**Internet Safety in Primary Schools**

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**The Internet is a wonderful student resource for researching school reports, communicating with teachers, staying in touch with friends, and entertaining themselves. They can literally hit a few keystrokes and find out about culture in China, the history of Europe, or take a tour of the American White House.**

But with that access comes risks, even if you’re careful. For example, in our year 3 class project on life cycles, we never allow the students to search “chicks”, rather they must type “baby chickens” to avoid problems.

The digital natives we are educating don’t want to hide from the internet, though. They want to learn to manage it. What we as teachers must do is show them how to avoid the internet’s bad neighbourhoods so they can benefit from the good. Here’s my year-by-year run-down on how to prepare students to thrive in the online world:

Primary 1

I mix the following internet safety lessons with other projects during my 45-minutes-per-week lesson. I spread them out throughout the year, repeating if necessary, which doesn’t bother the children at all.

* The first time students access the internet, I provide an overview. What is the internet? Where does it go? What will they see once they’ve clicked a link? How should they safely use a link? How do they NOT click on the ads (and what are ‘ads’)?
* We visit age-appropriate videos that teach online safety
	1. [Surf Swell Island](http://home.disney.com.au/activities/surfswellisland/)
	2. [Clicky’s Quest - internet safety](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/AdventureGames/ClickysQuest)
	3. [Clicky’s Web World - what to do](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClickysWebWorld/What2Do)
	4. [Princess who knew how to UYN (video)](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClubUYNVideos/PrincessPuppetShow)
	5. [Webonauts](http://pbskids.org/webonauts/)
	6. [Garfield - internet safety](http://learninglab.org/)
	7. [Webville Outlaws - internet safety](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClickysWebWorld/WebvilleOutlaws)
	8. [My Online Neighborhood (video)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oOZ93jfAhg)
	9. [Internet safety (video) - a day in a digital citizen’s life](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89eCHtFs0XM&feature=youtu.be)
	10. [Safe surfing (ebook) - read or read to you](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/eBooks/DeliveryForWebster)
	11. [Internet Safety Site - Disney](http://www.disney.co.uk/DisneyOnline/Safesurfing/)
* I have sufficient adult assistance that learning is seamless and students aren’t confused

Primary 2

I mix the following lessons in with other projects throughout the year. I reinforce the topic of ‘internet’ at least monthly so students realise its importance.

* Remind students of the lessons learned about the internet safety in reception - what is the internet? Where does it go? What will they see when they click a link? How should they safely use a link? How do they NOT click on the ads (and what are ‘ads’)?
	1. [Bad Guy Patrol](http://www.badguypatrol.ca/default.htm)
	2. [Computer safety (videos)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld/)
	3. [Surf Swell Island](http://home.disney.com.au/activities/surfswellisland/)
	4. [Clicky’s Quest - internet safety](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/AdventureGames/ClickysQuest)
	5. [Clicky’s Web World - what to do](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClickysWebWorld/What2Do)
	6. [Princess who knew how to UYN (video)](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClubUYNVideos/PrincessPuppetShow)
	7. [Webonauts](http://pbskids.org/webonauts/)
	8. [Internet safety (video) - a day in a digital citizen’s life](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89eCHtFs0XM&feature=youtu.be)
	9. [Garfield - internet safety](http://learninglab.org/)
	10. [Webville Outlaws - internet safety](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClickysWebWorld/WebvilleOutlaws)
	11. [My Online Neighborhood (video)](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oOZ93jfAhg)
	12. [Safe surfing (ebook) - read or read to you](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/eBooks/DeliveryForWebster)

