

# Cyber Crime

## Evil Santa

A recent Facebook post has been causing concern for parents relating to YouTube kids and **'Evil Santa'**.

The Facebook user posted a message on 1<sup>st</sup> November to warn parents about an upsetting encounter that had taken place. The parent states their 5 year old child was watching YouTube kids when the 'evil Santa' appeared on screen.

The video allegedly features Santa telling the child to harm themselves in order to receive presents for Christmas and the more people they hurt the more gifts they will receive.

The child was told not to inform their parents and that if they did 'evil Santa' would come get them in their sleep.

⚠️ Just a heads up for anyone with YouTube kids.

William who is 5! Just walked in and said that he's going to put a knife in his stomach and kill himself because evil Santa told him too and it's the only way he will get presents.

Then said he told him he can't tell his mummy or daddy and that he should get a knife and the more people he kills the more presents he will get.

I honestly don't know what else he has seen or heard.

This is YouTube KIDs btw. I pay extra each month for parental control.

I asked him to show me 'evil Santa' he said oh you can't find him mummy he finds you and gives you tasks and if you don't complete them he will come get you in your sleep.

Feel sick to the pit of my stomach, luckily he knew to come and tell me. But I dread to think if he didn't.

Again this is YouTube kids WITH parental control.

I'll be reporting this to school and anyone else I need too.

The parent states the video appeared on YouTube kids even with parent controls enabled, which she states she pays an extra fee for.

There is no evidence of the video online at this time. We have carried out research including on YouTube Kids and found no videos relating to the Facebook post.

Whilst the video cannot be located at present, the hype is being caused by the re-sharing of this post. The original post was close to 90,000 shares but appears has now been removed. The term 'Evil Santa' has begun to spike on Google trends.

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A spokesperson for YouTube said:

*We've not received evidence of there being videos on YouTube kids showing or promoting the content described in this post. Additionally, on YouTube kids, we provide parents with free tools to customize the experience for their kids and to control what content their child can and cannot see.*

The YouTube kid's app has a set of parental controls for you to customise your child's individual experience. You can decide what content to make available for them to watch. **Please visit** - [https://www.youtube.com/intl/ALL\\_uk/kids/parent-resources/](https://www.youtube.com/intl/ALL_uk/kids/parent-resources/)

## ADVICE

Parents are advised to talk regularly with their children about their online presence, and reassure them they can share anything with you no matter how delicate the nature is.

We recommend the following to help keep children safe online:

- Set parental controls on devices
- Always use privacy settings on social media and online games
- Don't trust any unknown numbers
- Block unknown numbers
- Don't click on any unidentified links
- They should not do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable
- Change passwords regularly
- Keep account and personal information secure
- Keep your computer software up to date
- Use antivirus software
- Make sure your child knows their options if they are suffering any type of cyber crime

There are many online resources that can give some excellent advice on how to keep your child safe online

- [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)
- [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)
- [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
- [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)