



Middle School Engagement- Grade 8

Dangers of the Internet & Online Predators

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION IS THE SOLUTION

Connect for Freedom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to providing free **online safety** and **human trafficking awareness** materials to education stakeholders.



Lesson

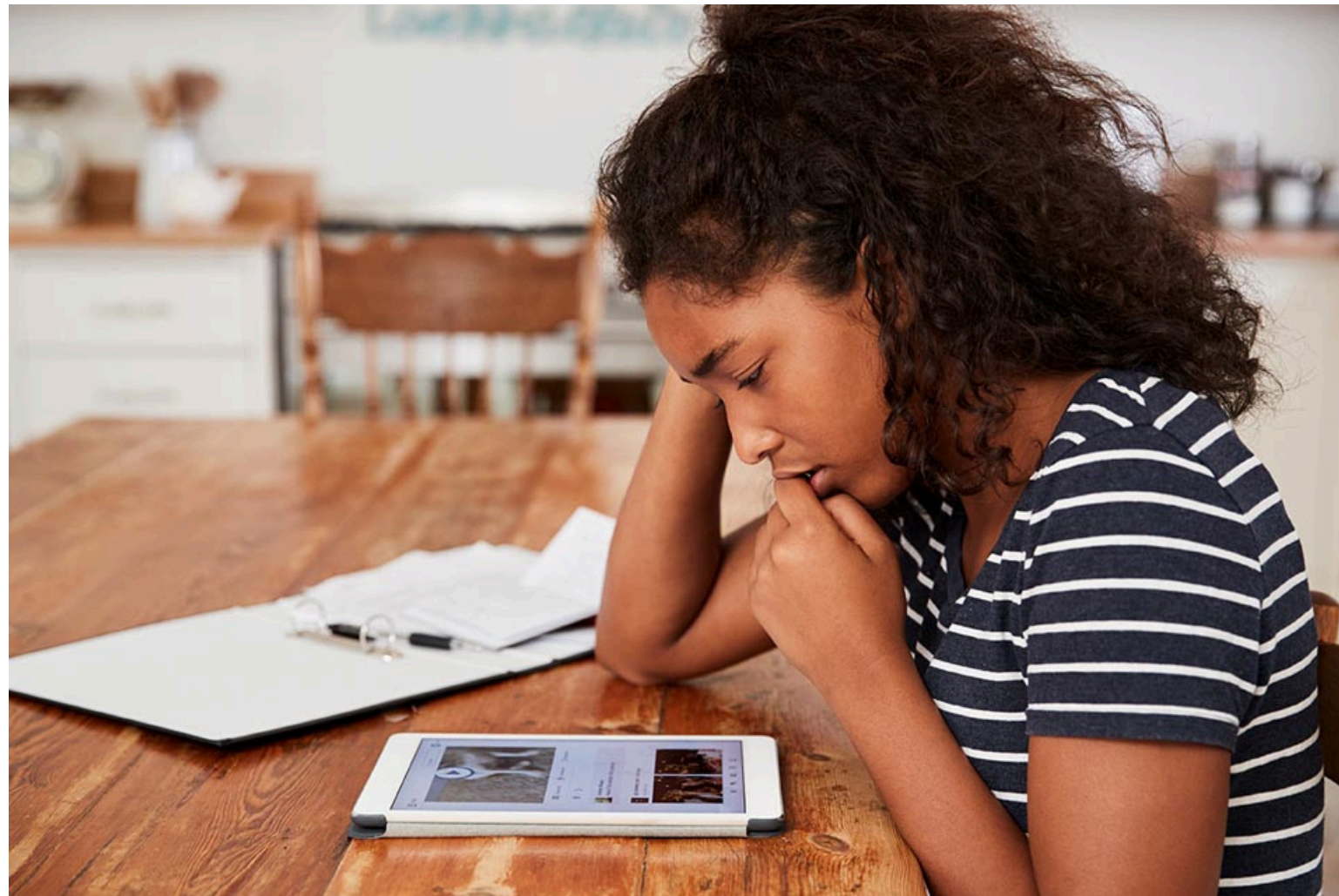
Dangers of the Internet & Online Predators

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction to Online Dangers
2. Common Sense Education “Teen Voices: Who You’re Talking to Online” Video (3.5 min.)
 - Discussion Questions
3. NetSmartz “Real-Life Stories- 6 Degrees of Information” Video (7.5 min.)
 - Discussion Questions
4. Online Safety Recommendations
5. Take the Pledge2Protect
6. NCMEC Handout: So, You Need Some Help...
7. Activity

Teens & Internet Statistics

The Data



95% of teens have access to a smartphone.

