

Jack Changes the Game



Written by Tess Rowley and illustrated by Shannon Horsfall

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Text, Tess Rowley 2022

Illustrations, Shannon Horsfall 2022

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For the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE)

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Also available as an ebook at www.thinkuknow.org.au

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Professor Susan Edwards Kelly Humphries	Director Early Childhood Futures, Australian Catholic University Survivor of child sexual abuse, a law enforcement officer, author and advocate
Professor Kerryann Walsh	School of Early Childhood & Inclusive Education, Queensland University of Technology

With thanks to the eSafety Commissioner for their review.

Content warning: This book references online child sexual exploitation. Support services are available from www.accce.gov.au and www.thinkuknow.org.au.

Jack Changes the Game



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Hi, I'm Izzy and this is my friend Aisha.



This is my little brother Jack.





Aisha and I sometimes like to play dress-ups and tease Jack.



One day, we really scared him.



'Come here girls,' Mum called.
'Those monster masks frightened Jack.'



'Izzy and Aisha were just pretending.
They shouldn't try to scare you,' said Mum.



We can talk to Mum, Dad or an adult we trust if anyone scares us or asks us to do something we're not sure about.

Jack, Aisha and I like to play other games,
especially online games.



Sometimes we play together.
Sometimes we play with our friends from school.
And sometimes we play on our own.



We play online games with other people too. We sign on with a username, not our real name.



If we play online with friends from school, we know their usernames and their real names.



If someone new joins our game, we only know their username. We call them online friends.

We talk to Mum and Dad about online friends.
'It's just like playing with a mask on,' Mum said.



'You don't know who it really is.'



We're learning how to be safe online.

*Online friends are different
from the friends you see each day.
You can't be certain who they are,
so be careful what you share and say.*



'Remember,' said Mum, 'we never tell an online friend our real name or where we live. And if they ask for a private chat, say no!'

Jack started playing online games by himself more and more. And he was skipping homework. I tried to see what game he was playing.



'Go away!' he yelled.
Every time I asked to join his game, he got really mad.



One night, Dad asked, 'What's the best thing that happened today?'
Jack shook his head when it was his turn and wouldn't talk.
'That's okay buddy. Some days are like that.'

The next day, when we were walking home from school,
Jack said he felt sick.
'What's wrong?' Aisha asked.
'I've been messaging someone online,' Jack said.
'His username is Footy Boy.'



'Jack! Mum told us to say no if an online friend asks to private chat.'
'But he seemed really nice at first,' Jack said.
'He was funny and made me laugh.'
'But you don't know who he is!' I said.

Jack stamped his foot. 'I do know!
He sent me a picture of him playing football.'



Aisha looked sad. 'Sometimes people send pictures of someone else
and pretend it's them. Not everyone online is who they say they are.'

Jack started to cry.



'I didn't think it was wrong. I thought he was my friend.
He asked about school and stuff. Now he says rude
things and asks me rude questions.

He said he'd share gaming tokens if I sent photos of me with no
clothes on. He told me to keep it a secret. I don't know how to make
him stop. Mum and Dad will be so angry with me'

'Jack, you have to tell Mum and Dad. They'll know what to do,' I said.

'Please don't make me tell, Izzy. I didn't send a picture.'

'Remember what Mum said? If someone scares you, or makes you feel uncomfortable, tell someone you trust.'

'But Izzy they'll get mad. I'll lose my screen-time forever.'

'Jack, Mum told me even grown-ups get tricked online sometimes.'



Aisha gave him a hug. 'It'll be alright.
Your mum and dad are cool.
They'll know what to do.'

That night, I told Mum and Dad that Jack needed to talk to them.



'What's worrying you buddy?' Dad asked.



'You tell them.' His voice sounded wobbly and squeaky.
I held his hand. 'Be brave Jack.'

'Take a big breath,' Dad said.

Mum and Dad looked serious when they heard the story.
But their faces were sad, not mad.



'You did the right thing telling us,' Dad said.
'No-one should ask you to send photos like that.'

'Let's do a search and find out what we can do.'



