

OVERVIEW

Students discuss how passwords are like keys and why it is important to have a password that isn't easy to guess.

PROGRAM GOAL

Enhance the ability of children to protect their personal information on the Internet.

MATERIALS

- computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- "UYN: The Password Rap" show
- two locks and two keyrings

INTERNET SAFETY MESSAGE

I will never share personal information such as my address, my telephone number, my parents' or guardian's work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' or guardian's permission.

TIME

20 minutes

ACTIVITY

Bring in two locks and two keyrings with lots of keys on each ring. The first keyring and lock should have no identifying marks on the keys and no external marks on the lock to identify which key unlocks it. The second lock should be a very distinct color, and there should be a key on the second keyring that obviously unlocks the lock. Invite two students to come up to the front of the class and tell them they will be racing to see who can open the locks first.

Discuss why the second lock was opened first. Using a subtle identifier which you haven't revealed to the class, find the key that opens the first lock. Explain that although one key was much easier to find, they both open their locks just as easily and they are both unique to their locks alone.

Show "UYN: The Password Rap."

How are the keys just like passwords? What things do we like to keep locked up? Offline answers include houses, diaries, money, or cars. Online answers include personal information, such as name, age, location, personal weblogs, bank accounts.

We can't carry around an actual key when we are online. The key has to be in our head. That's why we have passwords. Clicky says, "If nobody can guess [your password], then nobody can steal it." Think back to the key and the show. What can we do to make sure nobody can guess our password? Make sure it doesn't have any identifying information and that it is unique enough to remember, but not so unique that it gives you away.

For more information about passwords, please visit www.staysafeonline.info, sponsored by the National Cyber Security Alliance.