INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
EDUCATE. EMPOWER. PROTECT.

Can we talk about pictures?



Sexting, pressure, and private images—a conversation worth having.

You don't need a perfect speech. You just need to make it easier for your child to come to you.

Talking about private images can feel uncomfortable. Here are a few ways to start the conversation—and make sure your child knows they can ask for help.

"I'm glad you can talk to me about this."

When your child feels safe talking with you, they're more likely to come to you if something happens.

Start here.

You don't need to wait for a problem to have this conversation. Try a casual, everyday approach:

> "What could someone say if they're being pressured to send a picture?"

> "What would you do if a private image showed up in a group chat?"

These are just conversation starters. Your child doesn't have to share personal experiences to talk about it.

Make this part clear.

Nobody is owed an intimate image.
You have the right to say no. Always.

Pressure is not respect.
If someone cares about you, they won't push, guilt, or pressure you.

Receiving an image is not permission to show or forward it.
It's not your image to share.

Leave the door open.

Let your child know they can come to you, even if they've already sent something or made a mistake.

"Even if you've already sent something, you can come to me. We'll focus on helping you."

Your support matters more than embarrassment. A calm conversation now can make a big difference later.

When something has already happened.



If your child tells you about a private image, your calm support can help them feel safer, less alone, and more willing to get help.

Listen before reacting.

- Stay calm and listen without judgment.
- Thank them for telling you.
- Check for immediate safety.
- Work together on next steps.
- Avoid promising total secrecy or guaranteeing that there will be no consequences, but reassure them that you're on their side.

Help without spreading the image.

- Do not ask your child to send you a copy.
- Do not download, copy, or forward sexual images of minors to collect evidence.
- Do not share the image with other parents, teachers, or school groups.
- Keep relevant account information, usernames, profile links, dates, and threatening text when safe.
- Seek guidance from NCMEC or law enforcement about evidence already on a device.
- Do not delete accounts or messages before seeking reporting guidance.

If someone is making threats.

Sextortion is when someone threatens to share an intimate image unless a child sends money or additional images.

- Do not pay or send additional images.
- Stop responding.
- Report and block the account.
- Keep relevant account information and threatening messages when safe, without creating new copies of sexual images.
- Seek help from a trusted adult and professionals promptly.
- Blocking or paying does not guarantee the problem will end.

It's not always real.

Harmful sexual images can also be AI-generated or manipulated. They can still cause serious harm. Support your child and get help even if you think the image is fake.

Get help.

NCMEC CyberTipline

Report suspected child sexual exploitation.

report.cybertip.org

NCMEC Take It Down

For eligible intimate images taken before age 18. Use only files already on the device; never download one to submit. Removal everywhere is not guaranteed.

takeitdown.ncmec.org

Sources: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). Information may change over time. Last reviewed: October 19, 2026.