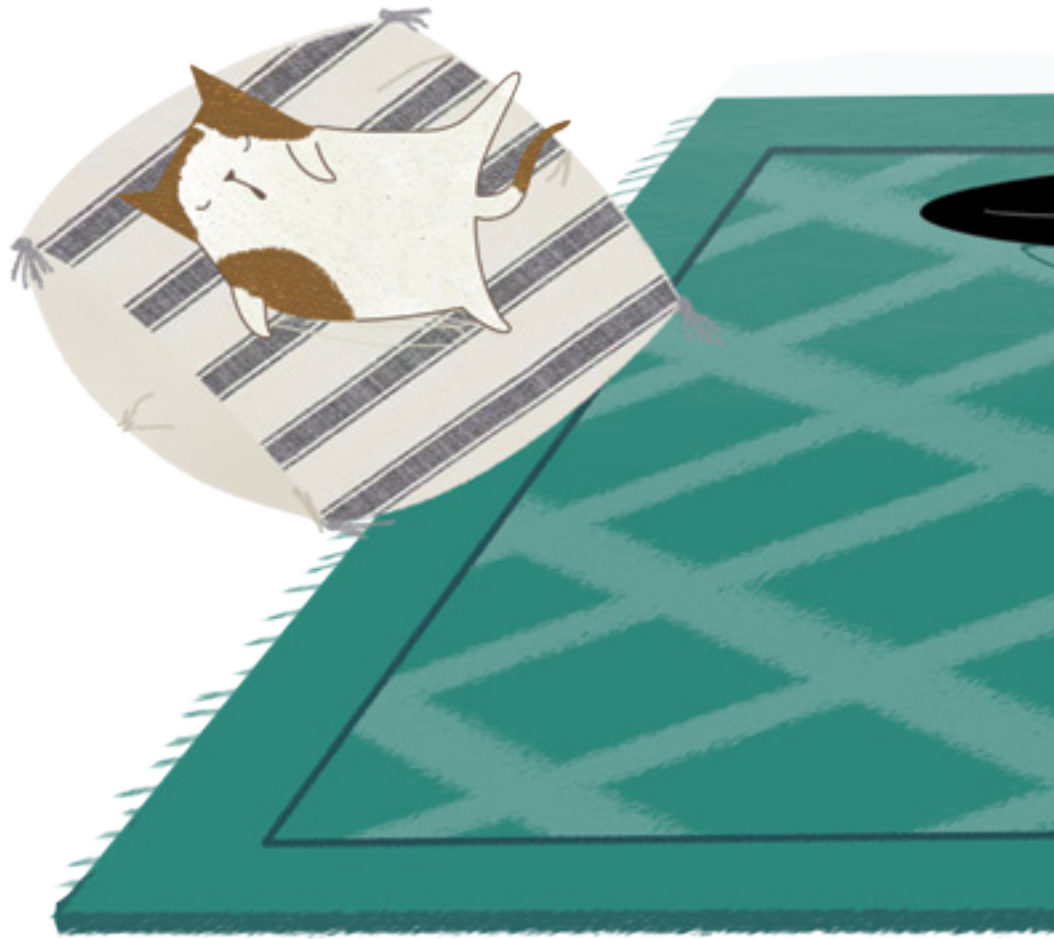
Together we found the right website.
Jack helped Mum and Dad make an online report to the police.

The next day Jack spoke to a police officer. The officer was really kind and said Jack had done the right thing in telling his parents.

*Online friends are different
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'It's not okay for someone to ask you to send photos with no clothes on. The earlier you tell someone, the safer you are. By making a report, you might also be helping other children.'



Some good things happened after that.
Mum and Dad didn't take away Jack's tablet.



They helped change the settings to private to stop people he didn't know from contacting him and to keep him safer online. Jack stopped worrying and started playing online games again.



The police officer came to our school to talk about being safe. She told us how to get help if someone is trying to trick us for information or pictures. We even wrote a Family Online Safety Contract to help keep us safe.

Aisha's family has one too.

I'm proud of Jack.

He was brave to tell Mum and Dad what happened.
I'm glad he told Aisha and me when he was feeling scared.



Now he tries to scare us by pretending with a monster mask.



But we know it's him.





And we know now that we have school friends.

We have online friends.



And we have grown-ups we can talk to if we're scared or worried about anything.

Online friends are different from the friends you see each day. You can't be certain who they are, so be careful what you share and say.



And Jack's my friend too.



Most of the time!



Information and advice from the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation and the Australian Federal Police ThinkUKnow education program, to keep your child safer online.

Congratulations. By reading this book with your child, you are taking that important first step to help keep your child safe online, and to prevent online child sexual exploitation.

Online child sexual exploitation involves a wide range of behaviours and situations. This includes online grooming, live streaming, viewing and creating child abuse material, and coercing and blackmailing children for sexual purposes.

