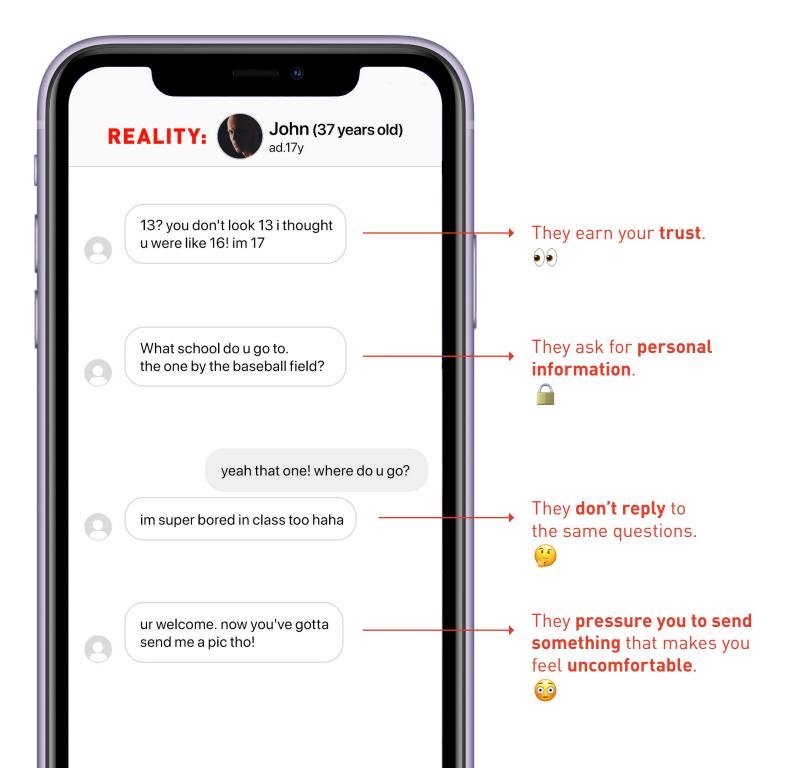


## **RED FLAGS**

To the right are some red flags from this conversation. While it is unclear what the intentions of John were in this conversation, the fact is that he was not who he said he was.

It is important to remember that you never really know who is on the other side of the screen. Their intentions may be different from what they say they are.



#### ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

"Never before has it been easier for perpetrators to make contact with children and teenagers while avoiding physical contact. They identify potential victims and establish a relationship of trust with the sole purpose of exploiting them. This process of recruitment can be a stepping stone to trafficking and exploitation" (UNODC, 2018).

**Online Child Sexual Exploitation:** Persuading a minor (someone under the age of 18) to create child sexual abuse images (CSAM) or videos of themselves and participating in sexual live-stream videos, whether they are recorded or not. Often offenders will manipulate the child to engage in such conduct by first building an emotional connection and relationship with a child, to gain trust, with the ultimate goal of sexual exploitation. Additional forms of online child sexual exploitation include:

- Sextortion Blackmailing someone to get them to create or share sexual images or videos of themselves.
- **Enticement** Persuading a child to engage in a sexual act.
- Possession, distribution, and receipt of child sexual abuse materials –
  Possessing, receiving, or distributing CSAM images, whether obtained by manipulation or not, result in harm to the child featured in the CSAM materials.



Hover over this QR code with your phone camera to watch a video based on true events of **online child sexual exploitation**.

## SAFE AND UNSAFE COMMUNICATION

Safe and unsafe digital communication involves social media posts, texts, or emails. However, safe online communication is with known and trusted people while unsafe online communication involves unknown and untrusted people. Many crimes, including online child sexual exploitation, happen because there's a person willing to take advantage of another human being. This is often the case in crimes where there's an adult-child relationship, and it is not the child's fault.

#### **Safety Tips**

- Speak up. Always tell a trusted adult (i.e., your parents, a teacher, peer) if someone is making you feel uncomfortable, sharing inappropriate pictures with you, asking for intimate pictures, or threatening you if you were to tell someone.
- Keep from posting or sharing personal information with people online (e.g., name, address, phone number, the school you attend, age).
- Ask yourself, "Would it be OK if everyone at school or if my family saw this?" before you send a message, photo, or video.
- Remember that everything you post online can never really be deleted and photos and screenshots can be easily saved and shared.

- Keep from posting emotional posts or those where you're requesting, hoping, or wanting specific items or services.
- Communicate with known and trusted friends and family.
- Block someone if they make you feel uncomfortable or have uninvited repeated communication.
- Avoid posting any identifiable information (i.e., pictures of you in front of your home, school, or places that you frequent).
- Adjust your privacy settings on social media so that only the people you allow can have access to your content.
- Keep in mind that the picture of an online friend can be fake along with everything that they've told you.
- Tell someone if you receive a photo that includes unwanted or uninvited content.

# REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1-800-THE-LOST or CyberTipline.org.

If you think you are in immediate danger, call 911.

For more information and resources, visit A21.org/Education.







