

Spotting predatory behavior



Online predators aren't necessarily strangers lurking in the dark corners of the internet, tricking children into risky behaviors. They are often adults with bad intentions who meet and form inappropriate relationships with teenagers. Other times, these behaviors can have the goal of leading teenagers into radical movements.

CYBER SWAT


Look at the list below and identify which of the items listed might be red flags, and which ones are nothing to worry about.

RED FLAG HARMLESS

They give you lots of attention and go out of their way to tell you how special you are.		
They avoid telling you their real age.		
They share a specific mutual interest.		
They leave nice comments on your social media images.		
They want to keep your interactions private or avoid talking in public forums or spaces.		
They tell you not to tell your friends or parents about your interactions.		
You have never met them in person, but they say they're a friend of a friend.		
They say things like "I know we were supposed to FaceTime today, but my camera is still broken."		

(Think U Know UK)

A couple of these things aren't a big deal when they happen between peers in a respectful way (sharing a specific mutual interest and leaving nice comments on your social media images). However, any of these can be red flags when they are happening together, and they are all something to be alarmed about when the other person is an adult or authority figure.

If you suspect you are being groomed or feel uncomfortable about a relationship you have with an adult, make sure to tell a trusted family member, teacher, or friend.