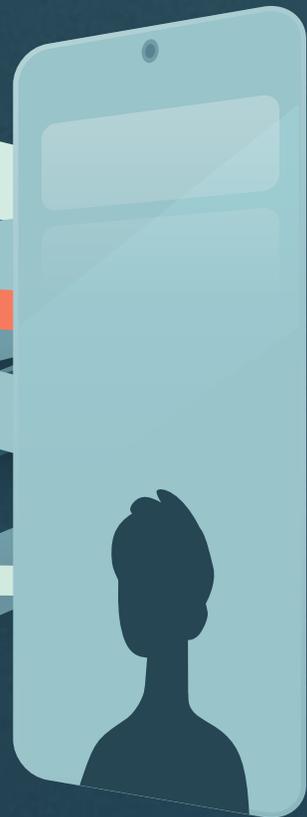


THORN ¹

Navigating Deepfake Nudes

A Guide to Talking to Your
Child About Digital Safety



⚠️ Nudes are circulating in schools more than you think.

Today, young people are exploring relationships and sexuality with a smartphone in hand. And many view sending nudes as a kind of new “second base.”

But these natural curiosities come with risks. Too often, consensually shared intimate images are leaked. Trust is broken, and shame and humiliation follow. One in five kids 9-17 say they’ve seen nudes that were nonconsensually reshared.

And now, AI is part of the equation.

With generative AI tools at their fingertips, some kids are creating deepfake nudes of their classmates and sharing them without the victim’s knowledge. Schools and lawmakers are scrambling to respond.

So where does this leave you, as a parent or caregiver? It’s important to understand that deepfake nudes represent how a new technology is being used to further behaviors that are already occurring.

Teaching your child to understand the risks that come with sharing nudes – whether they’re real or deepfakes – and how to practice digital safety, is key to protecting them and others.

This guide has you covered.

IN 2023



Nearly

1 in 5

kids aged 9-17 reported they had seen nonconsensually reshared sexual images of others.



1 in 10

reported they knew of cases where their peers had created a deepfake nude.

Source: [Youth Perspectives on Online Safety, 2023](#)



What you can do right now

1

Learn more about the nature of deepfake nudes

Even a general understanding of deepfake nudes and how they're created can help you talk to your child about the digital platforms they use and what parental controls you may want to implement as a family.

What are deepfake nudes?

Created with AI, deepfake nudes are realistic but fake images or videos in which a person's clothing is replaced by artificial nudity, making it appear as if they're naked.

How are they made?

Deepfake nude generators can be found through a simple Google search. On these sites, anyone can upload an image for free and create a fake sexually explicit image of someone else in a matter of seconds.

Also known as deepfake porn generators, these sites feature names like DeepNude and Undress. Some advertise on community hubs, like Discord. Face-swapping apps, which create similar nefarious content, are available on Android and Apple app stores.

How big is the problem in schools?

Instances of teens creating deepfake nudes of peers are increasing in schools. In most cases, boys have targeted female classmates. With AI's speed and efficiency, boys have mass-produced these fake intimate images, victimizing numerous girls at once. The technology provides a new, aggressive means for bullying.

2

Understand why kids might share or reshare nudes with peers

Today, many kids view sexting, including sharing nudes, as a natural extension of offline relationships. For example, a teen might share intimate images with their romantic partner. When they break up, one teen might reshare, or leak, the other's image out of revenge or to bully or harass.

Other times, youth may feel pressured by their peers to participate in this behavior.

Build your child's understanding of consent

In addition to consent of body autonomy, it's important to teach digital consent, explaining what it means to give permission for content to be reshared.

3

Start a dialogue by using our Discussion Playbooks

Start a conversation around digital safety. A key component in keeping your kids, and others, safe is helping them understand that even though sharing and resharing nudes, including deepfakes, is happening, it has real risks and consequences.

Encourage them to not participate in this behavior, and empower them to get support when it happens.

Scroll to the next section to get started with two discussion playbooks with scripts.

4

Be observant, available and judgment-free

Adolescence is full of emotional triggers, but paying attention to your child's behaviors in relation to their digital interactions can clue you in to harmful situations they may be experiencing or witnessing.

If they do come to you with questions or concerns, provide a safe space for trusted, judgment-free conversations, signaling that you're here to help.



DISCUSSION PLAYBOOK

The issues with resharing nudes

Technology is reshaping how kids learn about relationships and sexuality. Today, some young people view sending nudes as a normal part of flirting and dating. But sometimes, these intimate images are reshared without permission. We can't expect children to foresee these dangers without our guidance.

And now AI is adding to the harms. Teens have begun experimenting with creating deepfake nudes of classmates and circulating them without consent. Victims report experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health outcomes.

Once this content is circulated online, it can spread far beyond what one child mistakes for a joke when the images fall into the hands of bad actors who are looking to groom, sextort, or otherwise sexually abuse minors.

These issues necessitate discussions about digital safety, consent, and the ethical use of technology. In this section, we'll guide you through scripts you can use to engage your child and teach them about the risks of resharing nudes – whether they're real or deepfakes.

Why talking about this is important

Given the nature of technology, the passing along of a nude that has been "leaked" can seem relatively harmless when you don't have to look the person in the face. We've found that the point of most harm often occurs when content is produced or reshared without consent.

