

How to talk to your child about human trafficking

A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS BASED ON AGE

Ages 6-10	<p>Key Message</p> <p>"Your body belongs to you. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable or asks you to keep secrets, tell an adult you trust" (NetSmartz, 2021).</p> <p>Example</p> <p>"Sometimes, people might try to trick you by offering gifts or saying things that sound nice, but their intentions aren't good. Always tell me if someone makes you uncomfortable."</p>
Ages 11-13	<p>Key Message</p> <p>"Not everyone you meet online is who they say they are. Some people try to make friends with young people to hurt them" (NCMEC, 2022).</p> <p>Example</p> <p>"There are people who might try to pretend they are your friend, but their goal is to manipulate you. Be careful about who you talk to online, and if anyone makes you uncomfortable, tell me right away."</p>
Ages 14-18	<p>Key Message</p> <p>"Traffickers often use manipulation or threats to control teens. Be cautious of people who offer gifts or make promises that seem too good to be true" (Stop the Traffik, 2020).</p> <p>Example</p> <p>"If someone you don't know well suddenly offers you money, gifts, or opportunities that seem unrealistic, it could be a sign they are trying to take advantage of you. Trust your instincts and talk to me if you feel something is wrong."</p>

