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www.sussex.police.uk

Keeping Safe Online

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Keeping children and young people safe from all forms of harm is one of our top priorities.

To help ensure children access and use the internet and other forms of online technology safely and aware of the risks involved, Sussex Police are available to give you advice on how to help keep your children safe online. More information about the risks associated with the internet is included in this newsletter.

You can find out further information by visiting:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/p

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE Online



#ThinkUKnow

You've probably heard of the term 'grooming' before. In essence, this is a process used by people with a sexual interest in children to attempt to engage them in sexual acts either over the internet or in person.

Sadly, these people do attempt to make contact with children over the internet; this may be in social networking sites, chatrooms or games. They could be pretending to be someone else, or showing an interest in them.

It is important that children understand that people like this exist and that they should never do anything online or offline that they are uncomfortable with.

Grooming is a process of manipulating a child to gain control over them; as a parent or carer you should be approachable so that if your child is concerned about something, they know they can talk to you.

Tips for talking to your child about grooming

Talk to your child about online grooming. Explain how easy it can be to lie online and the reasons why an adult may wish to contact them.

Talk about their online friends. Ask them to think carefully about who they chat and share information with. If they don't know them in the real world they need to delete or limit what they share with them.

Let your child know that you are always there for support. Let them know that you understand how easy it can be to get into difficulties online. Get them to talk to you if anyone makes inappropriate/sexual comments and ensure they know that, no matter what's happened, you are there to help.