Pew Research Center

One in six teens say they have been contacted online by someone they did not know in a way that made them feel scared or uncomfortable.

Pew Research Center

Online enticement child victims range from ages 1 to 17, with a mean age of **15**.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

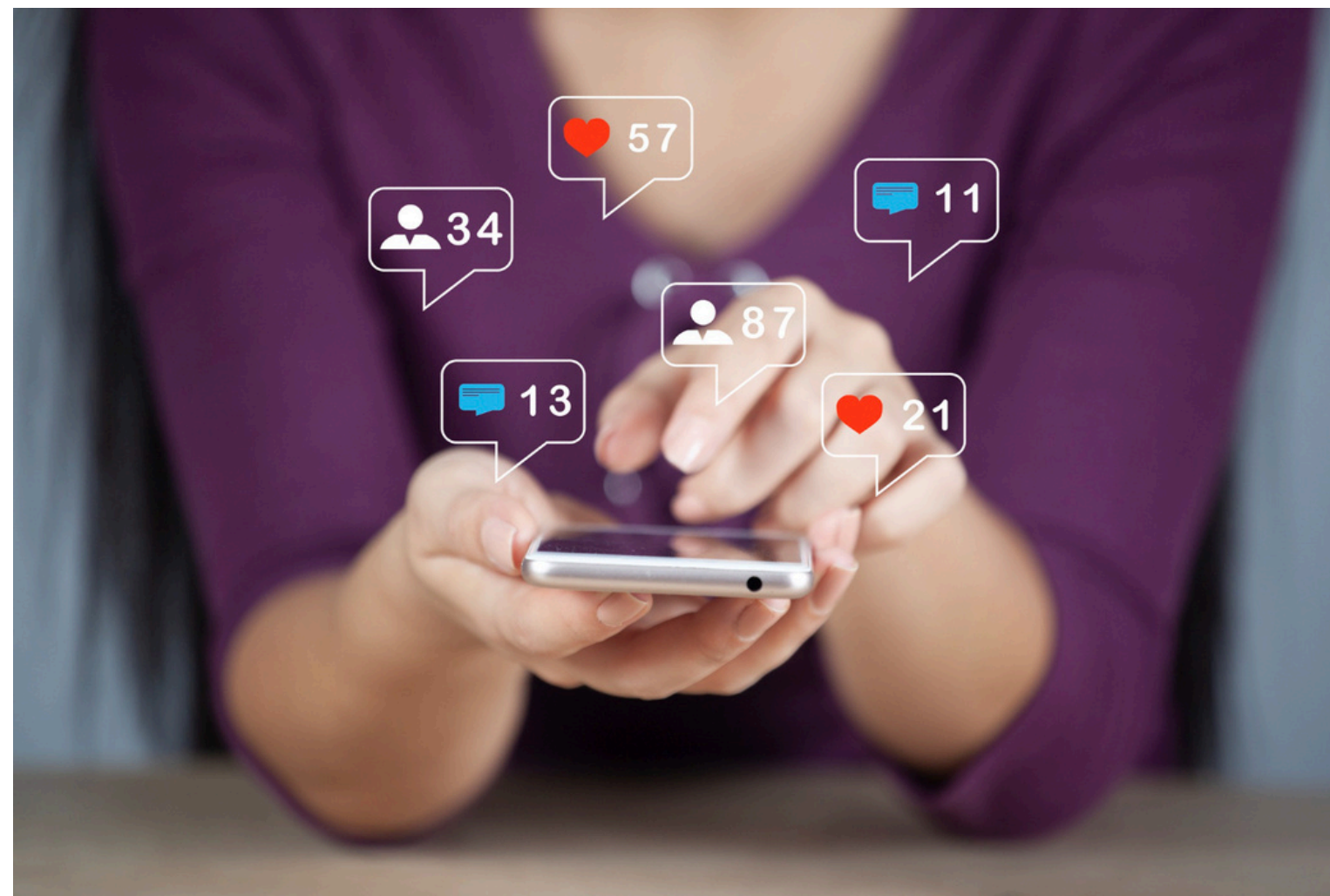
Pros & Cons of the Internet

Pros:

