# AACPS Digital Citizenship

## Lesson Title:  Safe Talking in Cyberspace          Grade 5

**Time: 30 minutes**

**Overview:** Students learn that they can develop rewarding online relationships, but they should never reveal private information to a person they know only in cyberspace without asking their parent or guardian for permission.

**Objectives:**

- Compare and contrast cyber pals and face-to-face friends.

- Recall that private information should not be given to anyone in cyberspace without the permission of a parent or guardian.

**Materials:**

- Teacher Resource: Video-Tracking Teresa

- Activity Sheets:

  Safe Talking in Cyberspace

  Its Okay to Talk Online

  Cyberspace Talk Safety Checklist

**Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Students (MTLSS):**

**Standard 2.0–Digital Citizenship**:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history of technology, its implications on society and practice ethical, legal, and responsible use of technology to assure safety.

**Activities:**

- Ask students to share their experiences chatting, instant messaging, and posting on message boards online.

- Challenge them to explain the differences between messaging with friends they know from school and people they have never met face to face.
- Explain that while you can have what seems to be a close relationship with a cyber pal, they cannot possibly know a person online as well as they know a face-to-face friend.

- **Distribute** Activity Sheet 1.
- Have students read the scenario about Sita and CJcool11, answer the questions individually, and then share their responses. **NOTE: Postpone discussion until students have read and applied the information on Activity Sheet 2.**

# Teach 2

- **Distribute** Activity Sheet 2.
- After students read It's Okay to Talk Online,
- **Ask:** *Why might it be easier to share school problems with a cyber pal than a face-to-face friend?* (It may be easier to share because cyber pals are not from school and so may be able to see both sides and they don't have to worry about what the other kids in school will think.)
- After students read Cyber Pals ask them if they have ever pretended to be someone they are not online. Point out that cyber pals might pretend sometimes, too.
- After students read **Choose Chat and Messaging Just for Kids**, point out that monitors may also be called hosts or moderators.
- Make sure students understand that they should keep private information private (not give it out) unless they ask their parent or guardian first. If students ask why, you can explain that there are criminals who use private information to pretend to be another person. Then they use that person's name to steal money. This is called *identity theft*. **NOTE: The latest research indicates that pre-adolescent children are generally not the targets of online predators and that the news media-driven idea that predators are piecing together private identity information to abduct a child is not supported. In this lesson, we tackle a broader reason for children not sharing private identity information—because of the risk for identity theft.** It is never too early for children to learn about identity theft, as they are often targeted because children have a clean credit history and their parents are unlikely to be alert for signs that someone is using their child's identity. Children who learn about identity theft can also help protect their parents' identities online.
- Go to Web Resources>Teacher Resources>Lesson Title: Safe Talking in Cyberspace>Tracking Teresa video. Show the video to the class and after the video discuss what Teresa could have done to protect her identity. List some suggestions for the students to see.
- **Distribute** Activity Sheet 3.
- Have students read, discuss, complete, and sign the checklist.

- Have students revisit their responses on **Activity Sheet 1** and make changes or additions.
- Discuss possible answers with students. Sita should answer to ‰Where is your school?+that ‰I'd rather not say,+or ‰That's private. Let's not go there.+Point out that Sita doesn't have to answer at all. She can just log out of the messaging service or Web site or block the person asking the questions.
- Students should be reminded that when people persist in asking any question that makes them feel uncomfortable, they can ask a trusted adult to help them report these people to the Web site owners.

## Take Action

- Have students write a letter to their parents explaining in their own words how they plan to stay safe by avoiding giving our private information when messaging online. Encourage students to identify the specific messaging services they use and the Web sites where they post messages and how they can use the features of each to protect their private identity information and stay safe.

## Closure:

**Ask:** *How are cyber pals and face-to-face friends different?* (Even when you share personal

thoughts with a cyber pal, this person is as much a stranger as someone you meet on the street for the first time. You know face-to-face friends much better. Just seeing them in school or around your neighborhood gives you a lot of information about them.)

**Ask:** *What should you do when a cyber pal asks for private information?* (Never give private information without first asking permission of a parent or guardian.) What are some alternative answers you can give? Examples: Let's not go there? That's private. Change the subject? I can't give out that information ? etc.

**Extension:** (Optional) Have the students make a collage of sayings -- "What should you do when a cyber pal asks for private information?"

