

Overview

Children watch "Meet the WizzyWigs" and are introduced to possible dangers on the Internet in the form of characters named the WizzyWigs. Then they write and illustrate a story about one of the WizzyWigs.

Program Goal

- Enhance a child's ability to recognize dangers on the Internet.

Internet Safety Message

I will tell my parents, my guardian, or a trusted adult right away if I come across any information that makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

Materials

- computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- "Meet the WizzyWigs" activity from the "NetSmartz Rules!" program
- "Comic Book" from the NetSmartz Kids web site

Time

20 to 25 minutes

Activity

*How does the Internet help us? What could be dangerous about the Internet?
How do you try to be safer on the Internet at home? Are we safe on the Internet at school?
What rules do we have to help us stay safer on the Internet?*

Explain to the children that they are going to write a comic strip, but first they have to know what characters they are going to use. The villains are called WizzyWigs. Each WizzyWig represents a different Internet danger. Show the children the online activity "Meet the WizzyWigs," and ask them to think about which WizzyWig they want to use in their comic strip.

Tell the children to choose a WizzyWig. *Write a story about one of the WizzyWigs and what to do if you come across one on the Internet.* Emphasize that the children should tell their parents, their guardian, or a trusted adult right away.

If you are in a computer lab, access the "Comic Book" on the NetSmartz Kids web site. The children should design the first sentence of the story using the comic book feature, print out the picture, and then write the rest of the story on another sheet of paper. If you have more time, they could make more than one frame. The program allows up to six frames.

If you are not in a computer lab, the children can draw pictures for their stories.

