Live streaming is the term used to describe the broadcast of a real time video from a mobile device, tablet or games console. Many live streaming apps have functionality for interactions from viewers, such as commenting, live chats and sending reactions during the broadcast. Live streaming opens up a world of excitement for children, where they can watch live concerts, their favourite celebrities and bloggers/vloggers, connect with their friends, watch live gaming and much, much more. Whilst there are many positives with live streaming, it creates a worldwide platform for unsuitable content to be streamed and creates a host of dangers for children.

98%

of child sex abuse live streaming victims are 13 or under

IWF Internet Watch Foundation

What parents need to know about LIVE STREAMING

N UP PROCESS & AGE RESTRICTIONS

aming apps have an age restriction of 13 and portant to note that some platforms do not of age when signing up to the app, meaning an register for an account. This also opens up ity for people to lie about their age to seem older or younger.

O IS WATCHING YOUR CHILD?

s privacy settings are not set up effectively, be watching their live streams. One of the istics of live streaming is its ability for videos shared all over the world, but this creates the or more people to watch anybody regardless of whether they know them.

LIVE CONTENT

As the streams are live, children can instantly be exposed to anything inappropriate. Most live streaming apps will have filters, rules and guidelines in place to ensure their services are monitored. They will also have report buttons where inappropriate content will be sent for review. Bear in mind that a report may not be dealt with instantly, which means your child may be further exposed to inappropriate content during a live stream.

RECORDINGS OF YOUR CHILD

Each streaming app and website that allows live streaming has different rules about how they store their live videos once completed. For example, a live stream on Periscope will be automatically deleted after 24 hours, but apps such as Facebook and YouTube allow the video to be posted on the app and will only be deleted once the creator decides. It is important to realise that deleting a video will not stop it from being shared. A live stream can be recorded (or screenshots can be taken) by other viewers using certain software and then shared on other platforms. Research conducted by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) discovered that apparently recorded illegal videos of live streams were redistributed on other sites.

WHAT IS YOUR CHI WATCHING?

Live streaming apps don't just allow children own videos, they can also watch other peo Anything can be streamed at any time an including violence, graphic imagery, nu behavior, drug use, profanities etc. Most li apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that do not adhere to their guideli with millions of live streams each day, it i difficult to monitor them all.

GROOMING

There have been recent reports of paedoph children as young as three on live streaming the anonymous nature and lack of identifica sign up to some apps, almost anyone is able use the service. Users can use fake identitie the apps and watch/stream videos. Recent r IWF revealed that children may be asked to perform 'suggestive acts' during their liv strangers.

Top Tips for Parents

BE PRESENT

ree month study by the Internet Watch IWF), 96% of streams showed a child on en in their bedroom or bathroom. If your to conduct a live stream, ask them if you esent for it. This will give you a greater what your child is doing during their live ns and who they are streaming to.

ECT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION

may unknowingly give away personal n during a live stream, including their to them about what constitutes 'personal on' and make sure they do not disclose nyone during a live stream, even to their se them to remove any items in their live ol uniform, street name, posters etc.) that tially expose their location or personal information.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

Ask your child which live streaming apps they are using and how they are using them. Are they watching live streams or making their own? What types of live streams do they like watching? If they are under 13, it is strongly advised that they are not using any live streaming apps due to the dangers involved, but you may feel that they should not be using the apps even if they are over the age limit. With live streaming being such a popular feature on apps, it is important that you are aware of the dangers associated with it in order to protect your child effectively.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Each live streaming app will have its own privacy settings with options varying from platform to platform. Generally, we advise that your child's account is set to private. This will ensure that only their friends/followers will see their live stream. It is important to check each app to ensure that the privacy settings are in place to protect your child from strangers viewing their streams and engaging in conversation with them. The settings on most apps will allow you to turn off the chat feature during a live stream, restricting conversations, but live chat is part of the 'fun' when it comes to live streaming.

PROTECTING THE ONLINE REPUTATI

What your child does now may affect t opportunities, and it is important that the understanding of this. As the videos are li to the misconception that whatever ha video will disappear once the live strean incorrect. Tell your child that their live st be undone and this has the potential to online reputation.

REMOVE LINKS T OTHER APPS

Some live streaming apps/websites give u to link and share the content through oth platforms to share their video further. F live stream on Periscope, can be shared Facebook during the stream if the ac connected. While it may seem like a good the video to more people, the privacy sett on each app, opening up the potential f viewers to join the stream. We suggest privacy settings on each app and where streaming on one app at a time in order t control over who sees the live st