

Promoting communication between adults and young people: topics for discussion



Do you really know everyone you're connecting with online?

About

These discussion points have been designed to enable you to talk to young people about their technology habits and the prevention of online sexual violence.

As a trusted adult, you play an important role in educating children, particularly when it comes to sexuality. You act as a role model by passing on values and sharing their daily life. By discussing these topics with young people, you build a relationship of trust and create an atmosphere of openness about sexuality, which helps protect them from sexual violence.

1. I'd like us to watch [this video together](#) and talk about it afterward.

2. What does this video talk about?

A child is talking online with a person named Sophie, who is asking him all sorts of questions about his personal life. As we watch the video, we understand that Sophie is actually an adult man, but the child in the story doesn't know that.



Marie-Vincent

dreams of a world free of sexual violence. We prevent sexual violence and we help children and adolescents who are victims, as well as their families.

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Topics addressed in this video:

Online chatting and other exchanges

Video games

Things people may ask online

Information we share online

Discussing topics that are relevant to young people is an effective way to position yourself as a trusted adult whom they can turn to in times of distress or need.

Discussion 1

What are the places people can talk to each other online?

- Social media networks
- Chat rooms and communication apps
- Chats included in multiplayer video games

Where do you like to talk with people online?

Who do you talk with online? Do you know all those people? How can you be sure the identity the person is giving you is real?

In your opinion, what information is it best not to share online?

- Your personal information: full name, birth date, age, your school;
- Your contact information: address, phone number, email address;
- Your geolocation and movements;
- Your “handles” or full name on other apps;
- Your passwords;
- Personal photos or photos of other people without their consent.

How would you react if someone online asked you things the way the person asked Xavier things?

For more information and answers to your questions about preventing online sexual violence, visit Marie-Vincent.org or ProtectKidsOnline.ca.

For any emergency concerning the safety of a child, contact your local youth protection agency immediately.



Discussion 2

In your opinion, why is it risky to share personal information online?

You don't know all the people you spend time with online and you can never be sure of their intentions or their real identities.

People with bad intentions can use your information to commit a crime, such as:

- Theft;
- Fraud;
- Identity theft;
- Child luring;
- Sexual assault;
- Sextortion;
- Online harassment.

How can you tell that someone might have bad intentions online?

The person asks you things that seem bizarre or make you uncomfortable.

The person uses manipulative techniques (offering gifts, confiding in you, etc.) to convince you to give them what they want.

In the video, for example, what are the clues you can see?

Sophie/the man asks for a photo of Xavier in a bathing suit, which makes him uncomfortable. Sophie/the man shares personal information first so that Xavier feels obliged to respond. He feels like he owes something.

Sophie/the man compliments Xavier to flatter him and make him feel liked and admired.

Sophie/the man offers a bonus gift in the game to create a connection with Xavier.

Sophie/the man finds points in common with Xavier to get closer to him.

What can you do when a person is bothering you or making you uncomfortable online?

End the conversation.

Report the person to the app or game.

Block the person.

Talk with a trusted adult about what's happening, what you're worried about or what you're questioning. A trusted adult is:

- An adult you feel good with;
- An adult who helps you when you need it and who respects your boundaries;
- An adult who listens to you and is sensitive to your feelings.