Talk cards: youth and gambling

Spread out the picture cards and the word cards. Match each picture to its question, then talk about what you would say.

Picture and word cards



A betting app

A sports betting app or betting site on a phone.

Try saying: I saw this app on your phone. How do kids your age use it?



Scratch-off tickets

Lottery or scratch-off tickets, even ones given as a gift.

Try saying: Who gave you these? Let's talk about why they are for adults.



Loot boxes in a game

A game that sells loot boxes: paid packs with random prizes.

Try saying: Show me how this game works. What do you get when you pay?



A stack of gift cards

More gift cards than you would expect, or cards with no clear source.

Try saying: What are you saving these for? Where did they come from?



New betting words

Notes or talk with words such as bookies, chips or point spread.

Try saying: I don't know this word. What does point spread mean?



Cards, dice and chips

Card or dice games where money or dares are on the line.

Try saying: When you and your friends play, do you play for money?



Cash and new things

Cash or new things that a teen's own money cannot explain, or money missing at home.

Try saying: Those shoes look new. I'm not upset. How did you pay for them?



Gambling videos online

Videos or live streams of people spinning wheels, opening packs or placing bets.

Try saying: Who do you like to watch? What do they do on their stream?

Scenario cards

Scenario 1: For parents and caregivers

A birthday card comes for your 13-year-old with a scratch-off ticket inside. Your child is excited to scratch it.

Try saying: That was kind of Grandpa. These tickets are for adults, so let's pick something else to do with your gift.

Next step: Ask relatives to give a treat or a book instead.

Scenario 2: For parents and caregivers

Your son's friends have a group chat. Each one puts in $20 on the big game, and the winner takes it all.

Try saying: Tell me about the group chat. What happens if you lose? How would you feel about saying no?

Next step: Plan what he can say to his friends if he wants out.

Scenario 3: For parents and mentors

Your 15-year-old spent a whole gift card on loot boxes in one night and is upset about what came out.

Try saying: It's hard to spend that much and not get what you hoped for. How does the game decide what you get?

Next step: Set a spending limit together and turn off in-game buying.

Scenario 4: For coaches and educators

On the bus, you hear players betting on who will score the most points in Friday's game.

Try saying: I heard some talk about bets on Friday. Let's talk about what that does to a team.

Next step: Share the HOPEline with families and with your school's staff.

If you are worried

Call the 24/7 HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY or text HOPENY (467369).

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