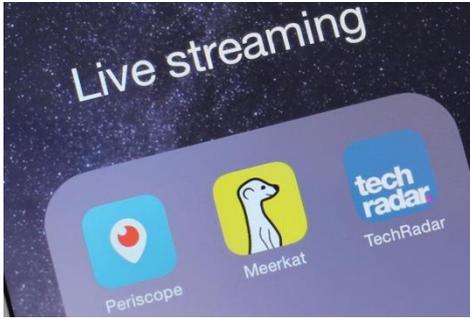




# CASS GUIDES

## Live streaming: responding to the risks



Live streaming is a live visual broadcast over the internet. All you need to be able to live stream is an internet enabled device, like a smart phone or tablet, and a platform (such as website or app) to broadcast on. At the click of a button, you can be streaming to hundreds, or thousands, of viewers.

With the popularity of live streaming ever increasing and with children and adults both taking part, it is important as a parent or carer to understand what risks children and young people may face when live streaming and the practical steps that you can take to make your child's online experience safer.

## What makes live streaming risky for children and young people?

**Reduced inhibition online** – Children can feel more confident when they are online as they feel somewhat protected by the screen. This can result in children engaging in behaviour that they would not otherwise do in 'real life'.

**Your child's developmental stage** – dependent on their age, your child will need different levels of support. Children's brains are continuously developing and your advice will need to grow as they do. In their offline world, children are often taught from an early age to do as they are told and follow adult instruction e.g. parents, teachers, family friends. Some offenders within live streaming platforms rely on the acceptance of this 'rule' and use young people's trust in adults to abuse them.

**Live streaming is 'in the moment'** – Children and young people often do things in the heat of the moment and act on impulse without thinking of the consequences – just like offline. For example, they may share personal information when asked or do things that in another situation they wouldn't do, such as share something private or even sexual.

**Tactics such as trickery and flattery** – Offenders use tactics to try and get children to do things that they otherwise may not do.

## How can you help your child stay safe when live streaming?

There are some practical steps you can take to help keep your child safe if they are using an app or website with a live streaming function.

**Stay involved in their internet use** – Talk to your child about what they are doing online; what they are enjoying, what they are learning, who are they interacting with and the new things they have discovered.

**Use webcam and devices in public spaces.** As young people develop, they often seek more privacy and autonomy in both their online and offline world. However, it's important to consider whether children are developmentally ready to be left unsupervised using devices. Young children do not have reasoning skills to keep themselves safe independently, especially when overpowered by the intelligence and manipulation of offenders

**Privacy and safety settings** - If your child is using an app with a live streaming function go through the privacy and safety settings together, setting them to make sure only the friends they know in 'real life' can view their profile.

**Be wary of requests to chat in private** – Offenders may try and move children from a public area of an app to a private area to have conversations that are likely to be less moderated.

**Safe and trusted adults and advice** - Help your child to identify adults that are there to help from ones who they do not know or that may want something in return.

**Make sure your child knows where to go for support and where to report** - Children can sometimes feel they are to blame if something goes wrong online. Remind your child that they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if they are worried no matter what may have happened. Talk to them about reporting directly within the app or platform they are using and that they can report to CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) if they're concerned about contact from an adult.



**For more information please visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)**

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