

## Tips for Starting a Conversation About Online Safety

## WHEN TALKING TO YOUTH...

- Think about what you want to say ahead of time, but don't worry about sticking to a script. Let the conversation flow naturally.
- Address feelings, theirs and yours, as they come up.
- Create a safe space for open conversation free from blaming or judgmental language.
- Encourage them to ask questions and answer them as honestly as you can.
- Admit when you don't know something and let them know you will try to find the answer to their question.
- Talk about your values. Explain why rules are in place and why they are important.
- Talk through consequences of actions.
- Don't worry about saying the "right thing", just have an open and honest dialogue.
- Don't wait for the "right time". Have these conversations regularly. Pause movies, TV shows, or online games to talk about what your child is seeing and hearing.

## QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

- What does consent mean to you?
- Have you ever seen anything online that you knew wasn't meant for kids to see?
- What do you like to do on your device?
- What are some good things and not so good things about having social media?
- What would you do if someone online made you feel uncomfortable or weird?
- What would you do if someone was being nice to you online, but then started to harass or threaten you?
- What do you think about talking to people online that you don't know in real life?
- Why do you think someone might send a naked picture to someone else?
- What would you do if someone asked you to send them a naked picture?
- Why do you think people re-share naked pictures of other people?
- What would you do if a naked picture of someone you care about was being shared?