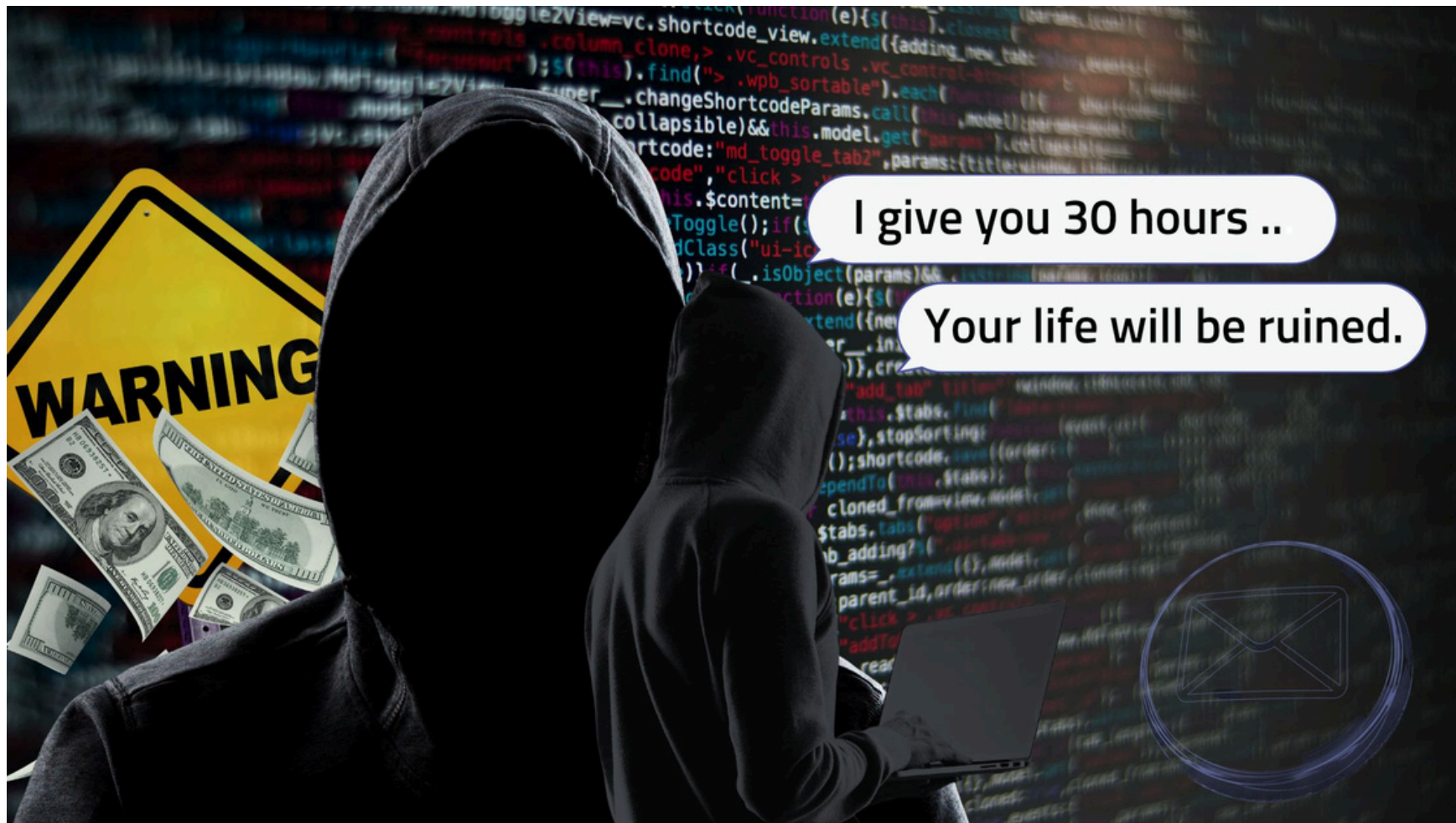
- Connects us with family and friends
- Easy access to news and information
- Introduces us to others with similar interests

Cons:

- Cyber-bullying occurs here
- Lack of in-person contact
- Unrealistic views of other's lives



Online Exploitation



Online enticement involves an individual communicating with a minor via the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offense or abduction.

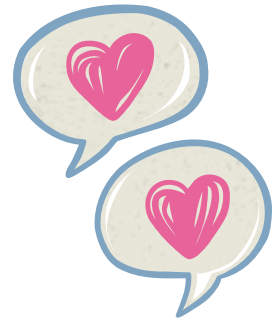
Sextortion is a form of child sexual exploitation where minors are **threatened or blackmailed**, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public a nude or sexual image of themselves, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from them.

