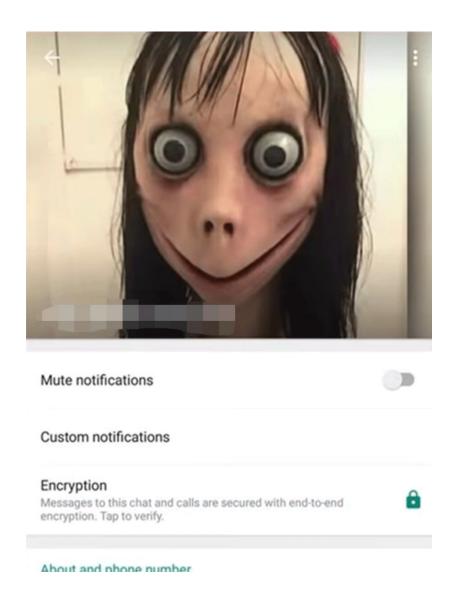


The Momo Challenge is here again



When designer Eric Knudsen created a character called Slender Man for a forum titled Create A Paranormal Image in 2009, he had no idea it would become the driving force behind two 12-year-old girls from the US attempting to murder a classmate.

In 2016 a game known as Blue Whale was posted on Russian social media networks, the game challenged users to complete a disturbing task each day for 50 days, becoming increasingly dangerous each day and introducing elements of self-harm. The final 'challenge' required the participant to commit suicide.

"Momo" is another sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. The startling photo of a Japanese sculpture piqued the curiosity of users who contacted the profile. Those people were reportedly met with a barrage of abuse and threats to expose private data unless they filmed themselves carrying out dangerous challenges.

Dubbed the 'suicide killer game' Momo has been linked to apps such as Facebook, Whatsapp, and YouTube. "Momo" the scary, grotesque doll-like figure, reportedly sends graphic, violent images and encourages users to do such things as wake at random hours to partake in dangerous challenges and has been cited as encouraging self-harm.

We have had many people contact us through Facebook and our website over the last two weeks asking about Momo again.

I was interview by 10 Daily about the challenge in August last year.

Read the full article here: <u>https://tendaily.com.au/news/a180812smv/the-</u> <u>terrifying-new-cyber-trend-that-targets-kids-20180819</u> (https://www.safeonsocial.com/so/cbMb7cJG6/click? w=LS0tDQoxMDFkNDdiMC04NDEyLTQ1MTMtYWM0Ni00NzU4NDQxMzAxN TcNCmh0dHBzOi8vdGVuZGFpbHkuY29tLmF1L25Id3MvYTE4MDgxMnNtdi90 aGUtdGVycmImeWluZy1uZXctY3liZXItdHJlbmQtdGhhdC10YXJnZXRzLWtpZ HMtMjAxODA4MTkNCi0tLQ)

Safe on Social Media's Tips:

Just like all urban myths, this story can be distressing to young people. It is essential to talk to your child about the fact that Momo is not real and cannot directly harm them.

Do not stop children from accessing the Internet or making them believe it is the internet that's dangerous & scary. It is about educating them, so they know what to do in certain situations.

Make sure YOU know how to report and block on every app that your child uses so that you can help them when needed. This should be the absolute minimum that you know about the games and apps your kids are using.

Respect age recommendations and gamin classifications. If you need to report Cyber Bullying, Illegal Content or Image Based abuse you can do that by reporting directly to esafety.gov.au (https://www.safeonsocial.com/so/cbMb7cJG6/click? w=LS0tDQoxMDFkNDdiMC04NDEyLTQ1MTMtYWM0Ni00NzU4NDQxMzAxN TcNCmh0dHA6Ly93d3cuZXNhZmV0eS5nb3YuYXUNCi0tLQ)

It is essential that you are present when a young child is online. If you have a great understanding of what they are doing on their devices, it will give you the opportunity to discuss certain activities that your child may be involved in.

