

Keeping children safe online

Advice for libraries

While the internet is a great resource for children to learn and play, it also contains inappropriate content that could upset or worry them. Since the coronavirus hit, children and young people have spent an increasing amount of time online, meaning there is a greater chance of children coming across inappropriate content. Children who see such content may have lots of different emotions, such as confusion, shame, guilt, sadness or even excitement.

Inappropriate Content

What does inappropriate content include?

- Online porn
- Sexual abuse and rape
- Self-harm content and tips
- Pro-eating disorder content
- Pro-suicide content
- Cruelty to humans and animals
- Violence and distressing images
- Hate speech
- Terror attacks or bombings



What to do if a child you know has seen or shared inappropriate content

- **Be prepared**
 - Make sure you know and follow your library's safeguarding procedures
 - Familiarise yourself with the Youth Libraries Group [Safe Place for Children guidelines](#)
 - Remember that children under eight should always be accompanied by an adult. If you have any concerns, even about a child over eight left alone all day, alert your local safeguarding board
- **Share your concerns**
 - Inform your line manager, supervisor or a senior staff member **immediately**
 - Contact your local safeguarding board
 - You can also call the NSPCC helpline on **0808 800 5000**
- **Report inappropriate, illegal, explicit, identifying or distressing content**
 - You can report inappropriate content directly on apps, sites and games themselves
 - To report hate speech, go to [True Vision](#)
 - To report online material promoting terrorism or extremism, visit www.gov.uk/report-terrorism
 - To report anything online which causes someone distress or harm, report it to [Report Harmful Content](#)
 - [Contact CEOP](#) to report grooming or inappropriate sexual behaviour online
 - Young people can use IWF and Childline's [Report Remove](#) tool to report nude images or videos of themselves to be taken down from the internet
- **Reassure children that they're not alone**
 - Let children know they can speak to a parent, a trusted adult or Childline
 - They can contact Childline on the phone (**0800 1111**) or [online](#) any time, about anything
- **Learn more about how to protect young people and prevent abuse online**
 - Visit [Net Aware](#), O2 and NSPCC's simple bitesize guide to the latest apps, games and social media sites kids are using
 - Access safeguarding research and reports on the [NSPCC Learning website](#)
 - Take part in the NSPCC's [online safety course](#) to understand how children use the internet and how to respond to risks they may face online