

5 STEPS TO RESPOND TO KIDS ABOUT PORN FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

When a child attempts to disclose they've seen harmful and/or pornographic content...

1.) USE PROTECTIVE INTERRUPTING



This strategy is used when we stop a child from doing something in order to protect them and help them to feel safe. It can protect a student who is about to disclose, and protect nearby children from potential vicarious trauma. A protective interruption may sound like "I can see you have something very important to share and I really want to hear it, but for the moment we need to focus on this (insert activity). We can talk in the break."

2.) ASCERTAIN THE WHERE / HOW / WHO / WHAT



When following up with a protective interruption or any other incident, let the student know it's not their fault and thank them for doing the right thing by sharing. Ascertain where it happened. Did the child view pornography at school or at home? If it was at school, how did they access it (school network / BYO device, etc.)? Who was involved? What are the basics of what they saw? If a child was shown pornography by an adult, the process to follow is per mandatory reporting guidelines. And most importantly, given this is a matter of child safety, what are the next steps?

3.) FOLLOW POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS



What are the processes in place for dealing disclosures of sexual abuse? Treat this in a same manner. Work closely with key leaders, follow up with online prevention for future incidents and get support from external agencies if required. Ensure the child/ren and parents involved are supported to be safe.

4.) EDUCATE TO PREVENT

Do current digital literacy resources specifically address the concept of pornography? If not, identify resources that are targeted in their approach. Help children develop the language and skills they need to respond to harms in online environments through age-specific and scaffolded lessons, and ensure staff are up-skilled.



5.) ADOPT A WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH



Now that school leadership are aware pornography is a child protection issue that requires targeted attention, how will the school respond? Porn is the most prevalent sex educator of our time - what skills do children need to develop in ways that are safe, healthy and boundaried?



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