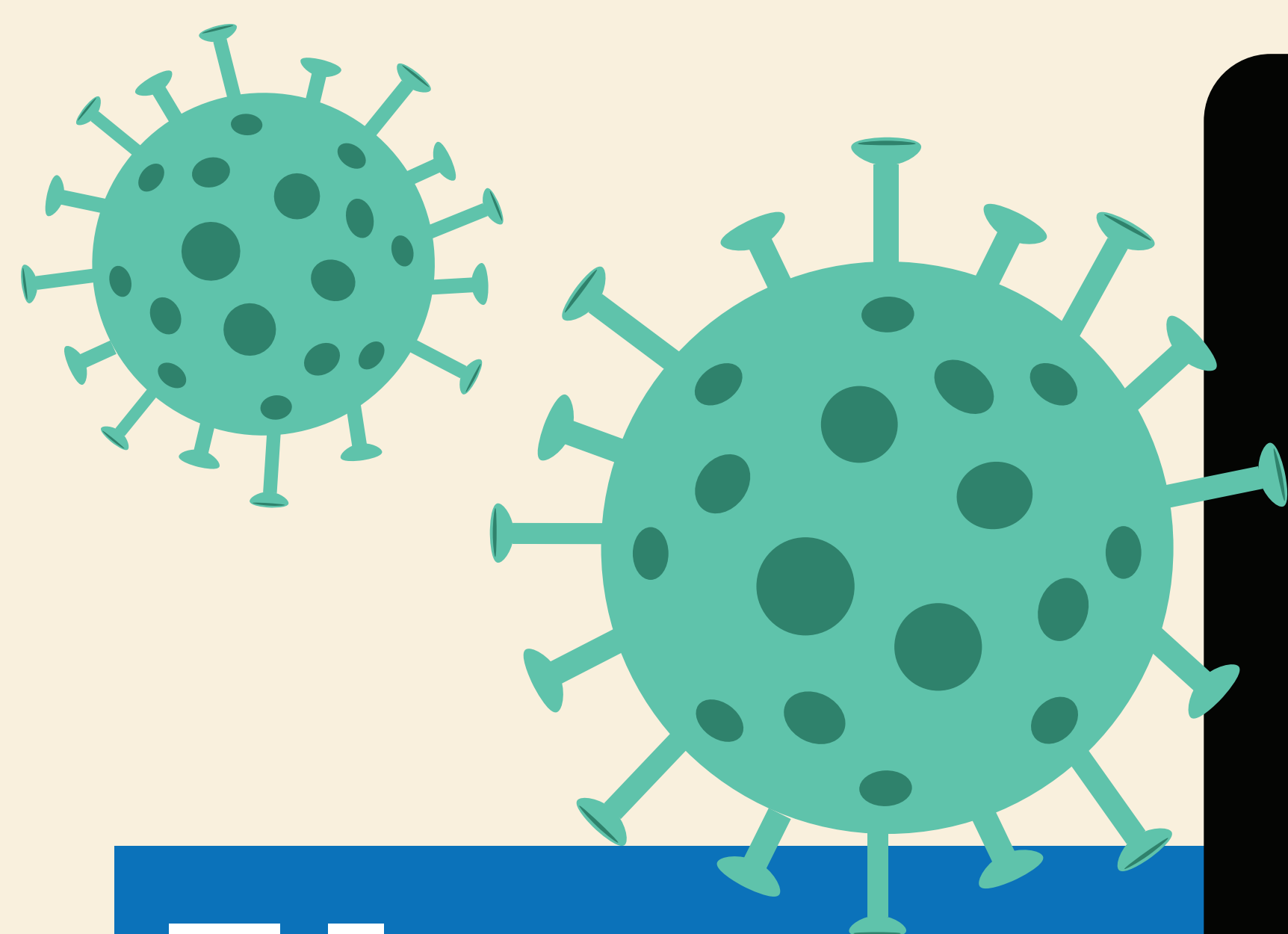


# How Predators Exploit Children



Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and school closures = increased time online  
Predators use this as an opportunity to target children and young adults.

## How?

- Through text messaging, websites, gaming apps, social media apps
- By developing trust, manipulating, and deceiving their victim
- By posing as children or teens online



