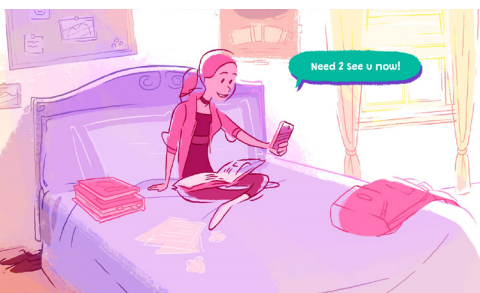


"Your Photo Fate"



Discussion Guide

As children get older, they begin to form peer relationships and start to explore intimacy and their sexuality. Today, this growth also coincides with having more opportunities for private communication through technology, especially cellphones. Young people are often uncomfortable talking to adults about their relationships, particularly when it involves technology, because they fear raising concerns will lead to caregivers restricting access to their devices. However, positive relationships with adults help and empower youth to make safe and healthy choices, both On- and offline. This guide will assist trusted adults in opening the door for age-appropriate and respectful conversations, specifically about the topic of sexting, an increasing trend in reports to school officials and law enforcement agencies.



LISTEN

Begin by watching the short video ["Your Photo Fate"](#) together. Next, ask the child(ren) for their thoughts. Start by listening only, without offering your opinion.

For example:

What do you think about the video?

What did you like about it? What did you not like about it?

Has this happened to anyone you know?

Did the story seem realistic? Why or why not?

What do you think the video is trying to show? What do you think about that lesson?

SHARE

Thank the child(ren) for sharing their honest opinions about the video and their experiences. Then calmly share your initial thoughts and reactions to the video. Conversations about difficult topics with youth are most successful when the child feels heard and does not fear punishment or judgement.

For more resources, visit MissingKids.org/NetSmartz

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DISCUSS

Below are some questions you can use to engage the child(ren) more after you have both shared your initial reactions. Follow the child's lead in terms of what aspects of the video or issues they want to discuss with you.

Sexting is the sharing and receiving of sexually explicit messages and nude or partially nude images via cellphone.

CHOICES

What was the very first choice made in the video?

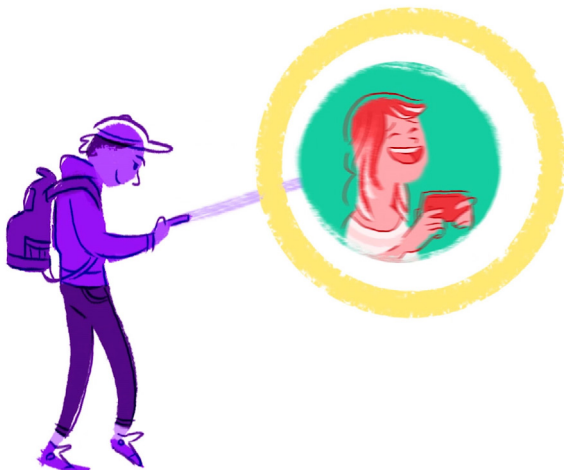
Often the response to this question is that the first choice made was the girl's decision to send the nude picture. However, **it was actually the boy in the video asking her to send it.** Discuss specifically this decision to ask someone for an explicit photo, as well as the second decision about whether or not to send one.

What were other decisions made in the video?

Other characters in the video made decisions to:

- Share or not share the image
- Not discuss it at all
- Say negative things about the girl who was in the picture

Talk about what to do if they are sent an image that was not intended for them, or when they know this has happened to one of their friends or classmates. The child may feel comfortable telling a trusted adult, talking directly to the kids involved or simply deleting the image from their devices.



CONSEQUENCES

What were the consequences for the boy who asked for the nude image?

- In the end, the girl was angry at him because the picture spread around school.
- A law enforcement officer came to talk to the boy – there can be legal consequences for requesting, receiving or sending nude images of people under the age of 18.

What were the consequences for the girl who sent the nude image?

- As the photo spread, classmates were talking about the image, creating an uncomfortable environment. She may experience feelings of anxiety or depression and have difficulty concentrating in school.
- Her little brother and her mother saw the image which was probably very embarrassing.
- It's also implied that someone she doesn't know saved the image. This could lead to harassment or other dangerous situations if that person is able to find a way to contact her (i.e., via social media).

Emphasize that in the video it appears the boy receiving the picture did not intend for the picture to circulate around school. His phone was taken out of his hand by his friend. There is no way to be absolutely certain who will see your pictures – even if you send it privately to a person you trust. If you believe a child's nude photo has been circulated online, see [MissingKids.org/GetHelpNow](https://www.missingkids.org/GetHelpNow). Also let the child know that they can access this site themselves and share it with their peers.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS:

In a healthy relationship, should one person pressure the other to do something they are not comfortable doing?

In healthy relationships, both people respect each other's boundaries and do not force the other person to do something that they are uncomfortable doing or anything that puts them at risk.

What would you tell a friend who was thinking about requesting a nude image from someone else?

- Tell them your concerns for the legal consequences they could face. Tell them how upsetting this could be if it gets out.
- Share your concern that images can circulate forever, even when someone tries to hide them

What would you tell a friend who was thinking about sending a nude image to a significant other?

You could:

- Encourage the friend to consider the possible consequences, including friends at school and even family members seeing the image.
- Suggest they talk to whoever requested the image about their concerns and notice how that person reacts. If that person becomes mean, aggressive or demanding, that is a red flag that needs to be discussed with a trusted adult.
- Discuss the problems with authorities that could come from sending an explicit image.

APPRECIATE

Be sure to thank the child(ren) for talking with you about sexting. Ask them who they can talk to if they have questions/concerns/problems related to relationships. Discuss with them how to support friends who may experience pressure or negative consequences related to sexting, while also encouraging them to come to you or another trusted adult if they experience anything uncomfortable or inappropriate online.

For information about reporting and removing explicit content depicting minors online, go to MissingKids.org/GetHelpNow.

