

Safer Space Information

Sheet

About Safer Space

Safer Space is an interactive workshop designed for children and youth to better understand how to stay safe when using apps, social media, and gaming platforms. Through engaging activities and real-life scenarios, we walk through online exploitation in a familiar and accessible way for our participants.

About Children of the Street

Since 1995, Children of the Street has worked to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth in British Columbia. Our main way of achieving this goal is through our school-based educational presentations. Every year, we provide over 500 workshops to more than 25,000 young people across BC.

Why is this important?

- The Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) is processing **more than 100,000 reports** of online child sexual exploitation *every month*.
- Cybertip received close to **4,000 reports of sexually explicit deepfake images** and videos of youth in just one year.
- 1 in 4 parents reported coming across **inappropriate online behaviour aimed at their child**, according to Public Safety Canada.
- The UN found that at any given time, **750,000 individuals are estimated to be looking to connect with a child online** for sexual purposes

Education is key to preventing child sexual exploitation. Our prevention-based workshops provide children, youth, and parents with knowledge and practical tools to help keep kids safe from sexual exploitation, off and online. **90%** of workshop participants say that the presentation taught them how to stay safe online, and **91%** indicate that they learned how to get help if they, or a friend, need it.

What your child will learn:

- What online **exploitation** is and how to prevent it
- How to recognize the **red flags** of luring and grooming
- Online permanency and the **consequences of sharing** private information online
- Practical tips for **staying safe** online
- Trusted adults and **ways to reach out** for help

About our facilitators

Our workshop facilitators are highly skilled in addressing challenging topics in an age-appropriate way. All workshop facilitators receive extensive training on the issue of child sexual exploitation prevention, undergo a criminal record check, and have experience and education in working with vulnerable populations.

What to expect after the workshop

After the workshop, your child may want to share what they have learned or ask questions. You can ask your child:

- "What are things you enjoy doing online?"
- "What does S.A.F.E.R stand for?"
- "Have you ever come across inappropriate content online?"
- "What would you do if someone is making you feel uncomfortable online?"

You can find more resources and suggestions on how to keep your child safe and how to have this conversation on our website. Click below to see our free, quick, parental guides.

Resources

Workshop participants are saying:

“I learned about how to be safe online and to tell a trusted adult if someone sends you a message or picture that makes you feel uncomfortable.”

Grade 7 student

“The content was appropriate and serious without being difficult to understand. It was relatable and touched upon real-life scenarios that were easy for students to respond to and connect with. The students felt safe sharing ideas, asking questions and discussing their own understanding of real-live situations.”

Grade 6-7 teacher

“I learned that when faced with certain difficulties it can be hard to reach out for help, but there are many resources out there who will help you.”

Grade 9 student

“I learned a lot more about the details, motives, and consequences of sexual exploitation as well as ways to identify and prevent it.”

Grade 10 student