

Cover Page: National Center on Sexual Exploitation's Policy on Sharing Proof

WARNING: *The material in this document may contain graphic text, blurred images, and survivor quotes that may trigger the viewer.*

Why do we post proof?

NCOSE researchers have collected this proof as evidence of the material that is made, contained, and/or distributed by the corporations and institutions NCOSE is confronting.

Proof is shared with corporate executives, shareholders, and/or board members, as well as with policymakers, law enforcement, journalists, and the general public to **give witness to the sexual exploitation and abuse that is often rampant, yet sometimes hidden, on these platforms.**

Why do you blur out images, including faces, if they're publicly available?

While we believe it is important to provide ample evidence of wrong-doing to support our claims and inspire change, **we also strongly believe that no one – neither adult, nor child – should be exposed to the type of material our researchers collect:** either for their own well-being, or out of respect for those being exploited. It is for this reason we pixelate/blur/block not only nudity or sexually graphic content, but also the faces of those being exploited.

We also want to limit access to this material (unfortunately, a luxury not afforded to children and adults using many of the platforms and products made by these companies). Therefore, we add several layers before someone can access the proof, and also don't include all the proof that we have obtained. If someone feels they need to see more evidence to understand the extent of the problem or the type of exploitation that is happening, they may request it of NCOSE by writing to public@ncose.com.

Did you receive people's permission to post?

Any personal testimony shared to NCOSE directly is posted only with the affected parties approval. For material that is publicly available, we do not seek permission to post. However, we redact names and usernames of survivors from articles, social media, etc. even when publicly available. To read more about our commitment to ethical engagement with survivors, please go [here](#). We do not redact names or usernames of exploiters who have posted publicly.

Disclaimer: while we do collect information on those who request access to more proof, that information will only be used for our own, internal analysis. It will not be distributed, shared, or posted publicly or with outside parties.

Evidence of Exploitation Collected on Roblox

Table of Contents

<i>Predatory Targeting, Grooming, and Child Abuse on Roblox</i>	2
<i>Sexualized Themes and Activities and Other Inappropriate Content within Experiences</i>	4
<i>Grossly Inadequate Child Protection and Insufficient Parental Controls on Roblox:</i>	6
<i>Whistleblower Warnings & Investigative News Pieces</i>	9

Predatory Targeting, Grooming, and Child Abuse on Roblox

Child sexual abuse and grooming have long been a threat on Roblox. A simple Google search easily yields results about grooming and exploitation occurring on the platform. The following are just a few news stories about predatory adults accessing children through Roblox:

- In March 2023, a [40-year-old California man](#) was arrested after traveling across the country to sexually abuse a 14-year-old he met and groomed on Roblox.
- In April 2023, a [14-year-old girl from Ohio](#) was sexually assaulted by a man she met on Roblox. The man posed as a 17-year-old on the platform and convinced the girl to send him nude images before picking her up from school and sexually assaulting her.
- In 2022, a [thirteen-year-old girl](#) in Topeka was rescued from a man she met on Roblox who was sex trafficking her.
- In 2022, an [8-year-old girl in North Carolina](#) was targeted by an online predator on Roblox who asked her to send him “hot videos.” The girl’s mother said she had parental controls on all the devices her kids used.
- In 2022, a [Florida man](#) was arrested after kidnapping a 12-year-old boy he met on Roblox. The man’s charges included sexual battery of a child under 12, kidnapping of a child under 13, traveling to meet a minor for sex, and child abuse.
- In 2022, a [13-year-old boy](#) was abducted from his home in Utah by a man he had been having inappropriate sexual conversations with on Roblox.
- In 2021, an [11-year-old girl](#) in California went missing and was found with her abuser, who used Roblox to groom and lure her to his friends’ apartment, where he attempted to commit suicide when police arrived to rescue the girl.
- In 2021, a [12-year-old boy in Texas](#) was solicited by a 23-year-old man on Roblox. The man was charged with indecent solicitation of a child, violation of sex offender registry, and grooming.
- In 2019, an [18-year-old man](#) was charged with 26 counts of child pornography after soliciting nude images from children ages 10 to 12 on Roblox.

- In 2017, a [12-year-old boy in New Jersey](#) was groomed by a 56-year-old Virginia man on Roblox.

[The Case of S.U.](#)

S.U.'s childhood was supposed to be filled with innocent fun, but instead, it was marred by the heinous actions of predators lurking on the Roblox platform. Despite her mother's watchful eye, S.U. was targeted by not one, but *two* adult men who manipulated, exploited, and abused her through the game. These predators used Roblox as a hunting ground for vulnerable children, and the company did nothing to stop them.

The two predators targeting S.U. may have been the most overt abusers, but S.U. was bombarded with sexual advances from other adult players too. Roblox's supposed monitoring tools for inappropriate, *dangerous* behavior seem to only apply to swearing and fighting, not the rampant sexual predation happening on your watch. And when S.U. tried to reach out for help, she found none.

The toll of this abuse on S.U. is immeasurable. It drove her to attempt suicide twice. She has been stripped of her childhood and her mental health continues to suffer. Her mother struggles every day to get her daughter the help she needs, all while fighting for justice against the company that failed to protect her daughter.

