

# How to Start the Conversation

## Chess pawn/Pawn Shop/Porn

When talking about words that sound the same, but have different meanings, bring up the word “pawn”. Talk about the different meanings of the word as a lead in to talking about pornography.

## “Creepy Online Stuff” video

Play the “Creepy Online Stuff” video to your children and use it to begin conversation about online pornography.

## Phone/Tablet/Laptop Rules

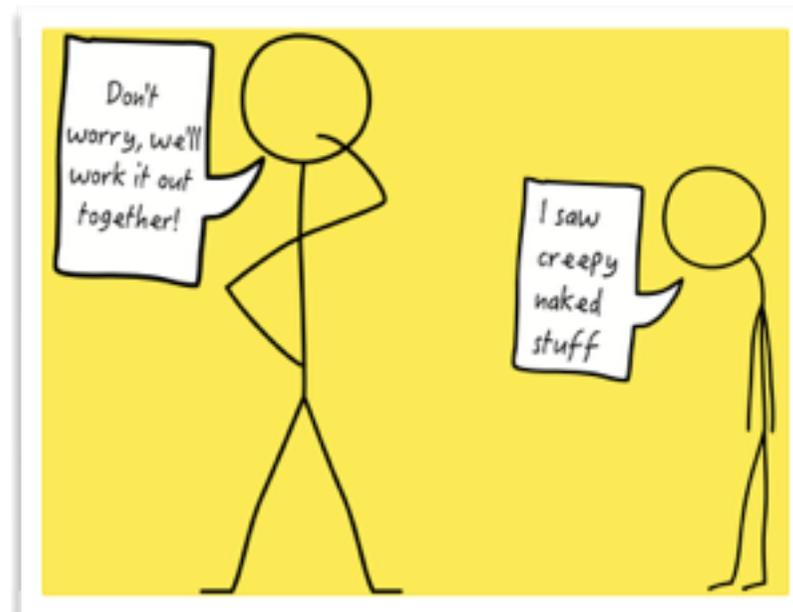
When your child is old enough to have access to their own technology, sit down together and make rules about how/when to use it. Explain that there may be things they see online that aren't safe and use this as a lead in to talk about pornography, alongside other online risks.

**We can't prevent our children seeing images and videos of pornography, but we can work towards preventing pornography harming our children.**

This resource was developed by The DAY Programme.  
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## Bathtime

When it's bath time or bedtime, talk about nakedness and how great bodies are. That underneath our clothes we're all naked. Explain that although nakedness is good, we might see pictures or videos online where there's naked people who aren't being very kind.



# A Parent's Guide to Talking about Pornography



The technological age can leave parents ill-equipped to understand or recognise the ways in which technology are negatively affecting our children. Security settings, internet sites and social media can seem alien to those of us who grew up with access to only a landline phone and perhaps dial up internet, both under the control of our parents.

Children and young people are accessing the online space at a younger and younger age, and are being exposed to content that as parents, we never discovered until we were a lot older.

Some parents have never viewed online pornography so are unaware that the majority includes:

- Men ejaculating on women
- Multiple men penetrating one woman
- Anal sex
- Sexual violence
- Racism
- Language which degrades and dehumanises women

Online pornography almost never includes people wearing clothing, intimacy, respect for women, love, care or even acting. It is simply women being penetrated by men or objects; vaginally, orally and anally, usually in a violent manner.

**"39% of boys in England aged 14-17 admitted they regularly watched pornography."**

Stories of children googling words they hear in school are commonplace. Searching "sex" or "porno" after hearing their friends or others talking about it, can lead to children younger than 8 viewing graphic images and videos of hardcore pornography.

The full impact of pornography on children and young people will be seen over the next few generations, but we do know that 72% of girls will be emotionally abused by a boyfriend by the age of 16. And also that by the age of 16, 40% of girls have been pressured into sexual activity.

**"I'm always watching porn and some of it is quite aggressive. I didn't think it was affecting me at first but I've started to view girls a bit differently recently and it's making me worried. I would like to get married in the future but I'm scared it might never happen if I carry on thinking about girls the way I do." 12-15 year old boy**

As parents we can feel unconfident, worried or even fearful about talking about pornography with our children. We may want to keep them innocent for as long as possible or believe that our children will simply not be affected. Often by the time we have conversations, it is too late. Our children have already been exposed to images or videos online.

Key Messages to communicate:

- Nakedness isn't bad
- Sex can be good, for grown ups
- There's lots of images around with women being made to look "sexy" (e.g. Page 3, music videos, adverts)
- There's naked stuff and sex stuff online that isn't very nice
- You might not understand it and might feel bad when you see it
- You might find it by accident or someone might show you it
- If you see anything that makes you uncomfortable, it's really important to tell a grown up

It is possible to have conversations about pornography and the issues related to it, without destroying our children's innocence.

If we have proactive conversations about pornography with our children we...

- Give them a safe framework for when they are exposed to images/video
- Prevent shock and trauma
- Show them no subject is off limits
- Make them feel more confident about saying no

**"ChildLine currently receive an average of 18,000 views a year to its website message board threads with porn in the subject heading."**