## What apps are most frequently used by predators?



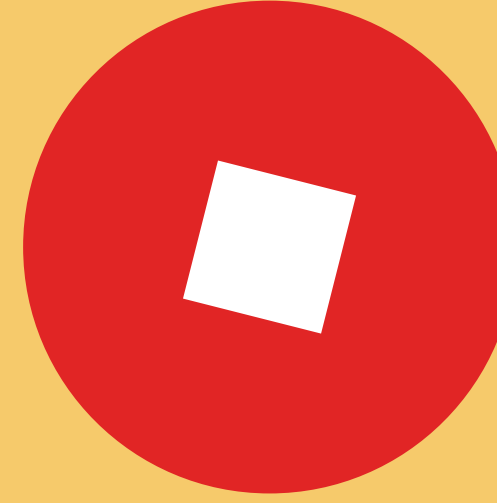
**FACEBOOK**  
15.8 million reports



**SNAPCHAT**  
82,030 reports



**TWITTER**  
45,726 reports



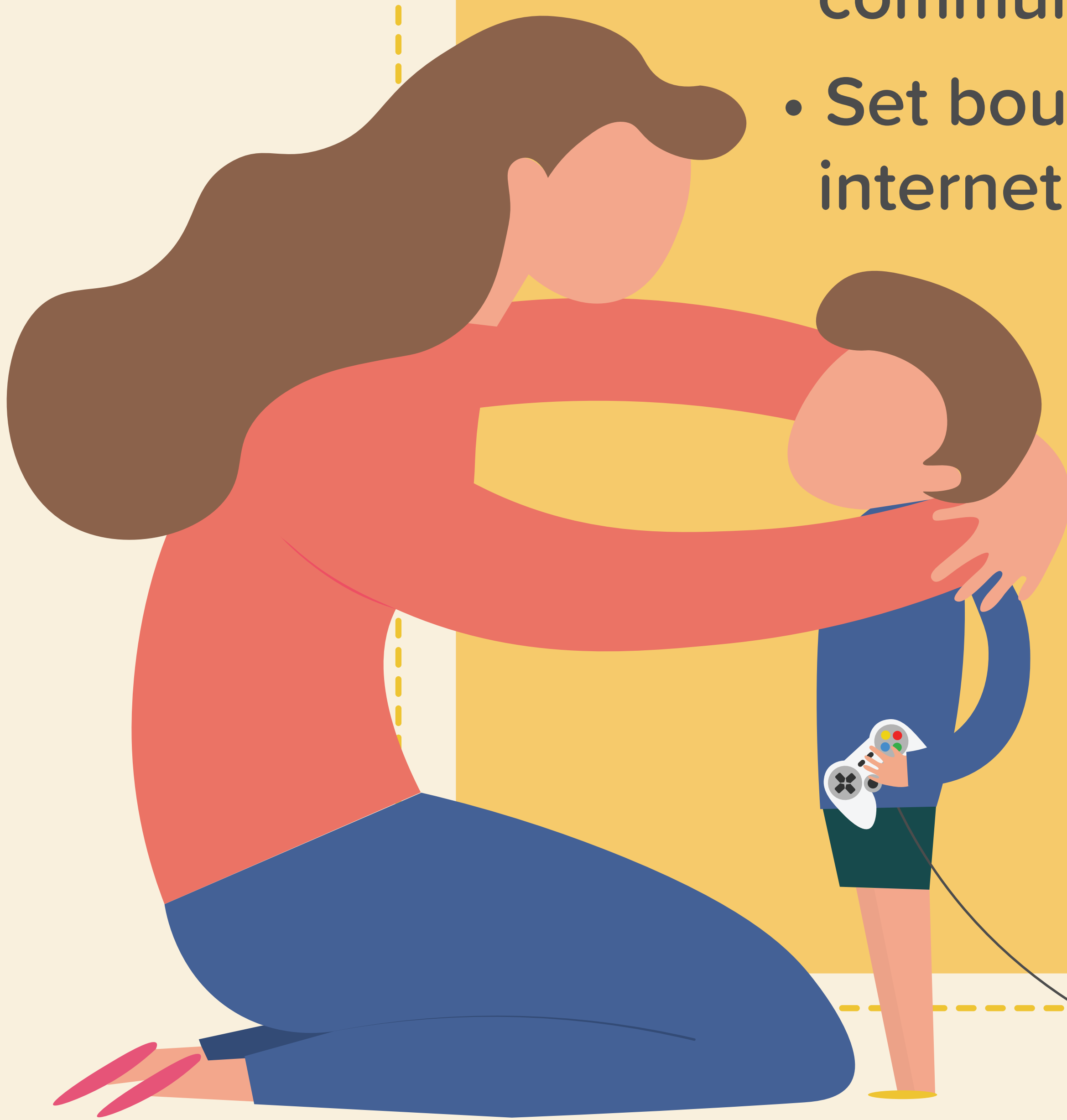
**ROBLOX**  
675 reports



**TIK TOK**  
596 reports

## What can parents do?

- Maintain open and honest communication with your children
- Set boundaries including monitored internet usage and parental controls
- Familiarize yourself with your child's online activities
- Teach your children to never talk to, share photos, or give identifying information to anyone online that they do not know in real life



**GBMC**

If you suspect attempted sexual exploitation, save any potential evidence by taking screenshots, contact law enforcement, and contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678), Maryland Center for School Safety at 1-833-MD-B-SAFE (1-833-632-7233), CyberTip at [www.report.cybertip.org](http://www.report.cybertip.org), or GBMC SAFE & DV Program at [www.gbmc.org/safe-dv](http://www.gbmc.org/safe-dv).