S.U.'s story is a heartbreaking reminder that we cannot let companies like Roblox prioritize profits over the safety of our children. We must demand accountability and change to ensure that no child suffers like S.U. did.

[The Case of Utah Boy, Age 13](#)

At the tender age of 13, a Utah boy was lured into a trap on your platform, an app that his parents trusted to be safe for their child. But behind the facade of child-friendly graphics and colorful characters, a predator was lurking, preying on vulnerable children like him. With cunning tactics and false promises, the abuser persuaded him to migrate to other apps, including Discord and Twitter, where the grooming continued to take place in the shadows.

Then came the unthinkable. One day, the boy was suddenly snatched away and taken across state lines before the authorities finally intervened. The trauma that he and his family have been forced to endure is nothing short of a living nightmare. Their once happy home has been shattered into a million pieces, and the boy's life will never be the same again.

This tragedy occurred just in the past six months.

And it could have been avoided if Roblox had taken a stronger stance against the presence of adult predators on your platform. While the company may tout its commitment to safety, these bold statements have proven hollow in the face of frequent incidents of abuse. It's past time for Roblox to step up and protect the innocent children who use your platform before another tragedy like this one occurs.

Sexualized Themes and Activities and Other Inappropriate Content within Experiences

Roblox's policies prohibit such activities, however, there are hundreds of games with sexually explicit themes, including strip clubs, dance clubs, "Condo Experiences," and more. Child accounts by default have access to all of these experiences. (This article in [Rolling Stone](#) addresses the "virtual strip clubs" on Roblox.)

Many youth have reported innocently visiting "condo experiences" only to be encouraged to visit someone's "home," go into the "bedroom," and then engage in virtual sexual acts. Other children innocently wander around the games and stumble on this activity. NCOSE researchers created a 10-year-old account on Roblox and were easily exposed to inappropriate content, as shown in the screenshots below.





A mother created an account she was testing before letting her six young children onto Roblox and her avatar was sexually assaulted in a similar bathroom simulator. You can view the Twitter thread [here](#) and read more about this situation [here](#)

It took less than a minute for this to start happening once my character was stuck in the puddle.

(CW, for... uhh... Roblox non-con?)



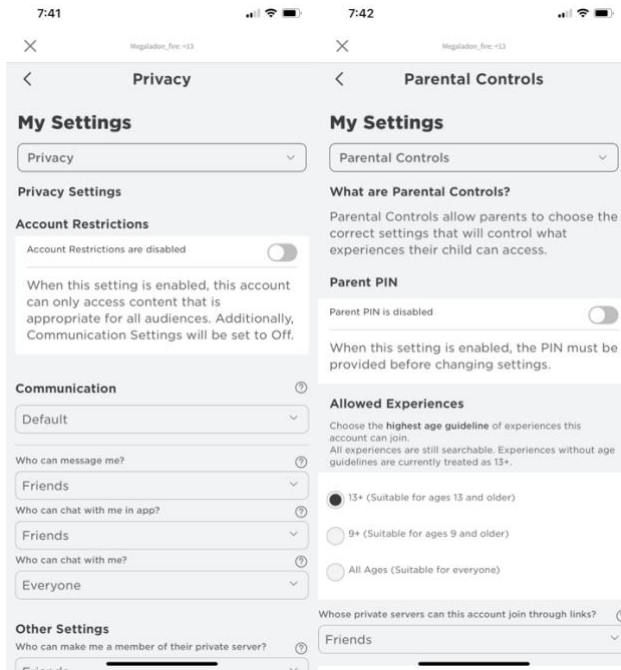
51 91 568 164.6K

Grossly Inadequate Child Protection and Insufficient Parental Controls on Roblox:

Children of any age are allowed to create accounts; no email and no parental permission is required. By default, Roblox sets young child accounts to:

- allow access to 13+ experiences;
- allow in-game chatting between young children and everyone else;
- allow anyone to “friend” young child accounts (parents cannot even disable this if they wanted to)

Default settings for 10-year-old account created on April 22, 2023:



The third experience we visited after setting up this account was “Bathroom simulation 1” (appearing in recommended for you homepage) where there was an avatar walking around with no clothes on.



It is unacceptable that even with all of the documented harms, Roblox still does not automatically default settings for children to the safest measures.

The “parental controls” Roblox does offer are inadequate. They don’t offer protection against some of the most basic risks (allowing parents to blacklist or whitelist specific games or stopping adult strangers from friending kids) and where they do offer some solutions, they are not comprehensive. Instead, Roblox’s parental controls create a false sense of security for parents who trust it. For example, many parents believe they are disabling chatting, but are not told that

www.endsexualexploitation.org

it only stops some forms of chatting and that adults can still communicate with kids through certain games.

Likewise, parents are not told that anyone can “friend” their child when they set chatting to be only with friends.

Roblox users and their parents deserve transparency and accountability. We need to know the truth to keep kids safe.

