

LINGO LAB: A PARENT'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ONLINE COMMUNICATION RISKS

In the digital age, kids and teens often use emojis and text slang to communicate quickly and expressively. As a parent or trusted adult, understanding these symbols and terminology can help you stay connected and aware of your child's online interactions, ensuring their safety. This guide will decode some of the most popular emojis and text slang used by kids and teens online and highlight potential risks associated with their use.

Understanding the language of emojis and text slang can help bridge the communication gap between you and your child. This guide provides a starting point but remember that context is key. If you ever feel uncertain about a message's meaning, don't hesitate to ask your child directly. Open communication is always the best approach.

POTENTIAL RISKS OF EMOJI USE TO DISCUSS WITH KIDS AND TEENS

Online Predators

Predators may use emojis to communicate in ways that seem harmless but have hidden meanings. Understanding these can help parents and trusted adults recognize potentially dangerous interactions.

Miscommunication

Emojis can sometimes lead to miscommunication. What one person means as a joke or harmless comment, another might interpret differently. This can lead to misunderstandings or unintended consequences.

Emojis with Hidden Meanings



Flowers or Cherries: Can refer to a minor or a virgin.



Peach: Often used to represent the buttocks; can be used in a sexual context.



Taco: Often used to represent a vagina; can be used in a sexual context.



Eggplant: Often used to represent a penis; can be used in a sexual context.



Sweat Droplets: Often used to represent sexual arousal or male ejaculation.



Fire: Can also mean someone is attractive; may be used in a context of sexual attraction.



Eyes: Looking at something, often with interest or suspicion; can be used to indicate someone is watching or interested in something potentially inappropriate.



Pizza: Often used to represent Cheese Pizza and can refer to child pornography (child sexual abuse material).



Puppy: Can refer to bestiality.



Devil: Can refer to child sexual abuse.

For a list of additional emojis, text slang and their meanings, use the following resources: Bark Social (bit.ly/4dNVrmX, bit.ly/4mxnh11) or Mumsnet (<https://bit.ly/3SmE3Mi>)