Primary 3

* For 15-30 minutes of one lesson: Discuss *image copyright* as students search for online pictures in conjunction with a class report - what does this term mean? Why is it important? How can they identify a copyrighted image? Here are several websites with copyright-free images:
	1. [Creative Commons](http://search.creativecommons.org/)
	2. [Flickr - they list their restrictions - this is a good learning tool](http://www.flickr.com/)
	3. [Flickrcc - only creative commons images on Flickr](http://flickrcc.bluemountains.net/flickrCC/index.php)
	4. [FreeFoto.com](http://www.freefoto.com/index.jsp)
	5. [MorgueFile - free images, but check the licenses first](http://www.morguefile.com/)
	6. [Open Clip Art Library](http://openclipart.org/)
	7. [Openphoto](http://www.openphoto.net/)
	8. [Smithsonian Wild - 200,000 animal pictures!](http://siwild.si.edu/)
	9. [Stock.xchng](http://www.sxc.hu/)
	10. [Wikimedia Commons](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
* For one lesson during the year: Discuss *online presence* as students create an online story in [Storybird](http://storybird.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or[Blabberize](http://blabberize.com/).
* Reinforce *cybersafety and online security* by creating an avatar using one of these free web-based avatar creators:
	1. [Lego](http://www.reasonablyclever.com/mini/kidsafe.htm)
	2. [Build Your Wild Self](http://www.buildyourwildself.com/)
	3. [Voki](http://voki.com/)
* Research a project that goes to specific websites as a method of teaching *safe search methods*
* During sponge or free time before/after a project: Visit these online websites:
	1. [Internet safety online](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/LearnWithClicky)
	2. [Internet Smart Princess](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ClubUYNVideos/PrincessPuppetShow)
	3. [Surf Swell Island](http://www.innovatemyschool.com/home.disney.com.au/activities/surfswellisland/)
	4. [Internet safety (video) - a day in a digital citizen’s life](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89eCHtFs0XM&feature=youtu.be)
	5. [Faux Paws Internet Safety (videos)](http://www.ikeepsafe.org/videos/?vid=fauxpaw_video)
	6. [Garfield - internet safety](http://learninglab.org/)
	7. [Internet safety](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/)

Primary 4 - this is a four-week unit

* Create avatars as you discuss *internet safety*with students. Use:
	1. [Lego](http://www.reasonablyclever.com/mini/kidsafe.htm)
	2. [Build Your Wild Self](http://www.buildyourwildself.com/)
	3. [Voki](http://voki.com/)
* Discuss *online netiquette*
* Discuss *copyrights*
* Discuss *plagiarism*
* Websites to visit throughout the term, during free time before/after projects:
	1. [Safety Land - with certificate at end](http://www.att.com/Common/images/safety/game.html)
	2. [Safe Kids Quiz](http://www.safekids.com/quiz/q1.htm)

Primary 5 - this is a five-week unit

* Create avatars while discussing *internet safety*
* Discuss *safe research* methods (and how that equates to internet safety)
* Discuss *netiquette*, good online manners
* Discuss *copyrights*
* Discuss *plagiarism*
* Websites we visit (given time)
1. [Plagiarism (video)](http://www.commoncraft.com/video/plagiarism)
2. [Privacy Playground - age 8-10](http://mediasmarts.ca/)
3. [Safe Kids Quiz](http://www.safekids.com/quiz/q1.htm)
4. [Cybersmart](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/cyberquoll/index.html)

Primary 6 - this is a seven-week unit

* Discuss *digital citizenship* - what does that mean? Why is it important? What are the responsibilities of being a ‘digital citizen’?
* Discuss *copyrights*
* Discuss *plagiarism* and the importance of giving credit to the creator of text and images
* Discuss *fair use*
* Discuss *public domain*
* Discuss ***‘digital footprint’*** - what does that mean?
* Discuss *netiquette*, good online manners
* Discuss *safe online presence* (no last names, etc.)
* Discuss *safe research methods* (and how that equates to internet safety)
* Use the Webquest on [Hoax or Not](http://www.kidsnetsoft.com/webquest/html/index.html)
* Explore [Is This Picture Real?](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/photo_database/image/tourist_guy/)

Primary 7

* Self-directed [online internet safety unit](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internetsafetyforkids)

**Parents**

Useful Internet Safety Links for Parents

* <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
* <http://www.digizen.org/parents/>
* <http://ceop.police.uk/>
* <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>
* <http://www.chatdanger.com/resources/>
* <http://www.saferinternet.org/home>
* <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2013/quiz>
* <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/need-help>