The Leader in e-Safety Education

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LESSON—Inappropriate Web Sites

Suggested grade level 3-5

Lesson Guide

This lesson examines the concept that the Internet is part of the cyber community, which contains both appropriate and inappropriate places to visit.

Goal and Objectives

Students will:

- explore the concept of the Internet as an online community comparable to the physical community
- be introduced to the concept that there are inappropriate places online
- use the vocabulary terms: appropriate and inappropriate
- demonstrate an understanding of how to avoid or exit inappropriate places
- discuss family policy on inappropriate Web site access with family members

Materials

- a copy of the activity page for each student

Procedures
Discussion

Guide a brief discussion about the analogy of the physical community to the cyber community (Internet), and cover the following:

1. Inform students that they will be discussing the cyber community and areas online that are both appropriate and inappropriate.
2. Ask students to define the term "community." (The community is the physical area where we live, comprised of places we know where we interact with real people. Community is also a group of people who enjoy the same things or engage in the same activities, such as a club, a team, or a school.)
3. Present the question: Why is Cyberspace (the Internet) called the cyber community? (Both the physical community and the cyber community contain places in which real people interact.)
4. Ask students to: (a) give examples of places in the community that have counterparts on the Internet; and (b) give examples of ways Internet use for certain activities has become as popular as use of the physical community for the same activities (example: research for school projects online rather than at the library).
5. Ask students to define the terms "appropriate" and "inappropriate," and to identify appropriate and inappropriate places in the physical and cyber communities. Correlate "appropriate" with safe and "inappropriate" with unsafe as they relate to places in the community. (Inappropriate places include: gambling sites, adult bookstores, sites that contain adult content, and sites that promote violence and hate.)

Discussion 2

Lead a discussion concerning inappropriate places online.

1. Ask students if they have accidentally viewed an inappropriate place online.

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2. Ask students to discuss some of the ways they can be tricked into viewing inappropriate material (example: pop-up windows, Web searches, advertisement banners, e-mail links, etc.).
3. Ask students what they should do if they come across inappropriate materials (example: close window, get an adult's help, turn off computer, etc.).

Activity

- Divide students into small groups, and hand out the activity sheet.
- Have students divide up the list of places on the Internet into the safe and unsafe categories.
- Meet back as a class and discuss why each place is appropriate or inappropriate.
- Review and reinforce what students should do if they accidentally access inappropriate material.

Students use the "Home Link" activity page to discuss family policy on what to do if an inappropriate Web site is accessed on the home computer.

Children who participate in activities and share what they have learned about Internet safety are more likely to practice safe habits online.

Additional materials and support for students, teachers, and parents on Internet safety topics are available from i-SAFE Inc. **www.isafe.org**.

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ACTIVITY—The Cyber Community

Name _____ **Date** _____

Directions

Below are two categories: "Appropriate," or safe, and "Inappropriate," or unsafe. Following are 25 places in the online community. Decide which go into the "Appropriate" category, and which go into the "Inappropriate" category for students your age.

Appropriate	Inappropriate

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Places in the Cyber Community
an online encyclopedia site
an online hacking for beginners site
your school's Web site
an online homework help line
gossip central—post your comments on others
bathing beauties—a site of beautiful women
teen central—a site just for teens
music, games, and movies—free downloads
a Web site to get driving directions
a Web site to look up phone numbers
shopping site—requires a credit card to browse
play to win—a gambling site
i-SAFE's Web site
online newspaper site
supremacy rules—a hate site
a Web site with fun and educational online games
a Web site that requires your full name, address, and more to log on
a gambling Web site
a Web site all about outer space

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PARENT PAGE—Family Policy on Inappropriate Web Site Access

Your child has been learning that the Internet is part of the cyber community, which contains both appropriate and inappropriate places to visit.

To make this a successful learning experience, it is important for parents to become involved by reinforcing this concept at home.

Your child has learned that to be safe, he or she needs to know what to do if an inappropriate Web site is accessed by mistake.

If you have a home computer, explain to your child how you want him or her to respond if an inappropriate Web site is accessed, and have your child demonstrate that he or she understands how to do that. Some options are:

- Get help from a family member or trusted adult.
- "X out" the webpage.
- Turn the computer's power switch off.
- Turn the computer monitor's power switch off.

In addition, it is important to remember the following when it comes to setting rules and guidelines for Internet use: While it is important to monitor and set rules for Internet use, it is also important to remember that children do need some privacy. Try to set a reasonable balance, and make sure lines of communication are open so that you know what is going on in your child's life, and so they feel free to come to you with issues. Become familiar with how your child uses the Internet. Ask them questions, and get involved.

Where do they go when online?

With whom do they talk?

What are their screen names and passwords?

By becoming familiar with their patterns of use and time spent online, you will be able to detect any changes in behavior that may signal a potential issue. Set some basic rules as a family that everyone can follow when online.

Also keep in mind that cell phones have come a long way. Many provide Internet access and text-messaging features. Set rules and guidelines for cell phones that are similar to rules for Internet use at home.

Finally, always encourage your child to share his or her Internet experiences with you. Talk about what he or she does online each day and how to handle any issues that come up, and reaffirm that you are always there if needed. Remember: You want your child to feel comfortable coming to you if he or she encounters something disturbing online!

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