Online Enticement Grooming Tactics

Grooming is the process in which an offender sexually abuses a minor. This is often the first step in fostering a relationship with a minor and building trust.

Online enticement often begins with grooming because the offender is a stranger, and they will try to make the minor feel good and safe.

Common grooming tactics include:



- Texting you compliments
- Talking about personal and intimate topics (i.e. sex)
- Sending you gifts
- Asking you to keep your relationship a secret
- Talking negatively about others in your life
- Asking you for sexual images of yourself



Where are Online Predators Reaching Victims?



Social media platforms

Game apps

Anonymous chat apps

Dating apps



Common Sense Education “Teen Voices: Who You’re Talking to Online” Video



Duration: 3:42 minutes

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dil8Lj0_TGQ

Do you think a lot of people your age accept friend requests from people they haven’t met in real life?

Have you ever accepted a friend request from someone you didn’t know?

Have you ever felt uncomfortable talking to someone online that you didn’t know?

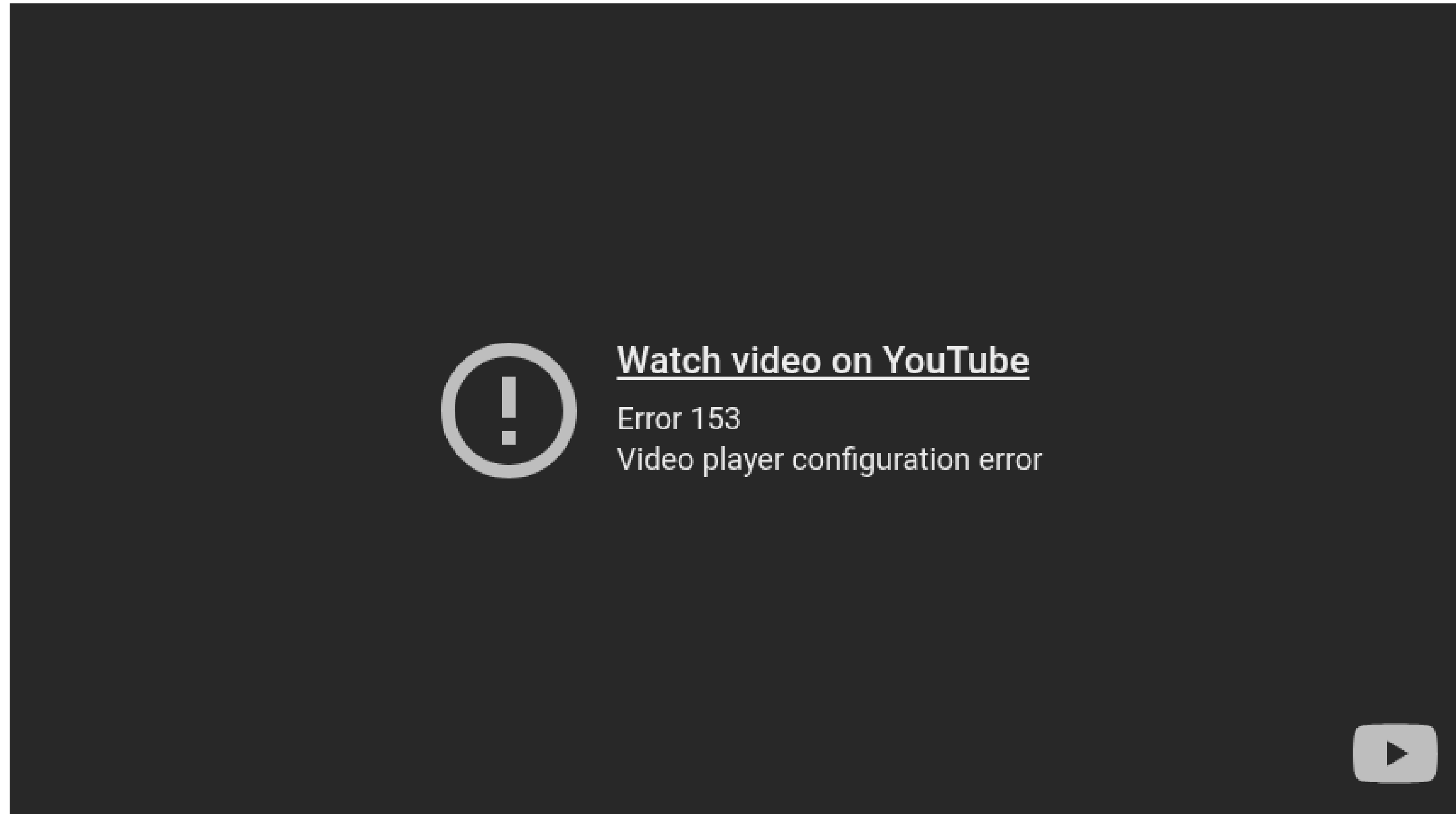
Sharing Personal Information Online



If you post personal information online, you are also putting your safety at risk.

