

Internet safety lessons for 5-year-olds

7th February, 2013



A British organisation has recommended that children as young as five should be given instruction on the dangers of the Internet. The U.K. Safer Internet Centre

is co-funded by the European Commission and delivers a wide range of activities and initiatives to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Britain's National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) welcomed the advice and urged schools to provide appropriate guidance on Internet use. The NSPCC's Claire Lilley warned of the dangers youngsters faced by being online. She said: "We are facing an e-safety time bomb. Young people tell us they are experiencing all sorts of new forms of abuse on a scale never seen before."

The Safer Internet Centre published an online survey of children's reflections on the Internet on February 5th, to coincide with the UK's Safer Internet Day. The report summarises the opinions of 24,000 schoolchildren. It found that 31% of seven to 11-year-olds said that gossip or mean comments online had stopped them from enjoying the Internet. Children also said they had been exposed to online pornography, experienced cyber-bullying and had been forced into sending indecent images of themselves to others. The report said: "Promoting a safer and better Internet for children...involves promoting their online rights - to be safe online, to report concerns and to manage their privacy."

Sources: BBC / ITV / SaferInternet.org

Writing

The Internet has the potential to teach five-year-olds many things. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages if such young children being online.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

5-year-olds / Internet dangers / responsible use of technology / e-safety time bomb / online survey / Safer Internet Day / online pornography / cyber-bullying / privacy

True / False

- The UK Safer Internet Centre gets all its money from British taxpayers. T / F
- The NSPCC is an organization that fights cyber crime worldwide. T / F
- A childcare official likened the Internet to a bomb waiting to explode. T / F
- The scale of abuse detailed in the report is nothing new. T / F
- The U.K. Safer Internet Centre published its report on Children's Day. T / F
- The researchers questioned 24,000 British schoolchildren. T / F
- Around a third of kids said gossip stopped them enjoying being online. T / F
- The UK Safer Internet Centre wants to promote children's online rights. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. recommended | a. looking at |
| 2. initiatives | b. x-rated |
| 3. appropriate | c. thoughts |
| 4. facing | d. strategies |
| 5. abuse | e. nasty |
| 6. reflections | f. suitable |
| 7. mean | g. urged |
| 8. exposed to | h. worries |
| 9. indecent | i. shown |
| 10. concerns | j. wrong |

Discussion – Student A

- How was your very first experience of the Internet?
- What are the good things about the Internet?
- Have you had any bad experiences on the Internet?
- From what age should children be allowed on the Internet?
- What are the dangers of a child going online unsupervised?
- What should children learn at school about the Internet?
- What do you think the "e-safety time bomb" in the article referred to?
- If a child gets in trouble online, is it the parents' fault?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. promote the safe and responsible | a. Safer Internet Day |
| 2. urged schools to provide appropriate | b. time bomb |
| 3. the dangers youngsters faced | c. rights |
| 4. We are facing an e-safety | d. children's reflections |
| 5. abuse on a | e. guidance |
| 6. an online survey of | f. use of technology |
| 7. coincide with the UK's | g. scale never seen before |
| 8. gossip or mean | h. images |
| 9. indecent | i. comments |
| 10. promoting their online | j. by being online |

Discussion – Student B

- Should it be easier to remove gossip on sites like Facebook?
- What do you think kids like or dislike about the Internet?
- What are the bad things about the Internet?
- What should happen on Safer Internet Day?
- How can we combat cyber-bullying?
- What kind of online rights should children enjoy?
- Are you satisfied with your level of privacy online?
- What questions would you like to ask an Internet safety expert?

Spelling

- meeordcmdne that children...
- activities and eiasivntit
- utleyrc to children
- provide pirpaetrpoa guidance
- dangers eusosytnrg faced
- new forms of aeubs
- children's sitfeorelcn
- ocincide with the UK's Safer Internet Day
- been pdxeseo to...
- online poyraohrpgn
- ecdните images
- manage their ypavicr

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. f	4. a	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. i	9. b	10. h

Role Play

5-year-old - You really want to use the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. However, you are very worried about using the Internet. Tell the others three reasons why. You think it's very unfair if 5-year-olds are stopped from going online. You think it is probably safe enough.

Parent - You do not want your 5-year-old to go online. Tell the others three reasons why. You think it is too young to go online. There are plenty of books and games for your child instead of the Internet. Your kid should also be outside playing with his/her friends. Your child's parent is wrong about everything.

5-year-old's teacher - You are worried that your 5-year-old student's parent won't let him/her online. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell the parent it is essential for the child to go online, but in a safely controlled environment. The Internet has benefits he/she cannot get from books.

Internet expert - You think it is OK for kids as young as three to go online, as long as their parents are with them. Children need a trusting guide to cyberspace. Children who do not go online will be digitally illiterate and will not be successful in life. You think the parent's views are from the 19th century.

Speaking – Internet Danger

What are the dangers of the Internet? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest at the top. Change partners often.

- identity theft
- bad eyesight
- phishing
- online gossip about you
- cyber-bullying
- credit card theft
- indecent images
- sexual predators

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.