Episode Guide: Episode 6
"Finding Vera"

NetSmartz®
INTO THE
CLOUD

ABOUT THE ISSUE

ONLINE ENTICEMENT

In this episode "online enticement" is portrayed in a face-to-face interaction, but in reality this is a type of exploitation that occurs on the internet, involving an individual communicating with someone believed to be a child with the intent to commit a sexual offense or abduction. This type of victimization takes place across every platform; social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, etc.

The most common tactics used to entice children include[1]:

- Engaging in sexual conversation/role playing
- Asking the child for sexually explicit images of themselves or mutually sharing images
- Developing a rapport through compliments, discussing shared interests, or "liking" their online post
- Sending or offering sexually explicit images of themselves
- Pretending to be younger
- Offering a financial or other incentive such as money, promises, etc.

Certain online behaviors may increase the risk for online enticement. These behaviors include:

- Lying about being older to access certain platforms which would allow communication with older individuals
- Initiating online communication and/or offering an exchange with offenders, such as requesting financial compensation or other goods for sexually explicit content of oneself
- Sending explicit photos or videos (known as "sexts") of oneself to another user

EPISODE SUMMARY

While riding towards Sector 7, Nettie and Webster encounter a group of teenagers riding the same trail. The teens ask them lots of questions and try to convince them to join their group and explore the realm together. This makes Nettie and Webster uncomfortable and they decline the offer. They report the suspicious behavior to a police officer they meet in Sector 7.

After reporting the incident, Nettie and Webster piece together the clues they've learned about Dr. Vera Tas and find her laboratory!

LESSONS LEARNED

Not everyone is who they say they are online, or in-person. If anything or anyone on- or offline makes you feel sad, scared, or confused, it is OK to remove yourself from the situation. Telling a trusted adult about what has happened is important.

Continued on the next page.

1 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (2017). *The Online Enticement of Children: An In-Depth Analysis of CyberTipline Reports*(Rep.). Retrieved February, 2019, from National Center for Missing & Exploited Children website: http://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/pdfs/ncmec-analysis/Online Enticement Pre-Travel1.pdf

MissingKids.org/NetSmartz

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Activities for one-on-one and small group settings.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Has anyone ever tried talking to you online about inappropriate things? What did you do?
- Do you know all of your online friends in person? When was the last time you reviewed your friends/followers on the sites/apps/games you often use?
- Do you know how to report and block people on the sites/apps/games you often use?

PUT IT INTO ACTION

- Imagine you are playing a game online and another user starts talking to you. The person seems really fun! You seem to have lots of things in common. After a couple conversations, the user asks you to send a picture to them. What would you do?
- If you have access to the sites/games/apps the child often uses, ask: Do you know how to report inappropriate content on the sites/games/apps you like to use? Can you show me? If this child is unsure, explore the menus with them to find the reporting tools.

For step-by-step guides about reporting inappropriate content on various online platforms visit **MissingKids.org/GetHelpNow/IsYourExplicitContentOutThere**

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