



07.

Kids are regularly connecting with strangers, including the aforementioned sex offenders. It's not only kids' pictures and videos being seen by strangers online. Kids are live broadcasting from their bedrooms and people around the globe — including the aforementioned sex offenders — are watching them as they get ready for school, hang out with friends, sing, play games, sleep (yes, sleep) and more. Parents and teachers are occasionally in their live broadcasts, too, but just don't know it.

08.

Even if you have a great relationship with your kids, they don't want to tell you when something upsetting happens online. They're scared you will overreact, scream, take their device, punish them and possibly humiliate them. They are embarrassed enough already and don't know what to do. Even if you ask, "Is something bothering you?" they likely won't tell you.

09.

It will be ok. Awareness is the first crucial step. Please be aware that these are ever present risks. We suggest you not only talk to your kids about these things but also PRACTICE online safety with them. Teach them to STOP the communication if someone asks them for something personal or is rude, BLOCK that person without feeling bad or guilty about it, and TALK to someone they trust when they need help. Be cool, calm and allow for missteps. Problems will arise but the way you deal with them will make all the difference in the world. Kids can empower themselves with a STOP BLOCK and TALK approach. Repeat it with them and use it and model its use.

10.

We'll say it again: Stay calm. Tell them they can talk to you without feeling ashamed. Tell them you will not yell or blame them and then don't. It wasn't their fault. Our online world is difficult to manage at any age, let alone at 12 years old.

Other Resources:

Cybertips (to report online exploitation):

1-800-843-5678
www.cybertipline.com
www.netsmartz.org
www.fosi.org


For specific guides to apps and games:

www.connectsafely.org
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Go to: Resources / Platform Guides

OTHER HELPFUL INFO:



**STOP BLOCK AND TALK is a program of the
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office**

www.suffolkdistrictattorney.com
617-619-4000 | @StopBlockTalk 



www.suffolkcac.org
617-779-2146