



Online victimization – a crime prevention lecture for your child

Your child will soon be able to take part in a lecture on online sexual crimes. The lecture addresses issues such as consent, good and bad secrets (on and off the internet), knowledge about online crimes and the safety of daring to tell an adult you trust about them.

The lecture is crime prevention and suicide prevention and is based on the latest research on child victimization online. One in four children in Sweden has been subjected to sexual abuse ("Young sex and internet after #metoo" 2021, Allmänna Barnhuset Foundation). The internet has proven to be an excellent tool for perpetrators to contact children for sexual purposes, so-called grooming.

Online perpetrators are found on all social forums that are popular with children. Online sexual crimes affect all genders. Girls are more often victimized on social media and boys in the gaming world. Victims are found throughout the country, in all social classes and of all ages. The common thing is that victims rarely tell or report to the police. This is due to shame, feelings of betrayal and fear of threats from perpetrators. Mental illness and suicidal thoughts are not uncommon after being pressured into taking pictures or being forced to commit abuse on oneself via webcam.

Online safety is one of the most important youth issues of our time in order to prevent mental illness in a type of crime that is rarely reported due to shame, feelings of betrayal and threats from skilled perpetrators. Online sexual abuse is sometimes seen as less serious than offline abuse. Professionals or other adults may think that it is not so serious, but research shows the opposite. What the children who were subjected to online abuse in the national survey had in common was that they felt much worse than other children.

All children can be affected, including yours. Continue to talk to children about their online lives in a curious and engaged way. Never judge your child. Sometimes the child may have sent pictures because they were curious, in love, were deceived or threatened. It is always the person who exposes someone to a crime who bears the blame. Please assume that the internet is positive, but that there can also be risks. Show that you are prepared to listen and help if your child wants to tell. Always report a crime to the police.

More information on the topic: www.safeselfieacademy.se

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