

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

A Guide for Responsible Image Sharing: Tips for Parents and Children

If your child enjoys playing online games, they may be at risk of receiving inappropriate content or being pressured to send revealing images of themselves. It's crucial for young people to understand that they should never feel obliged to send inappropriate images, and they should know what steps to take if they receive such content. It's also important to be aware of the laws surrounding image sharing. Here are some key points to bear in mind:

- Sending intimate images is illegal for anyone under the age of 18, and it's never acceptable for someone, whether they are an adult or a child, to send or request such images.
- Talk to your child about what they should do if they receive inappropriate content. Remind them that they should come to you immediately if this happens.
- If your child has been a victim of inappropriate image sharing, take swift action. Keep evidence by taking screenshots, and contact the police.
- Make sure your child understands that it's never appropriate to send revealing images of themselves, and if someone asks them to do so, they should inform a trusted adult right away.



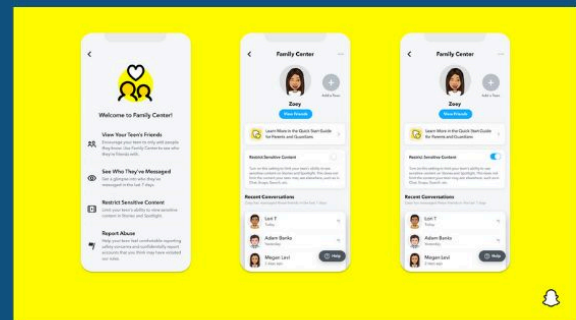
Exploring Snapchat and Its Risks for Children

Snapchat is a widely popular app that allows users to create multimedia messages in the form of 'Snaps'. Snaps can consist of short videos with filters, effects, and captions. However, it's important to understand the potential risks associated with using Snapchat, especially for children. Here's what you need to know:

- Messages on Snapchat disappear after they've been viewed, making it hard to monitor
- The lack of message retention can encourage children to post risky content such as abuse or inappropriate images
- It is easy to screenshot Snaps and share. Although the original poster will be notified that a screenshot has been taken, there is no way of stopping someone from sharing
- The Snap Map feature allows users to share their location, which can be dangerous
- The Discover feature gives access to inappropriate content
- Children can easily receive unwanted contact from other users, including unknown adults

Safety Features

Family centre gives parents an overview of how their child has been using the app and who they have been communicating with.



- Turn on Ghost mode to prevent other users from seeing your child's location. This can be done by accessing the app settings.
- If your child has used their true age to create their account, they should only be able to communicate with other children, or adults who share mutual connections. Remember, this only applies if the adult has not falsified their own age.