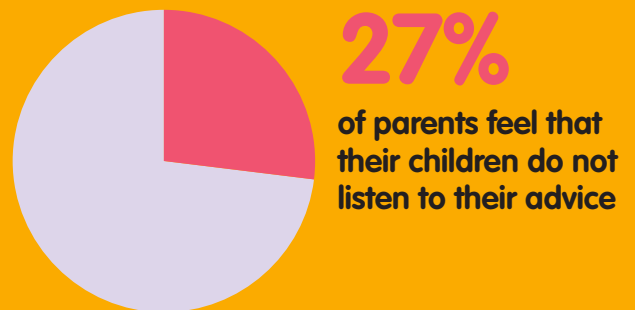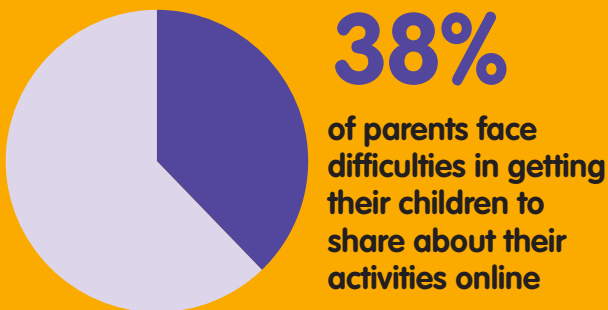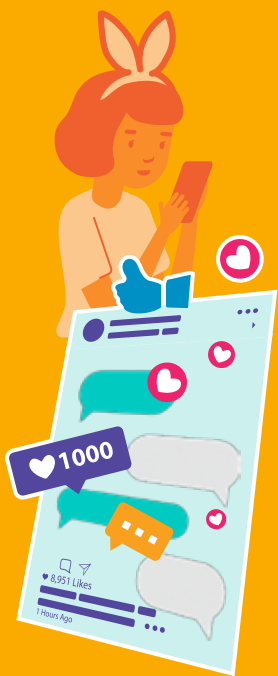# BE INFORMED TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD ONLINE

The nature of online risks is ever-evolving and unpredictable. Vulnerable groups, such as young users, might unknowingly fall prey to risks. From our TOUCH-MLC Parent-Child poll, we found out how informed parents and children are of online risks, and their impact on mental wellbeing.
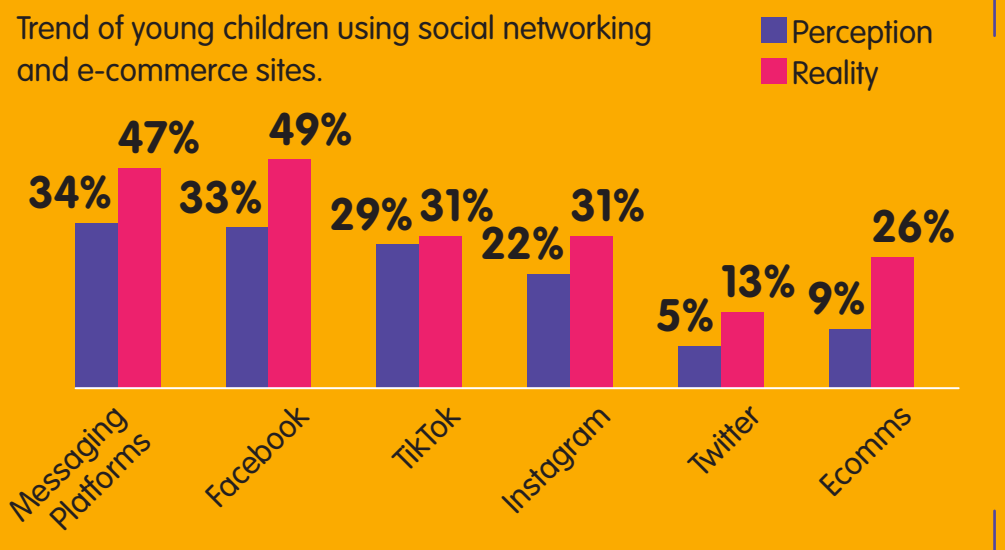
Did you know…

38% of parents face difficulties in getting their children to share about their activities online

27% of parents feel that their children do not listen to their advice

More young children go on social networking and e-commerce sites than parents think.

Trend of young children using social networking and e-commerce sites.

- Perception
- Reality

Site	Perception	Reality
Messaging Platforms	34%	47%
Facebook	33%	49%
TikTok	29%	31%
Instagram	22%	31%
Twitter	5%	13%
Ecomms	9%	26%

Parents might not be aware, but…

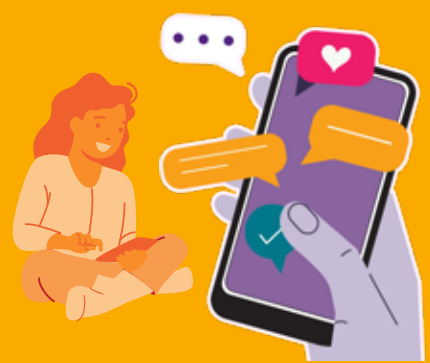**1 in 3** children has chatted with strangers online

1 in 3 children has been exposed to pornographic materials

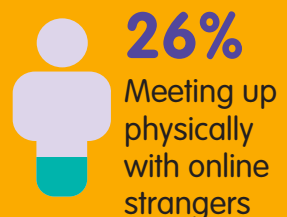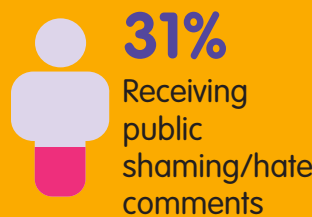**1 in 4** children has overshared their personal information

Do children know when they encounter a risk?

Children appear to be less wary of the dangers that come with risks such as oversharing of personal information, cyberbullying and exposure to sexting behaviours. Exposure to such online risks could have a detrimental effect on their mental health, or make them the target of sexual grooming and scams.

The top risks children are least aware of:

37% Oversharing personal information

35% Exposure to sexting behaviours

31% Receiving public shaming/hate comments

26% Meeting up physically with online strangers

While it may be challenging, maintaining a close parent-child relationship is essential for keeping children safe online — especially with older children. Foster open communication and build trust with your children so they will feel comfortable sharing with you about their lives.

What can parents do?

Stay abreast of online risks and trends.

Practise open communication and build a stronger relationship with your child.

Learn ways to keep your child safe online.