

Unsafe online behavior

Ages 8–11



THE CYBERSMILE FOUNDATION

Unsafe online behavior

OBJECTIVE

To know that you should not behave in ways that you are not comfortable with.

To know that you should not ask other people to do things which they do not feel comfortable doing.

OUTCOME

To realize that it can be dangerous if you do something you are not comfortable with online, over the phone and in general.

10 MINS

8–11 YRS

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MATERIALS

Scraps of paper, pens.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Introduce the exercise to the children, and present the objectives and outcomes.
2. Get the children to write down something they would not want someone else to see/know (for example, a picture of their mom with bad hair or a picture of them picking their nose). Ensure that the children do not say aloud what they have written or write their names on their papers.
3. Once finished, ask the children to fold up their piece of paper.
4. Now ask each child to say how they would feel if someone read what they wrote. Encourage them to think about different people reading the paper such as their best friend, a classmate, a parent or a stranger.
5. Ask the children to say how they would feel if someone snatched the piece of paper from their hand right now and never asked them first if they could see it.
6. Finally, ask the children to say how they would feel if the person who read the paper then spread it around to other people.
7. End the exercise by explaining to the children that if they send information about themselves online, then it can get spread around very quickly. So encourage them to always think twice before sending information online or over the phone. Also explain to them that they should never ask someone to do something that the person feels uncomfortable doing or that they themselves would feel uncomfortable doing.

EVALUATION

Ask the children to whisper a random sentence to the person next to them. If at the end the sentence differs from the beginning sentence, explain this in the context of information being spread and altered as it passes from person to person.

NOTES

If unable to write properly yet, children can draw a picture of the scenario or can simply think about it.

Ensure all pieces of paper are collected and thrown away carefully at the end of the exercise so no one can read them.