LEARNING ABOUT PERSONAL INFORMATION AND IMAGE SHARING

YEAR 3–4 AND 5–6 (AGES 8–12)

THINK U KNOW

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The content within this activity discusses online child sexual exploitation and online grooming.

The activity itself is age appropriate, 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 basic privacy principles and the importance of keeping personal information private.

The activity included in this pack is designed for co-viewing, with discussion points and conversation guide to assist with learning. The activity provides recommended age segmented discussion points for 8 – 10 year old and 11 – 12 year old audiences. Parents/carers should choose which discussion points are most appropriate for their child.

A note for parents/carers sharing images online

Sharing images, videos and stories about our children on social media can keep family and friends up to date on achievements, milestones and special moments.

However, law enforcement in Australia is seeing some cases of online grooming starting through what parents, carers or family members have posted online, including instances of offenders targeting parents or carers on social media.

The good news is that there are steps you can take to have more control over who sees your content and minimise the risk of unwanted contact.

What parents/carers need to know

Being aware of the information your child could be sharing online is an important consideration for reducing unwanted contact.

In helping children understand what personal information means, it is information that includes your full name, address (location), age and school.

Information can be shared knowingly, or unknowingly through images or videos.

Images in school uniform, at school, or even out the front of a home can all contain personal information about a child and their location.

Your child may also be participating in more interactive calls or conversations online so it is important to consider what information they may be giving out doing this.

Thinking about information sharing is important because when a child shares this about themselves, not only are they providing insight into their lives to others, but they may become a target for unwanted contact.

If your child is using camera apps, it is also important to have a discussion about the types of photos or videos they are taking and what information they contain. You can begin this discussion through our activity.

1. Do a privacy check up on your social media accounts and ensure you have secure privacy settings.

2. It is strongly recommended that you only share images of your children with people you know and trust.

3. If another person is taking photos of your child, consider having a discussion with them around how the photos will be used and how they will be shared.

ACTIVITY

It is important that your child always thinks about what information may be given out to others in photos and videos.
This activity allows you and your child to investigate two similar photos to see what personal information you can find out.
Have your child look at the photos and ask them the following questions:

What is this a photo of?

Answers: 'Selfie', photo of a boy in a park, etc.

What information can we learn from this photo?

Answers: The logo on his school uniform, his first name written on the soccer ball, a sign in the background which says where he is.

What information can't we see in this photo?

Answers: What school he goes to (no school uniform logo), his name (the ball is turned around), his location (we can only tell he is in a park).

TOP TIPS AND GETTING HELP

HERE ARE SOME PREVENTION TIPS, SEGMENTED BY RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP, TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR CHILD REGARDING PERSONAL INFORMATION AND WAYS TO AVOID UNWANTED CONTACT:

Year 3–4
(Ages 8–9)

- Sharing photos and videos can be fun, but we need to think about the type of information we are sharing and who we are sharing that with.
  - There is a big difference between sharing photos and videos with your family and school friends, and a person you have met playing online.
  - It can be hard to know who we are talking to online because we can't actually see them, like we would offline.
- What types of information can be found in photos and videos? Refer to activity above.
- This can also be personal information, which should be kept private.
- You should always say no if someone online you don't know asks you for personal information such as your name, age or location (address).

Year 5–6
(Ages 11–12)

Many young people in this age group may be more active online, including beginning to sign up to social media services.

The below points should be used along with the above discussion points and have been provided to build on critical thinking around sharing information with others on interactive platforms.

- It can be fun taking pictures or videos, making different faces, using filters or doing funny poses on phones or other devices.

  Before sending your content to other people, ask yourself two questions:
  - Why are you sending it?
  - Who are you sending it to?

- If you are creating social media accounts and interacting online, it's important to avoid giving out any personal or identifying information and sending content to people you don't actually know.
- Check your privacy settings and make sure your social media accounts are secure. Make sure you are only sharing information with people you know and trust.
- If someone makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, do something about it and tell a trusted adult straight away. They can support you and help you report the behaviour.
- Remember, you always have the right to feel safe and it is always okay to say no.

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.

- Grooming, sextortion and online child sexual exploitation 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.

- The **eSafety Commissioner** can help with removing content and has advice on what to do if you are a victim of image based abuse.

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

Our partners