Roblox must provide effective parental controls. The following are some of the flaws with Roblox’s current tools:

1. *Inadequate Filtering*: The platform’s filtering system is not always effective at blocking inappropriate content, including sexual content and violence. This means that children can still be exposed to harmful material despite parental controls being in place. Many games are marked as “all ages” when they include mature and sexualized themes.
2. *Limited Customization*: While parents can customize some aspects of their child's account, such as restricting most ways to chat, they cannot customize the filtering system or create their own list of blocked words or games. Additionally, parents cannot stop strangers from requesting to be friends with children.
3. *Limited Visibility*: Roblox’s parental controls do not give parents full visibility into their child’s activity on the platform. For example, parents cannot see the content of private messages sent between their child and another user.
4. *Lack of Age Verification*: Roblox does not verify the age of its users, making it easier for underage children to access the platform and potentially harmful content, and for adult users to lie about their ages and gain easier access to youth users. When a child does join the game, there are no prompts requesting parental permission or encouraging the kids or parents to utilize the parental controls.
5. *Insufficient Guidance*: Roblox’s parental controls do not provide sufficient guidance to parents on how to effectively monitor their child’s activity and keep them safe while using the platform.
6. *Lack of Transparency*: Many parents trust when Roblox says parental controls will disable chats or filter inappropriate content. Roblox owes it to parents to explain where its tools fall short and to clarify common work-arounds used to continue chatting (using signs for example) or exposing kids to dangerous material.
7. *Complicated to Set Up*: Parents have to go to multiple places within the app to restrict access to certain content and who has access to their children. It is not easy to find instructions for parental controls, and those that are on Roblox website are not simple to follow and do not explain where the tools fall short.

It is not enough to rely on parents to monitor their children’s activity on the platform when Roblox has a duty to implement strong and effective measures to prevent these heinous crimes.

Whistleblower Warnings & Investigative News Pieces

[The Serious Dangers of Roblox](#)



[Parents warned about inappropriate content found in Roblox | GMA](#)



[Parents Beware: Roblox Gaming Platform Isn't Always Kid Friendly](#)



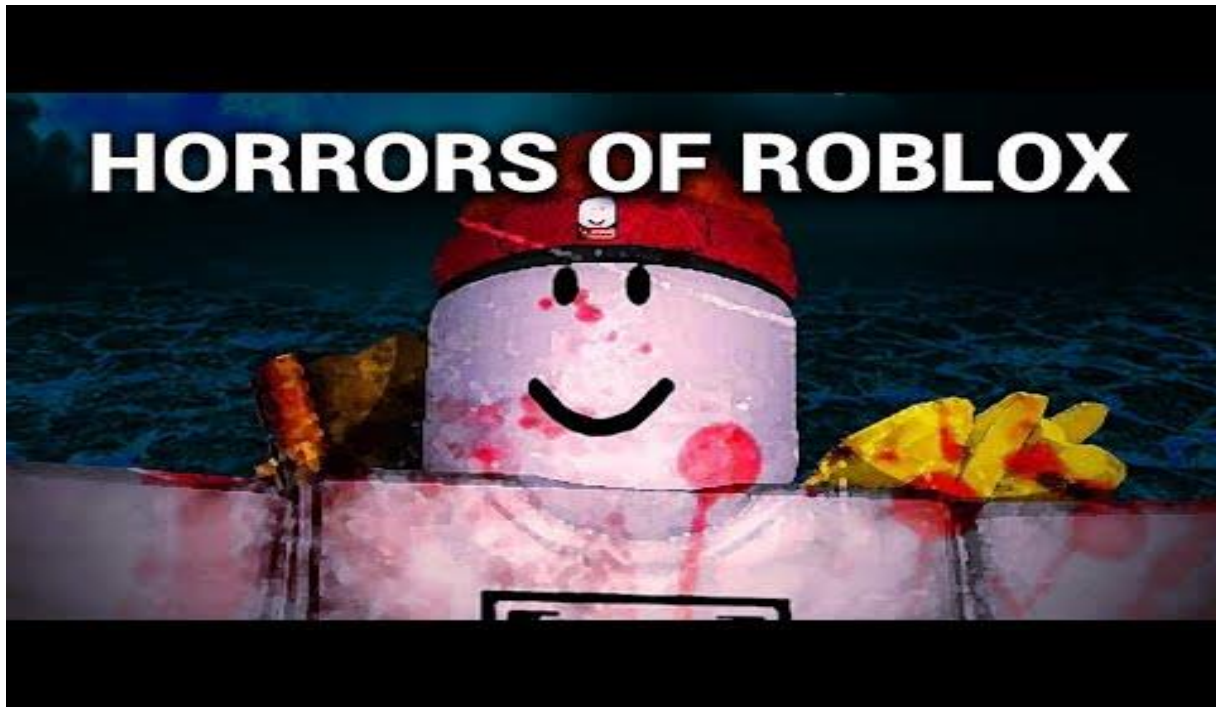
[This is how a predator targets 9-year-old Spokane boy on Roblox](#)



[The Roblox Developer Arrested By The FBI](#)



[ROBLOX NEEDS MY HELP \(And Yours Too\)](#)



[New Questions Raised About Inappropriate 'Condo Games' On Gaming Platform Roblox](#)



- [Warning to parents about the potential dangers around online game Roblox](#)