Many apps and online games come with direct message functions commonly used by offenders to initiate contact with a child. Children who interact with someone online may not consider them 'strangers' but just another real friend, particularly if they've been groomed into believing this.

An offender might try to gain a child's trust, grooming them to create and send child abuse material, or to meet up in-person. Offenders are manipulative and might encourage a child to keep the abuse a secret, even making them feel ashamed. Threats to share the content with the child's friends or family, or telling them they will get into trouble if they do not send more child abuse material can make a child feel particularly isolated in this situation.

There is no single sign that a child is a victim of online child sexual exploitation. For this reason we encourage regular, open and honest conversations with your child about their online activities and interactions. If you have a feeling that something is wrong, trust your instincts and seek help immediately.

CONVERSATION PROMPTS

Jack plays online games... Do you ever talk to other players during an online game? Has an online friend asked you questions about your school, where you live or how old you are?

Jack has friends he knows in-person and friends he only knows online... Do you know how we can tell the difference?

- We see our in-person friends at school
- We can't always see our online friends, so we don't know if they are who they say they are
- We only know online friends by their username or their avatar

Jack spoke to his parents about Footy Boy. Who else could he have gone to for help?

- Teacher
- Grandparents
- Police officer

What parents and carers can do to prevent online child sexual exploitation

- Supervise your child and be engaged with their online activities
- Find out if the app or game your child uses has a direct message function, and consider turning it off
- Choose strong privacy settings
- Encourage your child to ask for help if they feel uncomfortable or unsure about any situation online
- Avoid taking devices away if your child comes to you with an issue. They may see this as punishment and not ask for help in the future, making them more vulnerable to exploitation

Our **Online Family Safety Contract** is a great starting point. This is a signed agreement between you and your child that assists in setting boundaries for their online use and behaviour. Involve your child in developing the contract and to be part of the decision-making process.

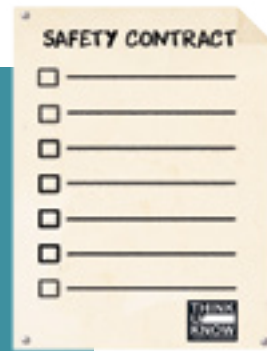
You can find the contract at: www.thinkuknow/familyonlinesafetycontract-blank and www.thinkuknow/familyonlinesafetycontract-prefilled. An interactive technology agreement for younger children is available at: www.games.playingitsafe.org.au/technology-plan.

ThinkUKnow has a home learning activity for parents and carers to incorporate Jack Changes the Game into the home. The home learning activity, and additional resources, are available at: www.thinkuknow.org.au/resources-tab/parents-and-carers.

FOR EDUCATORS

ThinkUKnow has a teacher's toolkit and student activity pack to help educators incorporate Jack Changes the Game into the classroom.

The teacher's tool, student activity pack, and additional resources are available at:
www.thinkuknow.org.au/resources-tab



Reporting online child sexual exploitation

The Australian Federal Police (AFP), through the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE), is the lead Australian Government agency for the investigation, prevention and deterrence of online child sexual exploitation.

- You can report online child sexual exploitation, including online grooming, via the Report Abuse button on the ACCCE, AFP or ThinkUKnow websites
- If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, contact Triple Zero (000)
- For non-emergency situations requiring a timely response, contact your local police station or call 131 444

For anyone affected by physical child sexual abuse, or exploitation including historical child sexual abuse, please report to police in your relevant state or territory.

eSafety is the Australian Government lead on online safety education. For comprehensive information and resources, please visit www.esafety.gov.au/parents.

Illegal and restricted content should be reported to the eSafety Commissioner. Report online at www.esafety.gov.au/report.

Support services

For people impacted by online child sexual exploitation, there are avenues of support available to help, listen and believe: www.accce.gov.au/help-and-support/who-can-help.

About the ACCCE

The AFP-led ACCCE brings together capabilities from across the public and private sectors, driving a collaborative national response to counter the online exploitation of children in Australia. You can report to the ACCCE who will triage and work with national and international law enforcement to action a response.

Find out more at www.accce.gov.au

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Jack meets a new online friend through his favourite game. But soon Jack's wondering if 'Footy Boy' is the person he claims to be. Footy Boy starts asking for things that make Jack uneasy. Should Jack tell someone?
What will happen if he does?

A story for five-to-eight year old readers about staying safe and getting help.

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