

BUILDING RESILIENCE & CONFIDENCE IN K

A PRACTICE & CAREGIVER GUIDE
TO ONLINE RADICALIZATION



POLARIZATION AND EXTREMISM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION LAB (PERIL)

PERIL brings the resources and expertise of the university sector to bear on the problem of growing youth polarization and extremist radicalization, through scalable research, intervention, and public education ideas to reduce rising polarization and hate.

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

The SPLC seeks to be a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY CLAUDIA HILAKE

PARENTS & CAREGIVER GUIDE

Who is this guide for?

Caregivers living with children and young adults.

Caregivers outside the home.

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HOW DO I HOLD A CHILD ONLINE RADICAL? AND HOW DO I HOLD A CHILD ONLINE?

One of the most common questions we receive from parents and caregivers is, “How do I hold a child online?” This is a complex question with many different answers. The answer depends on the child’s age, the child’s personality, the child’s interests, and the child’s online behavior. In this section, we will explore some of the most common questions and provide some guidance on how to hold a child online.

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Peer Sharing.

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RECOGNIZING A RISING TIDE

The following are some of the signs that may indicate a student is becoming radicalized. These signs are not definitive, and a student may exhibit some or all of them. It is important to look for these signs in a holistic way, considering the student's overall behavior and context.

Fear of authority figures, such as teachers, administrators, or law enforcement, or of being reported to them.

Belief in the superiority of their own group or ideology, often accompanied by a sense of moral righteousness. (See *Peer Sharing* for more on the role of honor and iron in radicalization)

Belief in the necessity of violence to achieve their goals, often accompanied by a sense of urgency and a willingness to sacrifice.

Belief in the idea of a "clash of civilizations" or a "war between religions," often accompanied by a sense of being part of a larger, global struggle.

Belief in the idea of a "holy war" or a "jihad," often accompanied by a sense of religious duty and a willingness to die for their cause.

Sharing extremist content, such as propaganda, recruitment materials, or hate speech, with others.

Adopting extremist symbols, such as clothing, tattoos, or hairstyles, that are associated with their ideology.

Blaming other groups or individuals for their problems, often accompanied by a sense of grievance and a desire for revenge. (See *Anger and Berationalization* in the Understanding the Driver section, below.)

Looking forward to the possibility of being recruited or participating in a violent act, often accompanied by a sense of excitement and anticipation.



ONLINE RADICALIZATION, HEADLINE

Parents and caregivers should be aware of the signs and symptoms of online radicalization, such as extreme views, hate speech, and recruitment to extremist groups.



Desire for Love and Friendship.

[Faint, illegible text block, possibly a list or set of notes.]

ENGAGE & EMPOWER

Talk to your child about the importance of being respectful and kind to others. Encourage them to stand up for what is right and to speak out if they see someone being treated unfairly.

LISTEN to your child's thoughts and feelings. Encourage them to share their views and opinions. Listen to what they have to say and try to understand their perspective.

ASK QUESTIONS to help your child think critically. Encourage them to ask questions and to challenge what they see or hear. Help them to identify the source of information and to evaluate the credibility of the source.

DISCUSS the importance of being respectful and kind to others. Encourage your child to think about the consequences of their actions and to consider the feelings of others.

Encourage your child to be a role model for others. Encourage them to be respectful and kind to others, both online and offline.

EDUCATE your child about the dangers of online radicalization. Encourage them to be aware of the signs and symptoms of radicalization and to seek help if they are concerned.



PERIL: A REPORT FROM THE SPL CENTER

HOW TO GET HELP

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Teaching Children about Prejudice & Racism

1. Start with age-appropriate concepts of fairness and equality. Use simple stories or examples to illustrate how it feels to be treated differently.

2. Discuss the concept of prejudice and racism in simple terms. Explain that it's when someone has a bad opinion about another person just because of their skin color, religion, or ethnicity.

3. Use diverse books, movies, and TV shows to show children people from different backgrounds and cultures. Encourage them to talk about what they see and how they feel.

4. Encourage children to ask questions and express their own thoughts and feelings. Listen to them without judgment.

5. Teach children to be respectful and kind to everyone, regardless of their differences. Emphasize the importance of treating others as you would want to be treated.

6. Address any misconceptions or stereotypes that children may have learned from the media or their environment. Provide accurate information and counteract negative messages.

7. Encourage children to stand up for what is right and speak out against prejudice and racism. Teach them that it's okay to be different and that everyone has the right to be treated equally.

8. Model respectful and inclusive behavior yourself. Children learn a lot from their parents' actions and attitudes.

9. Create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable talking about their experiences and concerns related to prejudice and racism.

10. Remember that teaching children about prejudice and racism is an ongoing process. It's important to continue to have open conversations and provide guidance as they grow and learn.

From SPLCs Learning for Justice:

1. Explore the concept of social justice and how it relates to fairness and equality. Discuss how society can be more just and equitable for everyone.

2. Learn about the history of social movements and activism. Understand how people have fought for change and justice throughout history.

3. Identify and challenge systemic inequalities and injustices. Discuss how these issues affect different groups of people and how we can work to address them.

4. Engage in community service and social action projects. Take action to make a positive impact and help those in need.

5. Develop critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate information. Learn to identify bias and propaganda, and to think independently and make informed decisions.

6. Build a strong sense of community and solidarity. Work together with others to create a more just and equitable world.

7. Advocate for social and environmental justice. Use your voice to raise awareness and demand change from those in power.

8. Practice self-care and take care of your mental and physical health. Activism can be demanding, so it's important to take breaks and prioritize your well-being.

9. Stay informed about current events and social issues. Follow news sources and engage in discussions to stay up-to-date on the issues that matter.

10. Remember that learning for justice is a lifelong journey. Stay committed to the cause and continue to grow and learn as you work towards a more just and equitable world.



Preventing & Dealing with Extremism

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APPENDI

A INGALE , O I E , PLA FO M , & APP F E EN L E PLOI ED B E , EMI

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ENDNOTES

1. [Extremism. The Far Right Today.](#)

2. [Going to Extremes: How Like Minds Unite and Divide.](#)

3. [Social Media and Society](#)

4. [A](#)

5. [A Lot of People Are Saying 'Hitler' on Social Media, and It's Not Just a Joke](#) and [Russell Kirk on the American Dream](#)

6. [Friction: How](#)

