



# ALERT!

## The TikTok “Tap Out Challenge”

### What is the “Tap Out” Challenge?

This trend often involves a group of teens where one child places another child in a chokehold (forearm is placed around the other child’s neck and throat), the child performing the chokehold would then apply pressure/squeeze the neck until the child in the chokehold taps them out on their arm in which at this point the chokehold should be released. This can also involve another child “tapping in” to join the chain. Whilst there can be no physical signs of injury following this trend it is important to be aware that this type of strangulation can lead to serious health implications in the future, including fatalities.

The challenge is presented in a way that downplays the risks, showing participants laughing or walking away unscathed. What they do not show are the serious risks, like brain damage or even death, which can result from asphyxiation.

Children and young people are not aware of how easily these actions can cause serious harm. Trends such as this can change names quickly so, please be alert, talk to children and young people about it and report anything you see.

### Signs and Injuries to look out for include:

- Head injuries (as they can fall when losing consciousness)
- Possible loss of memory - feeling confused or disoriented after being alone
- Marks or bruises on the neck
- Blood shot eyes (conjunctival haemorrhage).
- Scratches or small red spots (petechiae) to neck / eyelids / cheeks and behind ears.
- Raspy or hoarse voice
- Severe headache

### Other Names Given / Similar Challenges

**Fainting game, Hangman, Elevator, and Blackout**

Information on a similar trend “TikTok Blackout Challenge” can be found at

[The TikTok Blackout Challenge: How to Protect Children](#), which includes

[What Parents Need to Know. How Safe is TikTok for Children?](#)