

E-safety the E

The Broadband Detectives, from Sherston, are here to help keep children safe on the web

The Broadband Detectives



Free poster

Your free colour pull-out poster would make a stunning centre piece for your e-safety work – serving as a reminder to all children how to keep safe – the EASY way.



Unfortunately, hardly a day goes by without there being a news story about the dangers associated with children using chat rooms or e-space. But do the risks of these technologies really outweigh the benefits, or do we simply hear more about the risks because they make for better newspaper headlines?

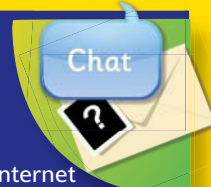
As we know, with regular day-to-day dangers, the most effective way for children to stay safe is to make them aware of, and understand, these dangers. The same applies to the risks associated with using the internet. With this in mind, there are four key areas to work through:

- Email and e-messaging – take care
- Adults – tell a reliable adult
- Stranger danger – don't take risks
- Your personal details – protect them.

With the help of The Broadband Detectives' E.A.S.Y. tutorials and activities that feature on Sherston's *Crystal ICT* online ICT solution, and this E-safety article and pull-out poster, keeping e-safe has never been, well...EASY-er.

1 Email and e-messaging

Email and e-messaging may be activities that children participate in, both in and out of school, so it's crucial that they appreciate that not everyone that uses the internet is trustworthy. Chatting to, or opening emails from, people that they don't know is not a good idea.



Talking together

- Discuss with the children why chatting online with someone they don't know is not a good idea. Do children really know who they are talking to? If someone online comes across as being friendly or trustworthy, does this mean they are certain to be in real-life?
- Talk about the kinds of email attachments people might send and receive, such as pictures, photos, sound, programs. Discuss why opening attachments from strangers might not be a good idea.
- Some attachments contain viruses that can damage computers if they are opened. Even if children know who an attachment is from, can they be sure it is 100 per cent safe to open? Why not?
- Anti-virus software helps to protect computers from viruses and other malicious programs transmitted across the internet. But, antivirus software has to be updated regularly. Can children think why this is necessary?
- Hand out copies of **Photocopiable 1**, 'Email and e-messaging'. It contains one completed 'card' showing an email, with a photographic attachment, sent by a teacher. Ask the children to create five new cards to represent different people and the type of message they could send. Children should then swap sheets and cut out the six cards before sticking them on to the 'Risk-ometer' grid, in order of risk – from low to high. Each segment of the Risk-ometer should be coloured in accordingly: green = low risk; orange = medium risk; red = too risky. (See 'Get interactive!' for a free online game.)

ASY way

Get interactive!

Download your free interactive 'email and e-messaging' game from www.scholastic.co.uk/juniored and challenge your class to decide what messages, and from who, are safe or dangerous to open and read. This is just one of four fantastic interactive games available from The Broadband Detectives e-safety tutorials. See the 'Further information' box (below) for information on how to access your free trial and special offer details.



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4 Personal details

Keeping personal information safe and secure while online is just as important as keeping this information safe in the real-world. But participating in an online environment requires children to protect other kinds of information too. For example, photographs can give away where they were taken, or who is in them. Other information, such as usernames, passwords, and of course bank details, should be kept secure at all times and not shared with anyone that can't be trusted 100 per cent.

Photo manipulations

- Encourage children to consider how details in photographs, such as landmarks and street names, could give clues to online strangers, and why this might be a problem.
- Give your children the chance to use a paint program to digitally manipulate a photograph to make it 'e-safe'. They could simply black out areas to hide names, or if they are able to, use blurring and cloning tools to digitally hide photographic details.
- Hand out copies of **Photocopiable 4**, 'Web invaders'. This worksheet is designed to consolidate children's understanding of the sorts of information that should be kept protected and away from other online users. Tell the children that they are competing against each other for the 'Top score'. Explain that a number of points is scored for each type or piece (depending on the ability of the children) of information recorded and protected from the 'web invaders' (online nasties). ■

Tim Meek, educational designer

2 Adults you can trust

While on the one hand, the internet is an incredibly social place, it can be very lonely for a scared or isolated child. Children need to know that they can turn to trusted adults whenever they need to. They need reassuring that reporting nasty content or cyber-bullies is not telling tales, but the responsible thing to do.



Shared thinking

- Arrange children into groups and give them two minutes to write a list of people that they consider to be reliable adults. Encourage them to identify and categorise the adult helpers into 'inside school' and 'outside school'. After two minutes, groups can feed back to the class about the words that they think best describe a reliable adult.
- Hand out copies of **Photocopiable 2**, 'Adults you can trust'. Ask the children to write down what they think makes a reliable adult, using the key words and suggestions made by the class. The lists they complete, and the rankings of the different people that feature on them, could be the stimulus for a classroom debate about what makes a reliable adult.

3 Stranger danger

Children are taught about the dangers of talking to strangers from a very early age – this awareness needs to be extended to online contexts, particularly because children may not naturally perceive online stranger danger in the same way as they do in real life. Chat grooming exploits the false sense of security that the computer may give an inexperienced user. Anonymity and fake identities make it easy for people (good and bad) to hide their identities, or pretend to be someone they are not. If children are made aware of this then they may develop better judgements regarding who they should/shouldn't trust online, and why/why not.



News presenters

- Challenge the children to create and deliver a news report on online stranger danger for a children's TV program. The report can only be two minutes long, but must contain all the information children might need to know about online stranger danger, including, for example how it can be difficult to know if someone online is who they say they are and why it isn't safe to meet with people in the real world.
- Working in groups, children could take on a variety of roles associated with presenting a news report. If you have a school video camera, film the reports for other classes to watch.
- Hand out copies of **Photocopiable 3**, 'Stranger danger'. Challenge the children to create a poster that will help others learn about the dangers of trusting, chatting to and meeting up with people who they don't know are real. They could use this as a planning sheet for a full-size or computer-generated poster design, or as an assessment resource to be included in an ICT portfolio.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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