Name _____ Date _____

# Safe Talking in Cyberspace

Sita likes to visit a Web site where kids can post messages about their favorite TV shows, school, and current events. She really likes the kid who uses the screen name CJcool11. When Sita shares a problem she has at school, CJcool11 always has good ideas for handling the problem. Sita thinks of CJcool11 as a friend.

One day, while messaging, CJcool11 and Sita compare their two schools. Sita types, "My school principal is so strict. We have to walk through the halls in straight lines!"

CJcool11 answers, "My school isn't so strict. What's the name of your school?"

Sita types back, "Uh, my school's name is too hard to spell."

CJcool11 types, "So where is your school?"

What should Sita answer?
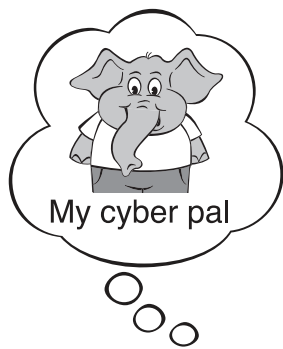
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What makes this answer a good one?

_____

_____

## It's Okay to Talk Online

Sita and CJcool11 are cyber pals, not face-to-face friends. They only know each other from messaging online. It's okay to talk with pals in cyberspace. Cyber pals can have very good talks. They can share their feelings. They can talk about problems they might not share with friends at school.
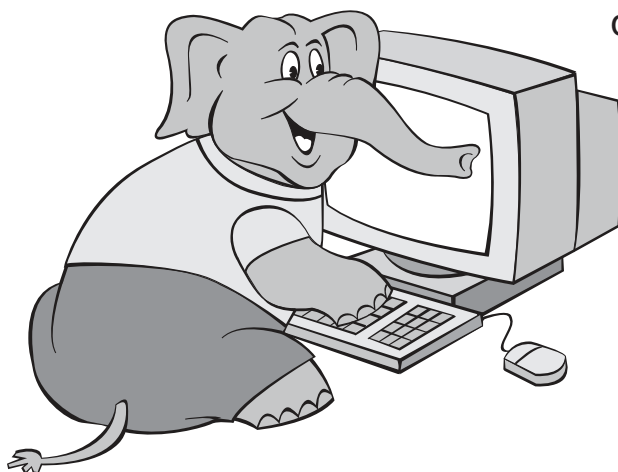
My cyber pal

## Cyber Pals

Can you ever really know if a cyber pal is male or female? Can you know for sure how old he or she is? The answer is NO—you can't know for sure. That's the difference between a cyber pal and a friend you know face to face. So you should treat cyber pals like strangers you meet on the street. Never give them private information about yourself without first asking permission from your parent or guardian.

My cyber pal

## Choose Chat and Messaging Just for Kids

If you want to talk to cyber pals, visit Web sites just for kids. Most of these sites have chat and messaging with adult monitors. A *monitor* is like a referee at a game. The monitor keeps the chat on topic. The monitor makes sure everyone uses good manners and stays safe.

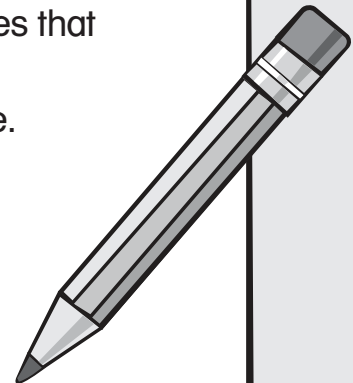### Be CyberSmart!®

Know the kinds of private information:

- full name
- street address
- name of school
- school address
- e-mail address
- phone numbers
- passwords
- calling card number
- mother's maiden name
- parent's place of work
- photos in which you can be recognized

Name _____ Date _____

# Cyberspace Talk Safety Checklist

You're ready to go online when you can check that each statement about you is true.

☐ My parents say it's okay for me to chat and message online.

☐ I will only chat and message on kids' Web sites that have monitors.

☐ I will never reply to, or click on a link in, an IM from someone who is not a face-to-face friend.

☐ I will pick chat and messaging screen names that do not include private identity information.

☐ I know what kinds of information are private.

☐ I will not give out private information when talking online.

☐ I will not answer questions that make me uncomfortable.

☐ I will leave the site and tell a trusted adult if someone bothers me online.

☐ I will never meet someone face to face that I met online without bringing a parent or guardian with me.

Signature _____ Date _____