AI & Child Safety Online:

A Guide for Educators

Understanding Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) technology allows a user to create new images, videos, audio and text based on user requests or prompts. This technology has many benefits, but it can also pose significant risks to child safety. NCMEC has observed a rise in child sexual exploitation using GAI, including the creation and spread of harmful content.

Key Risks for Children

- **GAI Bullying:** Harassment through GAI-generated explicit content.
- **GAI Child Sexual Abuse Material (GAI CSAM):** Illegal and sexually exploitative material involving children, created or altered using GAI.
- **Peer Victimization:** Creation and circulation of nude or explicit GAI content among classmates.
- **Online Enticement:** GAI-enabled fake accounts targeting children with the intent to commit sexual offenses.
- **Sextortion:** Blackmailing children with GAI-generated explicit images to exploit or coerce them.

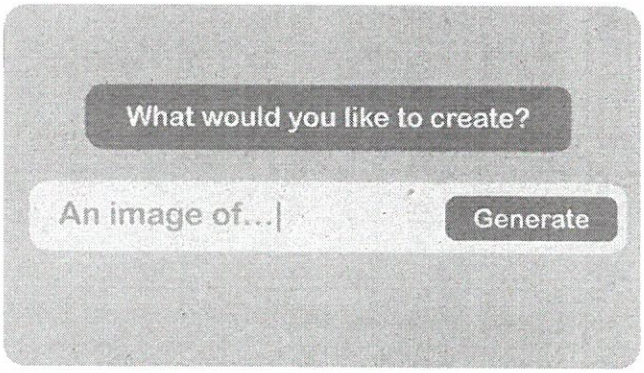
School Guidance to Prevent GAI Victimization

Providing education about the potential harms from misuse of GAI tools can help protect students. For effective prevention on this topic, ensure in-school protocols, incident response programs, codes of conduct and trainings for teachers, administrators and school personnel address the following:

Creating and Sharing Content: Discuss with students the risks of creating and sharing GAI explicit content, emphasizing illegality, empathy and the role of bystanders in preventing harm.

Upstanders: Establish classroom standards to encourage students to support victims, discourage bullying and seek help from trusted adults.

Facing Victimization: Talk to students about the possibility of victimization and empower them to seek help by speaking with a trusted adult and reporting incidents to law enforcement and the CyberTipline.



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School Guidance to Respond to GAI Victimization

Create a school incident response plan that includes:

Believing the Victim: Support victims and avoid blaming them. Whether the child took and shared the picture or it was created with GAI, they are victims.

Reporting Policies: Ensure all school staff are familiar with how to report incidents to law enforcement and the CyberTipline.

Include Parents: Provide resources to parents to help them stay informed about this issue and how they can help address the topic at home.

Equipping Teachers with Training: Teachers may feel unequipped to address this problem. Provide teachers with training, such as NCMEC's professional development programs that provide guidance for responding if someone discloses that they've experienced child sexual exploitation of any kind.

Do Not Ignore It: NCMEC has received reports suggesting that adults sometimes disregard these issues, hoping they will resolve on their own. This approach does not work; intervention and support is crucial.

Resources

NCMEC can help with education, reporting and support for victims and their families if something does happen.

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CyberTipline
CyberTipline.org • 1-800-THE-LOST

Reporting and Additional Support:
CyberTipline.org or
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

Take It Down

Support to Help Remove Online Content:
TakeItDown.NCMEC.org

NetSmartz®

Online Safety Education Resources:
NCMEC.org/NetSmartz

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN | Connect

Professional Training for Educators:
Connect.NCMEC.org

For More Information:
NCMEC.org/NetSmartz/GAI

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