



Overview

Children are introduced to the concept of the Internet and the idea of the world wide web by comparing it to a spider's web. Children watch "The Web Connection," an interactive activity where Clicky explains how we connect to each other on the web. This activity is not available on the NetSmartz web site, but is part of the "Clicky's Web World" downloaded version.

Materials

- computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- "The Web Connection" activity from the "Clicky's Web World" program
- "spider web" (attachment 1) visual aid
- "Web Sites for Children" (attachment 2) handout that children can take home to parents
- ball of yarn

Activity

Yarn Activity

Have the children sit in a circle. Explain how being in a circle helps you talk to each other, see each other, and share information. People can talk to each other and share on the world wide web, but instead of sharing information with people in a circle, they share information with everyone else on the world wide web. Now have the children turn around and face outward. *Now you can't see the others in the circle, but you can still talk to them. You can't see if someone joins or leaves the circle. This is like the world wide web. You can talk to anyone in the world who is online, but you don't always know who that person is. And you don't always know if people online are actually who they say they are.*

Why do you think the world wide web is called "the web?" Has anyone ever seen a spider web? Explain that people all around the world are connected to each other like all the lines in a spider's web. Show the visual aid (attachment 1). Explain to the children that they are going to "connect" to one another with a ball of yarn or string. Ask a selected child to pick someone to talk to and connect the two children using the string or yarn. Repeat this process until all the children are connected.

We've had fun connecting with each other like we do on the Internet. It's always good to have a trusted adult with you when you go somewhere or play outside. You know you can go to that person if you need help with anything. The web is another place where it's good to have a trusted adult with you.

"The Web Connection"

You could have children do the activity themselves on individual computers or gather them around an LCD projector or one computer. Watch "The Web Connection."

Discussion Questions

How do we connect to each other on the Internet? Through our computers.
What do you need to have in order to use the Internet? Computer, Internet access.
With whom can you connect (or communicate) on the web? Anyone who has Internet access in the whole wide world!
Can you always tell if the person you are connecting with is your friend? No, because on the web anyone can pretend to be someone else.

Program Goal

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

 **Time**
20 minutes.

Internet Safety Message

I will tell my parents, my guardian, or a trusted adult if anyone online wants to meet me in person.



GRADES K-2: "THE WEB CONNECTION 1" ATTACHMENT 1



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Web Sites for Children

These educational sites were chosen because they are easy to navigate, are age appropriate, contain information for parents and teachers, and have a variety of activities or games from which to choose. The fun sites were chosen because they are age-appropriate and easy to navigate.

EDUCATIONAL

PBS Kids - www.pbskids.org

Fun Brain - www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html

Enchanted Learning - www.enchantedlearning.com

Fun School - www.funschool.com (www.kaboose.com)

FUN SITES

Sesame Street - www.sesameworkshop.com/sesamestreet

Disney - www.disney.go.com/playhouse

Crayola - www.crayola.com/kids

Thomas the Tank Engine - www.thomasthetankengine.com

Please note that we provide this list as a public service.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children does not sponsor or endorse any web site listed.

NetSmartz recommends that instructors and parents review all web sites before allowing children to visit them. Because the nature of web sites can change over time, make sure that these web sites are still appropriate choices for children prior to each visit.