If you post where you are, what school you go to, the town you live in, your full name, or your birthday, you are giving online criminals personal identifying information about you. This can give them the means to find you and potentially hurt you. **It is important to be careful and mindful of what we post online.**

NetSmartz “Real-Life Stories- 6 Degrees of Information” Video



Duration: 7:26 minutes

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FnH78p8QkA>

NetSmartz “Real-Life Stories- 6 Degrees of Information” Teacher Led Discussion Questions

Matt said in the beginning, “The entire experiment rests on the idea that people post a lot of information online without really thinking about what that means.”

Do you think twice before you post something online?

Do you know people who post too much of their personal information online? What do you think about that?

Do you think oversharing can be dangerous? Why?

Online Safety Recommendations



Only add people you know offline to your social media accounts. Never accept a friend request from someone that you personally do not know, even if you have mutual friend(s) with them.

Use privacy settings to keep yourself safe. Make sure that strangers online (and criminals) do not see what you post online by making your profiles private.

Online Safety Recommendations



Remove any personal or inappropriate images from social media. Your online reputation counts offline too.

Report any criminal behavior to the police and report inappropriate posts to whatever website or app you are on. If something is illegal or inappropriate to do offline, it is not acceptable online either.

Take the Pledge2Protect

1. I pledge to not create or share real or AI-generated sexually explicit images of myself or my peers. Next up- review the How2Spot Peer-on-Peer Risks: A Guide for Teens.
2. I pledge to review the Exit Strategy Checklist, create my own exit strategy and talk about this with my friends so we are prepared if something goes sideways online or doesn't feel right.
3. I pledge to bookmark the How2Report page and review the You're Never Alone Support Directory resource in case online exploitation happens to me or a friend.
4. I pledge to set all my apps, games, social media accounts and devices to private and to turn off location data services on social media and all apps, except the ones my family and I need.
5. I pledge to know who is on my friends and followers lists, remove strangers and only accept people I know in real life and block or remove anyone who makes me feel uncomfortable.

