



## Online Risk: Unwanted Attention



**Online sexual grooming is the act of building up a trusting and emotional relationship with a minor (under 16 years old), usually with the purpose of tricking or coercing them into engaging in sexual acts.**

Your child could encounter unwanted attention or become a target for online sexual grooming. Be aware of these risks, recognise warning signs and maintain open communication with your child to protect them from these online threats.

### How can you identify online sexual grooming?

Your child may be sexually groomed online if you observe that they:



Possess expensive gifts like clothes or mobile phones, which you know they cannot afford



Use sexual language that you do not expect them to know



Are excessively secretive about their online interactions with others



Are extremely resistant to letting you go through their online conversations

### How can you keep your child safe from strangers online?

As it is impossible to know one's true identity or motives online, it is important that your child be cautious when interacting with strangers online. You can guide your child to be safe online by advising them to:



1 Only chat and play online games with friends they know in person.



2 Exit online conversations and inform a trusted adult immediately when someone makes them feel uncomfortable, asks for personal information or requests to meet up in person.

✓ If you suspect that your child is a target of online sexual grooming, you can further protect them by:



#### 1 Staying calm

Listen carefully to what your child is saying and let them know they have done the right thing by telling you.



#### 2 Assuring your child

Let your child know that you are there for them and will not punish them being in this situation.



#### 3 Collecting evidence

Take screenshots of the online interactions between your child and the online predator.



#### 4 Lodging a police report

Make a police report immediately if you are sure that your child has been exposed to online sexual grooming.