

BE THE PROTECTOR

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, CARERS & OTHER ADULTS

10

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM RISK AND DANGER IN REAL LIFE AND ONLINE

1. Talking and listening

Try to keep an open dialogue with a child - reassure them that if something difficult or upsetting happens you are one of the people who will always try to help them.

3. Be the protector

If you suspect or you know something is wrong, or if you are aware of a real life shapeshifter, then put the child first and be the protector. Abusive behaviour is always wrong - no matter who or where.

5. Don't be ignored

If you register a concern with others - a school, local authority, safeguarding team, police or anyone - and they do not listen properly or take you seriously, then insist and persist until your voice is heard.

7. Stay in the chat

Show an interest and gain a basic understanding of what your child does mostly online - games/apps/social media. If something was to go wrong, and for whatever reason communication breaks down, then you might have at least some sense of where the problem is coming from.

9. Be self aware

It must be recognised that raising these issues with children may trigger a response in adults too. If you have been affected personally in any way by this work - by issues linked to the past, the present or for the very first time - then do not hesitate to ask for help and support.

2. Trust your instinct

If something doesn't feel right then it probably isn't - don't hesitate to act on a concern. It might be nothing but it could be something very significant.

4. Ask for help

The realisation that something bad is happening to a child is terrifying and confusing. If another adult is abusing a child it is not your fault and is never the child's fault. Try not to freeze or panic - ask for help for you and the child.

6. Don't fear the issues

You don't have to be an expert to explore basic online and social media safety rules with a child. Encourage them to be aware of risks and dangers. Talk and work together if you can to help develop critical thinking and safety awareness.

8. Keep a perspective

If a child is playing games online or on social media it does not automatically mean they are doing bad or unsafe things. It is good to talk openly about possible problems though - perhaps compare to road safety - the need to have an instinctive response to risk and danger.

10. Lead the way for others

Be the eyes and ears for your own children, for other children - for all children. Families, extended families and people in the wider community can play a huge part in spotting problems and keeping children safe from abusers.

WE ARE ALL PROTECTORS