These tips will help you...

- Guide them in how to support their friends or peers if images of them are produced or leaked.
- Understand how they think about leaked nudes.
- Start laying the foundation for respect, consent, and trust.

What to expect from your child

This can be a tough conversation. When it comes to dating, kids are starting to value the opinions of their peers and going against the grain of what has been normalized at their school or in their friend groups can feel uncomfortable. Whether it's sending nudes or resharing them, teaching your child to take action and ask for help when faced with peer pressure requires baby steps, patience and ongoing conversation.

How to start talking

Though this topic may feel difficult to take on, discouraging your child from participating in the distribution of images will not only keep them out of trouble, but will also prevent them from participating in amplifying the harm one of their peers may be experiencing.

Key moments to start talking

- Someone's nudes, whether real or deepfake, are leaked in your child's school or community.
- The topic is covered in a movie or TV show you are watching.
- They tell you about something similar that happened to someone they know.

Conversation starters

Here are some questions you can ask your child to get the conversation going – and flowing.

- Do you know what a nude picture is?
- Has a naked picture ever been leaked / shared at your school?
- Would you pass along someone else's naked picture?
- If a photo of me/someone you loved was leaked, what would you do?
- Why do you think people reshare naked pictures that were sent to them?
- When you hear "leaked naked pictures", what is the first thing that comes to mind?
- Would you tell me if your naked picture got leaked?
- Would you tell me if a friend's naked picture got leaked?
(Tip: sometimes talking about friends can be an easier entry point)
- When a naked picture is leaked, who do you think is more to blame?

LET'S PLAY THIS OUT

When your child says they're **not sure they'd tell you** if a nude was leaked.

Parent: Would you tell me if a friend's nude got leaked?

Child: 😬

Parent: I heard it was happening to someone your age and was wondering if you would tell me.

Child: I don't know.

Parent: Have you heard of this happening at your school?

Child: Maybe.

Parent: When a photo like that gets passed around, sometimes people can almost forget what it must feel like to actually be the person in it. Do you think they really consented to so many people seeing it? How do you think they feel now that so many people have?

Child: Bad.

Parent: That's right, they might be a little embarrassed and worried about what might happen. It's important to remember not to share it with other people if you happen to see it. We want to help them if we can, so I hope you would come to me if that happened.

If you don't feel comfortable coming to me, I found [this website](#) that might help if this happens to someone you know.

GOAL: Get them to understand what the person whose image is being passed around might be feeling, and lay the foundation for becoming an active bystander.

LET'S PLAY THIS OUT

When your child says they **would tell you** if a nude was leaked.

Parent: Would you tell me if a friend's nude got leaked?

Child: 😬

Parent: I heard it was happening to someone your age and was wondering if you would tell me.

Child: Ya, I guess.

Parent: I'm glad you feel comfortable with coming to me. It may not feel like a big deal to share it when so many others have, but sharing it even just one more time has a huge impact.

So it's important to remember to not share it with others if something like this gets sent to you.

If you don't feel comfortable coming to me, I found [this website](#) that might help if this happens to someone you know.

GOAL: Get them to understand what the person whose image is being passed around might be feeling and lay the foundation for becoming an active bystander.

LET'S PLAY THIS OUT

When your child says it's **not their business to tell** if a nude was leaked.

Parent: Would you tell me if a friend's nude got leaked?

Child: 😬

Parent: I heard it was happening to someone your age and was wondering if you would tell me.

Child: I don't think it's my business to tell.

Parent: I understand why it may seem that way, but if nobody says anything then it will keep happening. When a photo like that is getting passed around, it's important to remember that the person in the photo did not consent to so many people seeing it. How do you think they feel?

Child: Embarrassed.

Parent: That's right, they might be a little embarrassed and worried about what might happen. If you don't want to make them feel bad, it's important to remember not to share it with other people if you happen to see it. We want to help them if we can, so I hope you would come to me if that happened.

If you don't feel comfortable coming to me, I found [this website](#) that might help if this happens to someone you know.

GOAL: Get them to understand what the person whose image is being passed around might be feeling and lay the foundation for becoming an active bystander.

You've started the conversation and discovered that your child has had intimate images of them leaked.

This is hard, but you're already doing great by being here.

As scary as it is, with your support and guidance, your child will get through this. Safety in the digital age is constantly evolving and trying to stay on top of it can feel overwhelming. But you're not alone. There are resources that can help.

In technical terms, sexually explicit content shared without permission – including deepfake nudes – is known as nonconsensual intimate imagery (NCII). The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's **Take It Down** program works with a large network of technologists and platforms to stop the spread of NCII of minors.

TakeItDown.NCMEC.org helps remove or stop the online sharing of nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit images or videos of children under 18, helping your child move forward.

TakeItDown.NCMEC.org →

Explore further resources to be your kid's safety net

At Thorn, we've spoken with thousands of children and parents about their experiences.

Parents.thorn.org features a deep collection of discussion guides, conversation starters and tips on keeping kids safe as their digital lives expand.

Parents.thorn.org →

Check out our discussion guides on:

- [Talking About Consent](#)
- [Recognizing Online Grooming](#)
- [Protecting Your Child from Sextortion](#)
- [Screen Time & Online Monitoring](#)

And more...