

# WHO'S YOUR FRIEND ON THE INTERNET? 1

GRADES 5-6

Time : 20-25 minutes



## Internet Safety Message

I will never meet in person with anyone I have first "met" online without checking with my parents or guardian.

I will tell my parents, my guardian, or the trusted adult in charge if anyone online asks me to do something that makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.

## Overview

Students watch "Who's Your Friend on the Internet?" Then students write a question or concern about communicating with people online. Have a panel of students offer suggestions. The group is encouraged to discuss the suggested solutions and offer alternate solutions as well.

## Program Goal

Enhance the ability of children to understand that people they first "meet" on the Internet should never be considered their friend.

## Materials

- computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- "Who's Your Friend on the Internet?" activity from the "NetSmartz Rules!" program
- situation cards and suggested solutions
- small pieces of paper or 3 X 5 cards
- "Internet Safety Pledge" handout posted in room or copied for each student in the group

## Activity

Ask the students if they've ever talked on the telephone, E-mailed, or written a letter to someone they'd never met in person. Ask them what is different about communicating with someone they haven't yet met in person. Explain that on the Internet, many people send E-mails or messages to people they have never met before. Show the students "Who's Your Friend on the Internet?"

*What are Nettie and Webster teaching us about people we have first "met" online? What should we do if someone we first "met" online wants to meet us in person? Tell your parents, your guardian, or the trusted adult in charge, and don't give out any personal information. Which Internet Safety Pledge Numbers would help us if someone we first "met" online invited us to meet in person? Pledge #1, 2, 3, and 5 all apply — make sure the students explain why.*

Give the students blank note cards and five minutes to write down a question about people they communicate with online, protecting personal information, what to do when approached online, or any other Internet safety issues they want to discuss. Instruct them to leave their names off the cards. Collect the cards, and discreetly separate the questions you wish to have the group discuss. Put the selected questions and situation cards in a box or bag.

Choose five or six students to serve on a discussion panel. Tell the group you are now going to have a question-and-answer session. Have each student in the group take a turn drawing questions from the box or bag and directing the question to one or two of the other panel members. Allow the students from the panel to offer solutions, and then open the discussion up to the group to explain their solutions or offer new solutions. Keep the discussion focused and ensure that the solutions are consistent with the "Internet Safety Pledge." Also see the suggested solutions for guidance.

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## INTERNET SAFETY PLEDGE

GRADES 3-6

1. I will talk with my parents or guardian so that we can set up rules for going online. The rules will include the time of day that I may be online, the length of time I may be online, whom I may communicate with while online, and appropriate areas for me to visit while online. I will not break these rules or access other areas without their permission.
2. I will tell my parents, my guardian, or the trusted adult in charge if I come across any information that makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. I will not download anything from anyone without permission from my parents, my guardian, or the trusted adult in charge.
3. 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.
4. I will never respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. If I do get a message like that, I will tell my parents, my guardian, or the trusted adult in charge right away so that he or she can contact the online service. And I will not send those kinds of messages.
5. I will never meet in person with anyone I have first "met" online without checking with my parents or guardian. If my parents or guardian agrees to the meeting, it will be in a public place and my parents or guardian must come along.

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**SITUATION 1**

Our computer teacher gave us all E-mail accounts to use at school. I always like to check my E-mail to see what messages my friends have sent me, but yesterday I received a really upsetting message. I'm hurt and embarrassed. I haven't told anyone because I don't know who sent the message.

What should I do?

**SITUATION CARDS**

**SITUATION 2**

I was in my favorite music chatroom, when I met 7Spree51 or Darin, which is his real name. Darin seems really cool. He likes all the same music as I do, and we can chat about anything. He is so funny. I've met up with Darin a couple of times in the chatroom, and we've E-mailed each other. Well, recently Darin asked me for my telephone number. I don't want to be rude, and I am kinda curious.

What should I do?

**SITUATION CARDS**

**SITUATION 3**

I have been talking with my friend Sam for about a month. I met him in a chatroom for soccer players. He is in a grade above me, and we have so much fun talking. We have a lot in common. Lately Sam has been talking about things that make me feel uncomfortable. He said that if I was his friend, we should be able to talk about anything. I just feel weird doing this.

What should I do?

**SITUATION CARDS**

**SITUATION 4**

I just got invited to a party this Sunday for my friend Susie. We met online and became instant best friends. I'm so excited to go to her party. She told me to be at my school's playground at 6 and she would have her dad pick me up so my parents wouldn't have to drive. The only problem is that she begged me not to tell my parents. Susie and I are both afraid that my parents won't let me go. I feel badly about lying, but I really want to go to the party.

What should I do?

**SITUATION CARDS**

**SITUATION 1**

Tell the teacher, and don't respond to this rude E-mail message. It is just as important to work out problems in good ways online as it is offline. It is not your fault if you receive rude, offensive, or harassing messages.

**SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**

**SITUATION 2**

Even though Darin seems cool, you just never really know who someone is online. Sometimes people pretend to be someone they are not. Never give anyone online your telephone number. From your telephone number people can usually find out where you live. Because you really don't know who Darin is, you don't want him to know this.

**SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**

**SITUATION 3**

Do not respond to any messages or chatroom conversations that make you feel uncomfortable. A real friend would not talk about things that make you feel uncomfortable. Immediately stop the communication, and tell your parents or guardian.

**SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**

**SITUATION 4**

Never meet in person with anyone you have first "met" online. Discuss it with a trusted adult. Suzie may not be an honest person. If anyone online asks you to do something that makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, tell your parents, your guardian, or a trusted adult.

**SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS**