

Internet safety with children

- The internet can become problematic when **tamariki** (children) are exposed to explicit sexual material or content which they cannot understand
- This can happen unintentionally as children search the internet out of curiosity, or children can be shown inappropriate sexualised content by other people
- **Supervise** screen time and ensure privacy settings and restricted access is set up on devices
- Social media sites have clear age restrictions that adults need to support **tamariki** to follow
- Children are often very skilled with technology and adults need to **keep up to date**
- Learn how to check the history of your web browsers
- **Equip children** to know what to do when not-OK or inappropriate images are on the screen
- Give the message to turn off the computer and for the **tamaiti** (child) to tell an adult if they feel scared, confused or yucky about something they see



Keeping children safe online

- **Safe adults** are so important and need to give clear, simple and safe information to **tamariki** about internet safety
- A child's young brain, when exposed to sexually explicit images, struggles to make sense of what they are watching
- Sometimes this can lead to engaging in concerning sexualised play and behaviour
- A safe adult response will **make a difference** and assist the child to make sense of what they have seen
- When a **tamaiti** has been exposed to explicit sexual images, a safe adult needs to let them know that this is not always a reflection of what consensual intimate sexual relationships are really like
- Be mindful of the child's age and **developmental stage** when giving them information
- Always remember, you are talking with a **tamaiti**



For more information, check out
www.stop.org.nz