

Ping-ing FAQs

What is a “Ping”?

A ping includes learning information or activities delivered to a smart-phone, tablet, or computer. A ping can be a short paragraph, a video, or even a game—which typically can be read or watched in less than five minutes.

The term “ping” comes from the world of computer science, where a test message would be sent out to see if another computer was there to respond—much like a submarine sending out a radar signal to see if it will bounce back from another object.

What is “pinging”?

The idea of pinging is to provide small bits of learning material at spaced time-points (rather than all at once), and then have you answer a few questions or try out some practice exercises about what you’ve just learned. This makes it easier to process new information without being overwhelmed.

Is pinging effective?

Yes. Many studies have shown that this kind of “spaced learning” is the most effective method for helping people learn and retain information. Sending out concentrated “bursts” of information and following-up with reminders and short practice exercises makes it easier to remember what you’ve learned. One recent study showed that pinging increases learning retention by 41%.

How will pings be used with iLookOut?

When you complete the initial *iLookOut* training, you will be asked to download the *iLookOut* app to your smartphone or tablet (or access the website on your computer). The *iLookOut* team will send brief learning games, videos, and new information using this app. The goal is to provide learning opportunities on a regular basis, but not so much that it becomes a burden.

How much will pinging cost?

There is no cost to *iLookOut* participants. Downloading the *iLookOut* app and receiving pings is free, and because pings will be sent via the *mLevel* app, you will not get any text message charges from your cell phone provider.

What do I get?

Those who complete *iLookOut* pinging activities will receive:

- New information
- Learning games
- Other resources about child protection
- Professional development credit *at no charge*

What do I have to do?

- Download the *iLookOut* app or website
- Sign-in using your *iLookOut* information
- Look for notifications that you have a new learning activity
- Open the ping when it’s convenient for you
- Complete the pinging activities to learn more about protecting children
- Earn professional development credit at no charge