We recommend that devices are not allowed in the bedroom when kids are young and as they get older you implement a curfew.

There are parental controls on all devices, make sure you use them. They are usually in the settings area of the device and relatively easy to step through. You can use Google and YouTube to access instructions on how to set parental controls for particular devices.

Trends and challenges are very tempting for young people. Talk to them about how they should not succumb to peer pressure or do anything that makes us feel uncomfortable online and offline. If they are unsure, make sure they know they can talk to you or another trusted adult.

It is normal to feel worried as a parent/teacher/carer when you hear about or see things online that may be harmful to a child. Remember not everything you see online is true. Check the source and be aware that what you share about something might perpetuate the worry to others.

If you decide to implement a filter in your home to block or filter content. Be aware not to 'set and forget' as tech-savvy kids can find ways around technological protections or may be accessing online content from a friend's home or device.

Have regular conversations and provide online safety education, from the moment you buy your child their device. This will help ensure your kids know how to handle situations when they occur, even when you are not nearby.

Please feel free to share this information (or parts of it) in your school newsletters and on your social media accounts. A link to <u>www.safeonsocial.com</u> (https://www.safeonsocial.com/so/cbMb7cJG6/click? w=LS0tDQoxMDFkNDdiMC04NDEyLTQ1MTMtYWM0Ni00NzU4NDQxMzAxN TcNCmh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNhZmVvbnNvY2lhbC5jb20vc28vYTZNWUh5RE1q L2NsaWNrP3c9TFMwdERRcG1OR00wWWpJNU1TMHlaalV5TFRReU5tTXR ZalkzTWkweVpXTm10VE5sWIRrd05Ua05DbWgwZEhBNkx5OTNkM2N1YzJ GbVpXOXVjMjlqYVdGc0xtTnZiUzhfZFhSdFgyTmhiWEJoYVdkdVBXSmlNbUk 1WldJM0xUTTNPV1V0TkdSbE9TMWhNV1ZpTFRnNE1qVmhPV0psWW1Ga E5pWjFkRzFmYzI5MWNtTmxQWE52RFFvdExTMCZ1dG1fY2FtcGFpZ249ND UwMDk0ZWEtOGUwMS00Njk3LTgzNTEtNzhjZDc1ZTM0NGNiJnV0bV9zb3Vy Y2U9c28NCi0tLQ) would be appreciated.

Need ongoing education, resources and support?

Subscribe to our Safe on Social Cybersafety Toolkit please email us at wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com

(https://www.safeonsocial.com/so/cbMb7cJG6/click?

w=LS0tDQoxMDFkNDdiMC04NDEyLTQ1MTMtYWM0Ni00NzU4NDQxMzAxN TcNCm1haWx0bzp3ZWNhbmhlbHBAc2FmZW9uc29jaWFsLmNvbQ0KLS0t) for just \$395 ex GST per year for schools you can use the information in your newsletters, in class, on your website and printed as required for parents and the wider school community. The major app eBooks are customised with your school logo.

We are now taking bookings for presentations for Term 3 and 4.

If you have any questions, please email <u>wecanhelp@safeonsocial.com</u> (https://www.safeonsocial.com/so/cbMb7cJG6/click? w=LS0tDQoxMDFkNDdiMC04NDEyLTQ1MTMtYWM0Ni00NzU4NDQxMzAxN TcNCmh0dHA6Ly93ZWNhbmhlbHBAc2FmZW9uc29jaWFsLmNvbQ0KLS0t)

Thanks and regards

Kirra Pendergast Founder/Director - Safe on Social Media Pty Ltd kirra@safeonsocial.com (https://www.safeonsocial.com/so/cbMb7cJG6/click? w=LS0tDQoxMDFkNDdiMC04NDEyLTQ1MTMtYWM0Ni00NzU4NDQxMzAxN TcNCm1haWx0bzpraXJyYUBzYWZlb25zb2NpYWwuY29tDQotLS0)



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