



AACPS Digital Citizenship

Lesson Title: Privacy Rules

Grade 4

Time: 30 minutes

Overview: Students learn that children's Web sites must protect their private information and look for privacy policies and privacy seals of approval.

Objectives:

- Explain that children's sites must, by law, protect the private information of children 13 and younger.
- Determine whether a site has a privacy policy and privacy seals of approval

Materials:

Lab

Activity Sheet: *Privacy Rules*
(Copy sheet back-to-back)

Websites on Tech
Connections-Privacy Rules

- [Club Penguin](#)
- [Nickelodeon](#)
- [Kids Running](#)

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:

- Have students imagine walking around a big city wearing a tag that has their full name, address, and phone number printed for all to see. **Ask:** *Why is this idea unsafe?* Guide students to recognize that such information should be kept private so that strangers cannot use it to find them or bother them.
- Distribute one copy of the activity sheet.

Computer Lab:

- Go to the Tech Connections. Use the links for *Privacy Rules*.
- Tell students the United States has a law requiring Web site owners to help protect the private information of kids 13 and younger and to explain how they do so in a privacy notice. In addition, two organizations- Better Business Bureau and TRUSTe- periodically review children's sites to make sure they are protecting children's privacy.

- With students, complete the checklist for one of the websites. **NOTE:** *What CyberSmart! calls “private identity information,” or more simply “private information,” others may call “personal information.” CyberSmart! considers private information to be any information that can be used to discover one’s identity.*
- Have students review their completed checklists. Explain that if Questions 1-7 and either Question 8 or 9 are answered, "Yes," then the site helps protect their privacy.
- Point out that they should make a habit of checking for privacy policy and privacy seals.
- Assign individuals or groups to the remaining sites, have them complete the checklist, and share their results with the class. If activity sheet was copied back-to-back, this could be the back of the activity sheet.

Closure:

- **Ask:** *Why must kids’ sites protect children’s private information?* (There is a U.S. law that requires them to do so.)
- **Ask:** *How do you use the CyberSmart! Checklist to decide whether a site protects kids’ privacy?* (If Questions 1-7 and either Question 8 or 9 are answered, ~~%~~Yes, then the site helps protect kids’ privacy.)

Extension: The following activity can be added for students who completed this lesson in a previous grade.

- Have students take a look at the websites on other parts of the Tech Connections or Approved Search Engines. Then have them use a copy of the checklist to evaluate each site and summarize the results.

Name _____ Date _____



Privacy Rules!

Site name _____

Site URL _____

Does this site need a privacy policy?	Yes	No
1. Is any part of the site content meant for kids 13 and younger? If yes, go to 2.		
2. Does it ask for any private information at all? If yes, go to 3.		
3. Does it require private information to do some or all activities? If yes, then answer 4–9.		

Posting the Policy	Yes	No
4. Does the homepage, or kids' homepage, have a link to its privacy policy?		
5. Do the pages that request private information have a link to the privacy policy?		
6. Are the links clear and easy to find?		
7. Does it give the name, address, phone number, and E-mail address of the person to contact with questions?		

Privacy Seals	Yes	No
8. Does the site show a TRUSTe® Privacy Seal for Kids?		
9. Does the site show a Kid's Privacy BBBOOnLine® seal?		

Be Cyber**Smart!**®

If a site does not have a privacy policy, leave it.