

# Identifying Online Scams

Digital platforms are littered with fake accounts designed to manipulate the vulnerable. Here's what to look for.

Parenting in the digital world can be a complex task. Parents need to contend with issues around children's screen time, cyberbullying, privacy and now there are now explicit concerns around online scams that target kids.

The best thing you can do to help your child avoid becoming a victim is to provide consistent education, ensuring your understanding that teaching children and teens (especially those living with a disability) about online scams isn't a one-and-done event. Think of it more like an ongoing conversation, with each lesson building on the last one.

So, what are some ways you can educate and support your child in identifying scams online?

1. Start with the basics - explain Online Scams to your child, and how they work.
2. Show them some examples of online scams and ask them what stands out as suspect information on a message, email or website.
3. Double down on specifics - show them some examples of scams targeted at kids (like contests, freebies, cool deals, or people befriending them online in a game)
4. Talk to them about the ways they can protect themselves and come up with 5 trusted adults they could talk to if they felt something or someone wasn't right.
5. Get them to teach a friend about what they've learned. Teaching a new skill to another person solidifies learning, builds capacity, and supports agency in online safety.

For some links, information and facts on online scams, go to [Scamwatch](#) to learn more.

[www.interactionservices.org/online-safety-training](http://www.interactionservices.org/online-safety-training)