

Our recommendations What to do if someone harasses your child on the internet

1. Secure legally admissible screenshots of the chat or audio recordings of voice messages. They are important evidence if you file a report. Under no circumstances should the material leave the affected child's device; it should be submitted for the report from that device. (Note: Possession and distribution of child and youth pornography is a criminal offence!)



2. Only then should you leave the chat together with your child.
3. File a criminal complaint immediately.
4. Block the offender's account and report the profile to the platform after consulting the police.

Important:

For your child, getting into such a situation can be very distressing. Talk regularly with your child about the situation and make sure that they feel safe. In some cases, it may make sense to seek professional help, such as further counselling and psychological support, in order to support your child in processing the incident.

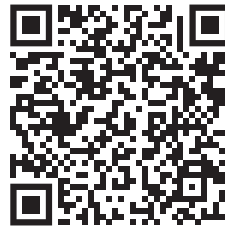
Under the following QR code, we
have compiled some information
pages for you:



If you have any further questions,
please contact:

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„Hi, I'm Noah!“



The image was generated with AI.

#Enlightened
„You never know who is writing
to you.“

Dear Parents and/or Legal Guardians,

Imagine the following: your child is chatting via a tablet, smartphone or computer with an online contact whom they have never met before. This person pretends to be the same age, asks for personal information, photos or videos - and may even suggest meeting in person. Such chats can become extremely dangerous and can ultimately end in blackmail or even sexual abuse.

The aim of schools and the police is to show children strategies for action at an early stage that protect them against such behaviour. For this reason, an educational programme is taking place in your child's class, accompanied by a performance by the Bremen Police puppet theatre. Here, your child is taught about Cybergrooming in a child-appropriate way so that they feel safer. This flyer is intended to inform you and contains many useful pieces of information about the criminal phenomenon of Cybergrooming.

What Is Cybergrooming?

Anyone who attempts online to make contact with children under the age of 14 with the aim of establishing sexual contact commits „Cybergrooming“. Offenders face a prison sentence of between 3 months and 10 years (sections 176a and 176b of the German Criminal Code).

How do offenders proceed on the internet?

Cybergroomers use similar strategies:

- 1.** They often use anonymous usernames or fake profiles to pretend to be children or teenagers.
- 2.** It is rarely about sexual topics right away. Instead, offenders first build trust.
- 3.** Many offenders soon suggest switching to a private chat, messenger or video chat. In this way, they prevent anyone from reading along and reporting their behaviour to the platform.
- 4.** Children are often asked to give out their phone number so that further contact can take place directly via smartphone. In this way, the person concerned has „access“ to the child at any time. At this age, children are unsure how to set boundaries or break off communication. In addition, contact with strangers initially still seems exciting to many of them.
- 5.** Over time, the offender urges the child to engage in sexual acts. For example, the child is supposed to send nude photos or film themselves wearing little clothing. Some offenders demand that the child watch or participate in sexual acts via webcam.
- 6.** In order to get the child to become sexually active, offenders first make explicit compliments. At the same time, various promises are made to the child, for example money, gifts or advantages in online games. In return, children are expected to send explicit pictures or videos.

If the child refuses to share revealing images of themselves or of other children, offenders exert enormous psychological pressure. They threaten to end the „friendship“ or try to blackmail the child using secrets or files already entrusted to them.

Prevention:

Building trust - guiding instead of forbidding

To help children become aware of such strategies and respond to them effectively, it is important to talk to them about this in an age-appropriate way, to educate them, to support them and to empower them to act. Children should know that they can come to you with difficult topics and that mistakes will not immediately result in prohibitions. Show an interest in what your child experiences on the internet. Speak openly with your child if something gives you an uneasy feeling. In this way, you build trust - and in an emergency it will be easier for your child to turn to you. Explain to children how important it is to report such incidents immediately.

