

DSL NEWSLETTER



For Parents - Protect Neurodivergent Children from Scams in Games

As we all know, neurodivergent children can be amongst those most vulnerable online, therefore more likely to become victims of things like scams. Those with ADHD, autism or other divergent ways of thinking might not recognise when someone intends to do harm.

Internet Matters have put together a brand new free guide for parents which explores how neurodivergent children's unique traits can leave them open to scams, particularly in games.

You can download the free guide [HERE](#).



New checks for DBS

The Government has announced that from January 2026, private employers and parents hiring carers, tutors or therapists for children and vulnerable adults will have access to the highest-level background checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Until now, the Enhanced DBS check, which includes spent and unspent convictions, cautions, police intelligence and the barred lists, was only available to those working in regulated organisations such as schools or hospitals. This change fulfils a key recommendation made by Alexis Jay in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, aimed at strengthening the protection of children and vulnerable people by enabling wider use of barred list information.

The announcement emphasises that this shift will give parents and carers “greater peace of mind” when hiring freelance or self-employed individuals who will work closely with children or vulnerable adults. The Government also highlighted that child-sex-abuser convictions are at their highest levels and that more than 1,200 closed police cases, including over 200 rape cases, are being re-examined.

It closes a long-standing gap: previously, parents and private employers could only access a Basic DBS check, revealing unspent convictions only. It enables more robust vetting for individuals working one-to-one with children or vulnerable adults outside of formal institutions. It reinforces the message that safeguarding extends beyond regulated workplaces into informal, home-based arrangements

For Parents - Sharenting

For a multitude of different reasons the advice we give to children and young people is to be careful with what they're sharing online, including images. This can be anything from protecting your privacy to very serious harms such as blackmail including sextortion. For example, an article in the Guardian refers to a report from the NSPCC where nearly 1 in 10 parents say their child has been blackmailed online and the National Crime Agency are receiving around 110 reports of sextortion each month.

That education we give to children and young people extends to parents, caregivers, schools and anyone else that may share data, such as images, of children. We must be mindful of the potential uses of that data.

The Irish Data Commission has recently released a short (40 seconds) light-hearted but serious video about the risks of sharenting along with some useful advice.

You can see the video and advice [HERE](#) and you can read the Guardian article [HERE](#).

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