



Internet News

U.S. lawmakers press Big Tech for internal research on kids' mental health

Just a quick article that informs on U.S. lawmakers displaying an interest in how children's mental health is affected by the internet.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-congress-tech/u-s-lawmakers-press-big-tech-for-internal-research-on-kids-mental-health-idUSKBN2BM2UI>

Exclusive: TikTok considers introducing group chat feature this year - sources

This article discusses the potential addition of group chat to TikTok. This is something to be aware of because of TikTok's popularity with kids, and because group chat features in other apps are frequently used for cyberbullying:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-tiktok-messaging-exclusive/exclusive-tiktok-considers-introducing-group-chat-feature-this-year-sources-idUSKBN2B9182>

Child luring and sextortion cases online spike since start of pandemic

This article discusses the rise in internet child exploitation since the start of the pandemic. Please note that the terms "sextortion" and "sextortion" should not be used as they can misrepresent what actually happens.

Saffron has a one hour workshop on this topic if you would like to know more.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7683360/covid-19-child-luring-sextortion-online-cases/>

Saffron's Tips

Answer Questions!

The Internet is full of information about a variety of different subjects. Some of them are really useful and entertaining, but others can be harmful if left unexplained.

One of the best things you can do help your kid navigate their online experience is answer questions about the things they see on the internet. Because a lot of it they won't understand, and when that happens, they should come to you.

A lot of parents aren't sure when to talk to kids about certain subjects like pornography, for example. A good rule of thumb is that if your kid is asking questions about something, it's a good time to start answering those questions, openly and honestly.

Resources



Check out the RCMP's website for some other tips that can be helpful. They cover a range of subjects, including recommendations around reporting certain things to the police.

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/is-si/index-eng.htm>

Get in touch with Saffron if you have any questions!



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