

CHILDREN BECOMING OVERLY FAMILIAR WITH STRANGERS ONLINE



WHY IT MATTERS

When one-way familiarity feels like a relationship

Children who grow up interacting with audiences may become accustomed to strangers knowing their names, interests and family details. This can blur the important distinction between genuine relationships and people who merely feel familiar because they watch the family online.

Viewer knowledge is not mutual trust

VIEW

ONE-WAY KNOWLEDGE

Names and interests
Family details
No shared trust

FRIEND

TWO-WAY RELATIONSHIP

Shared experiences
Mutual knowledge
Trust built over time

FAMILIARITY IS NOT FRIENDSHIP

CHILDREN BECOMING OVERLY FAMILIAR WITH STRANGERS ONLINE



PRACTICAL SAFEGUARDS - 1-5

1

EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VIEWERS AND FRIENDS

Someone watching the family does not personally know the child.

2

DON'T ENCOURAGE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Children shouldn't build unsupervised relationships with adult viewers.

3

PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Fans don't need additional private details.

4

DON'T NORMALIZE GIFTS FROM STRANGERS

Gifts can create feelings of obligation or false intimacy.

5

KEEP MEET-AND-GREETES BOUNDED

Public recognition shouldn't erase ordinary safeguarding rules.

BOUND

CLEAR BOUNDARIES PROTECT CHILDREN

CHILDREN BECOMING OVERLY FAMILIAR WITH STRANGERS ONLINE



PRACTICAL SAFEGUARDS - 6-10

6

TEACH HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Knowing someone's username does not make them trustworthy.

7

DON'T CALL VIEWERS "FAMILY"

Language can unintentionally blur relationship boundaries.

8

SUPERVISE ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Adults should manage public communication involving children.

9

TEACH OFFLINE SAFETY

Recognition by a stranger doesn't mean the child should go with or trust them.

10

KEEP THE BOUNDARY CLEAR

The audience belongs outside the family's private life.

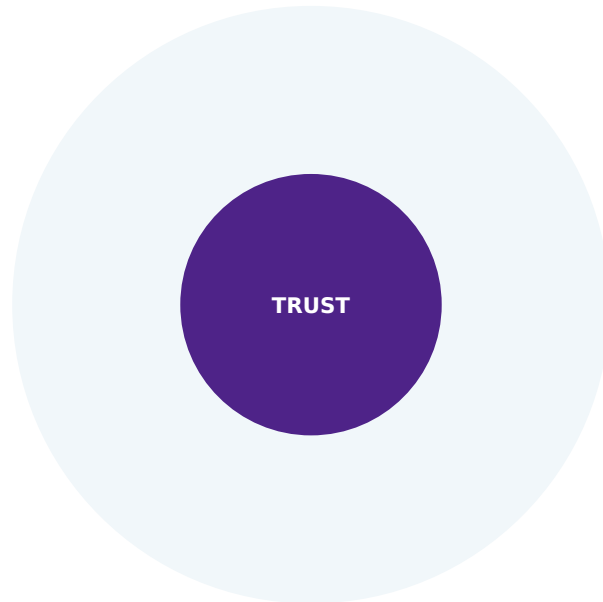
BOUND

CLEAR BOUNDARIES PROTECT CHILDREN

CHILDREN BECOMING OVERLY FAMILIAR WITH STRANGERS ONLINE



BOTTOM LINE



FAMILIARITY IS NOT FRIENDSHIP

**A STRANGER CAN KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT A CHILD
WHILE THE CHILD KNOWS NOTHING MEANINGFUL ABOUT THEM.**

KEEP VIEWERS OUTSIDE PRIVATE FAMILY LIFE

Supervise contact, protect information and teach offline safety.