent an incident occurring, but also for a trusted adult to provide help if something goes wrong.

It is also important to make your child feel comfortable to approach you or another trusted adult if something isn't right and help them deal with the issue, rather than focusing on the technology itself. Research¹ suggests that children may be reluctant to come forward to their parents/carers for help with online situations if they believe they will be punished or have their device taken away.

Co-viewing activity

The following activity includes a video called James Playing a Game. It is a short animation about an ordinary boy named James and some of the challenges he faces while playing a game online.

Gaming is a popular online activity for young children, and through this video the aim is to demonstrate the correct actions to take if something pops up or unknown characters appear.

Although the video is specific to online gaming, the message can be applied to all types of internet use. The main messages throughout the video include the importance of supervision and seeking help from a trusted adult if you aren't sure about something or another user tries to 'chat' with you.

Ellie the Echidna is introduced as an online safety helper, and will help guide you through the video, asking questions where you can pause and help your child work out the correct answer. Ellie is there to assist you!

The video along with the discussion questions allow for you to engage with your child about the following concepts:

- Asking a trusted adult before going online
- Not giving out any personal information online
- Asking a trusted adult for help.

¹ <https://www.accce.gov.au/news-and-media/understanding-online-child-exploitation>

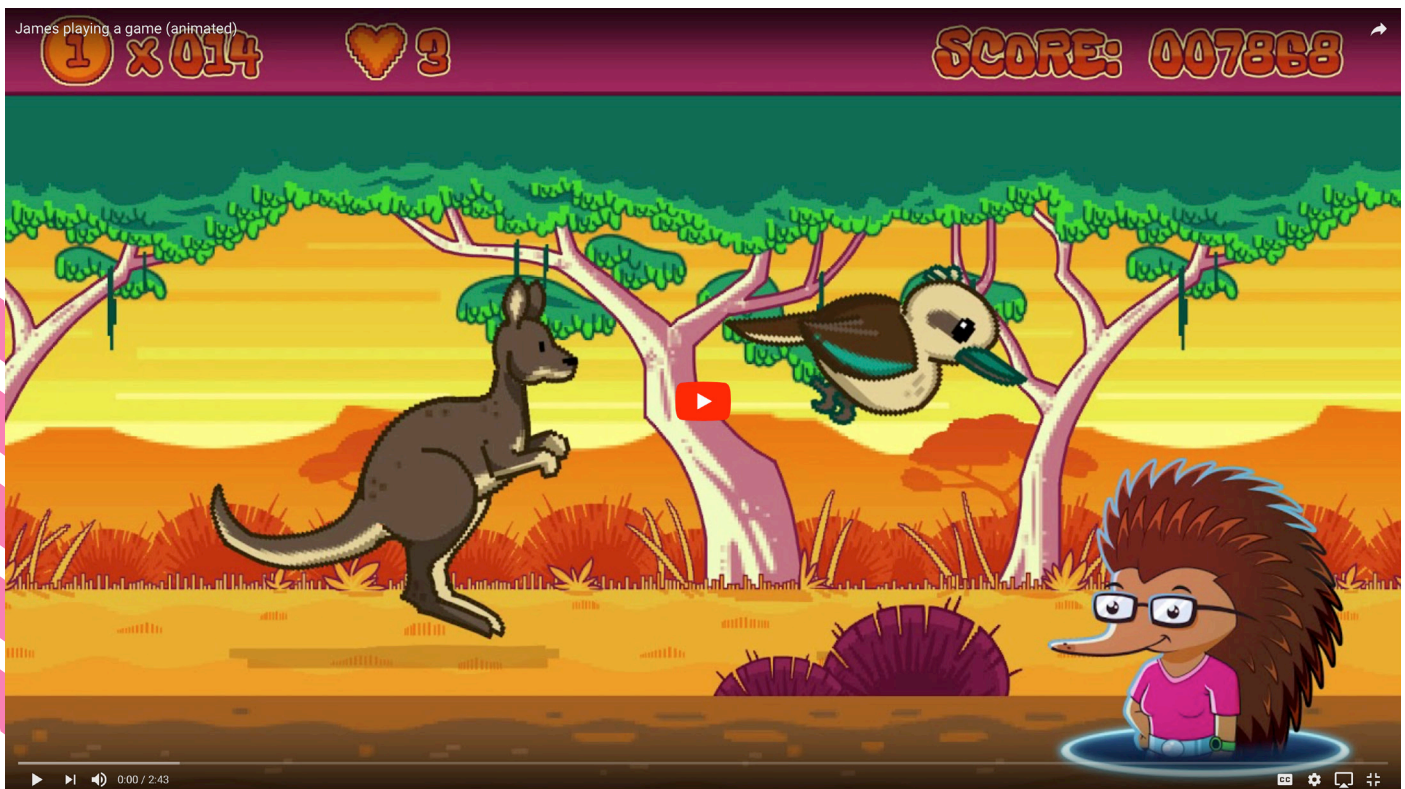
CO-VIEWING ACTIVITY

James playing a game

1. Play the video on the ThinkUKnow YouTube channel (we recommend watching it once yourself beforehand)

Click on the link to watch the video

<https://youtu.be/NwHlhE-AH20>



2. Pause the video when Ellie the Echidna asks questions and help your child work out the correct answer. For example, when she asks:
 - a. “Does James know who’s playing the Kookaburra?” The answer is no!
 - b. “Should James ask his mum for help?” The answer is yes!
3. After the video, you can go into further discussion. Here are some questions you can ask:
 - a. What do you do if you see a pop-up in a game you’re playing?
 - b. What do you do if someone in a game online starts talking to you?
 - c. What do you do if someone asks personal questions like your name, where you live, or go to school?
4. At the end of the activity, we recommend re-enforcing Ellie’s rules for online safety, and the importance of seeking and having supervision.
5. Finish the activity with the Ellie the Echidna colouring in sheet.

TOP TIPS AND GETTING HELP

HERE ARE SOME PREVENTION TIPS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD AND REINFORCE ELLIE'S RULES FOR STAYING SAFE, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE VIDEO:

1. Make sure you ask a trusted adult before going on the internet
2. Do not tell anyone on the internet your name, where you go to school, phone number or address
3. Always tell a trusted adult if someone asks you for this information, they will be proud that you told them about it
4. Always tell a trusted adult if you're unsure about something – they are there to help.



Ellie the Echidna is a friend of Constable Kenny Koala.
To learn more about Ellie, please visit www.constablekenny.org.au

GETTING HELP

- **Kids Helpline** is a free and confidential 24-hour online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5-25 years and even parents. You can call them, or chat to them online.
- Online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming, can be reported to the **Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation**.
- The **ThinkUKnow** website has online resources and information on how to report and get help if things go wrong online.

If a child is in immediate danger, please call Triple Zero (000).

Our partners