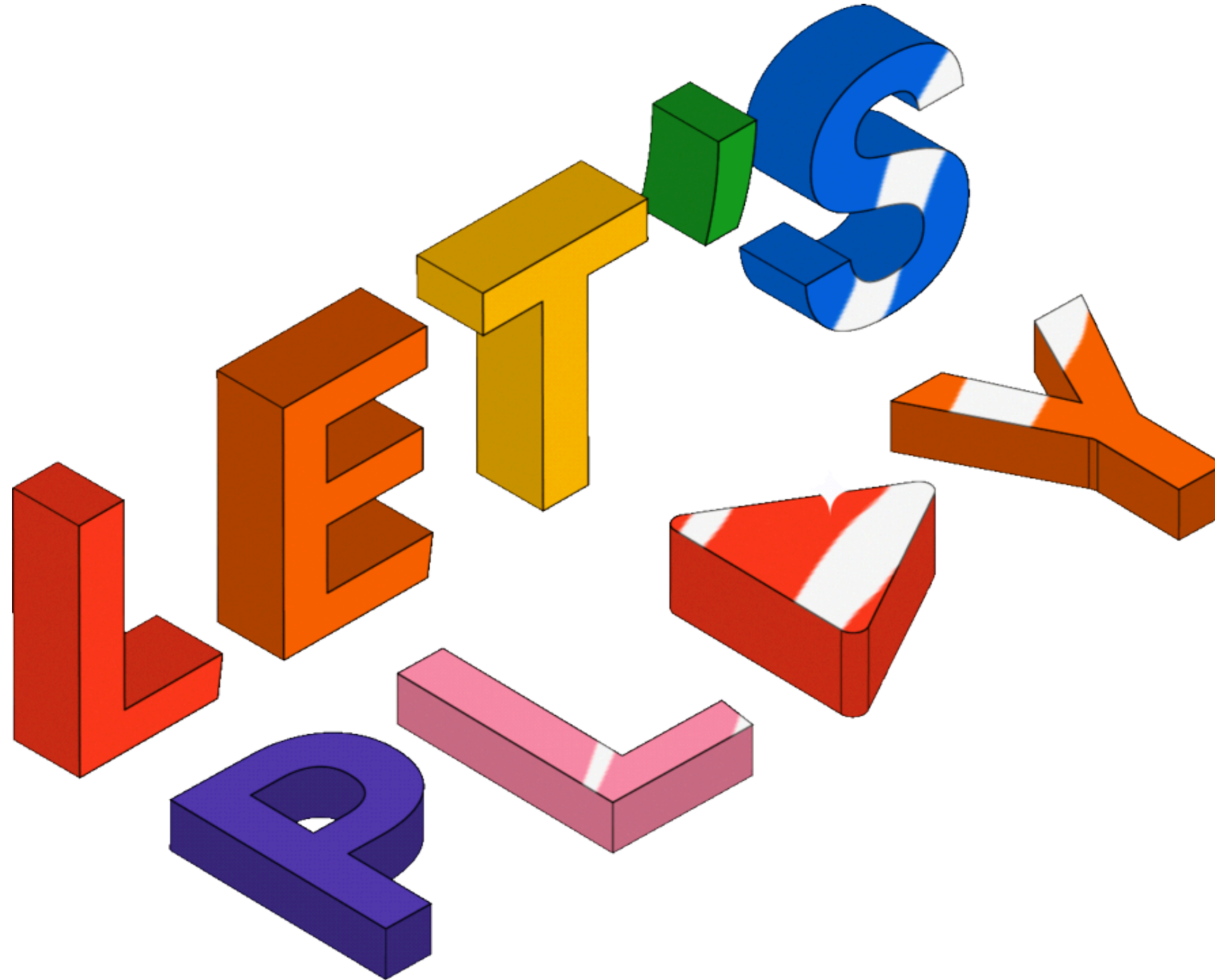
Take the Pledge2Protect

For more information, please scan the QR code below.



Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/know2protect/p2p/teens>

Activity



Activity

We recommend playing the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's No Escape Room Interactive Sextortion Video.

THE
END

Lesson Handout from NCMEC

So, You Need Some Help...

NetSmartz®

Maybe you made a mistake. Maybe you need some advice about something uncomfortable. It's not always easy to approach an adult in these situations. This guide has tips for talking to a trusted adult and how to navigate their responses.



Tip #1

Practice

Practice what you want to say to *start the conversation* as well as the *main points* you want to be sure to include. It's easy to leave out important details when you're nervous or if a conversation gets heated. Say the words out loud. Try practicing in front of a mirror.



Tip #2

Be Clear About What You Want

What do you want your trusted adult to do? Give advice? Help make a report? Just listen? Whatever it is, be clear about how they can help you.



Tip #3

Be Honest, Even If It's Hard

You might feel embarrassed or ashamed of a mistake, or worried that if you tell the whole truth, adults will get mad or people will get in trouble, but honesty really is the best policy. Laying it all out there may even mean the problem gets solved faster because everyone has all the facts.



Tip #4

Focus on Forward

Answer any questions your trusted adult has about what happened, but try to keep the conversation moving and focused on what actions you and your trusted adult will take next to resolve the situation.



Tip #5

Keep Calm

Try to keep calm throughout the conversation. You may feel nervous at the beginning, someone may get angry in the middle – that's normal. If things become too tense to move on, it's OK to take a break and come back to the conversation. Practicing what you want to say (tip 1) will also help you stay calm during this discussion.

Most importantly **know that it's always OK to ask for help.** It may not be easy, but it will be worth it.

- If the first trusted adult you go to can't or won't help, **KEEP TRYING.**
- No matter what you're dealing with, there is someone who can help. You're not alone.
- You can report sexual abuse or online sexual exploitation to **CyberTipline.org.**
- You can find more resources at the **National Child Traumatic Stress Network.**

Links to Lesson Materials

Common Sense Education “Teen Voices: Who You’re Talking to Online” Video

NetSmartz “Real-Life Stories- 6 Degrees of Information” Video

know2protect Pledge2Protect for Teens

know2protect How2Spot Peer-on-Peer Risks: A Guide for Teens

know2protect Exit Strategy Checklist

know2protect How2Report

know2protect You’re Never Alone Support Directory.

NCMEC Lesson Plan Handout

NCMEC Escape Room Interactive Video

Recap of Lesson

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