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CHILD PERSONAL SAFETY: INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE CONTENT

Overview

Developed by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and sponsored by Shaw Communications, the *Zoe and Molly Online* program has been designed to promote both in-class and at-home discussions about the risks associated with online activity.

The Zoe and Molly Online: Caught in the Net story is about two young girls who accidently access inappropriate adult content on the Internet. This lesson explains to students that the Internet can have many positive uses, but also that the Internet contains some content that is not appropriate for children. Students learn what to do if they come across inappropriate content. They also learn that these situations are not their fault.

Outcome

- Students will distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate information available online
- Students will understand they may be exposed to inappropriate content online
- Students will know what to do if they come across inappropriate content online

Required Materials

- Pre-test and post-test (included in this lesson plan)
- Chart paper, marker, star stickers
- Zoe and Molly Online: Caught in the Net comic book (SMART Board® version from ZoeandMolly.ca, or individual paper copies ordered from protectchildren.ca/order)
- Parent/guardian letter and at-home activity page (included in this lesson plan)

Background

Children in Grade 3 enjoy using the Internet to discover new things. However, they do not yet have the experience or knowledge to effectively manage some of the content they may come across while using the Internet. It is important for children at this age to learn to identify inappropriate content and to know what to do when they encounter it. This lesson aims to empower students to trust their instincts when viewing content and to go to an adult when they come across something inappropriate.



Pre-test

Have students complete the pre-test (included). Review the pre-test to gain an understanding of the students' current knowledge of Internet content and appropriate online behaviour.

Activate Prior Knowledge

Brainstorm

- Ask students what they like to do online. Record on chart paper.
- Give each student a star sticker to put by the activity they enjoy the most.

Presentation

- Explain to students that the Internet is a wonderful place that allows people to do many things. People can find information, connect with people, play games, shop, etc. There is a lot of great information online, but there is also information that is not okay because it isn't appropriate.
- Ask students what type of information online might not be okay to see or read. For example, there is
 information that isn't true, that is hurtful towards people, that is scary and that is not okay for kids.
- Ask if they have seen anything online that isn't okay.
- Hand out the comic to students, or use the SMART Board version of the comic book available at ZoeandMolly.ca.
- Explain to students that the comic Zoe and Molly Online: Caught in the Net is about two friends who like
 playing games together on the computer. One day when they are playing online, they come across a website
 that isn't appropriate.
- Read the comic together as a class.



Guided Practice

Think/Pair/Share

Ask students to think about the following questions and then ask them to turn to a partner to discuss their answers. Finally, share as a class.

- 1. What did Zoe and Molly come across online that wasn't okay?
- **2.** What do you think the girls were laughing about?
- 3. Why do you think the girls' faces turned red after Zoe's sister spoke to them?
- 4. Why do you think Molly started to cry?
- 5. Was it the girls' fault that they came across information that wasn't okay for them to see? Why or why not?

Explain to students that there is information online that is not appropriate. Sometimes kids find this information when they are searching for games or looking for other information online. This is not a child's fault, and it can be uncomfortable and upsetting for kids to come across this type of information. If this happens, kids should walk away from the computer and tell an adult who can help them.

Closure

Ask students to think about the following questions:

- 1. What do you think Zoe's sister told Grandma?
- 2. What do you think Grandma did?

In pairs, ask them to write an ending to the comic. Share as a class.

Exit Slip

Have the students complete the post-test (included). Have them compare their results to their answers on the pre-test to show them what they've learned.









Home Activities

Photocopy the Parent/Guardian Letter and the at-home activity page. Hand out copies to students to take home and complete with their parents(s)/guardian(s).

About our Partner

Shaw Communications is a proud supporter of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and our *Zoe and Molly Online* program. With Shaw's support, we are able to distribute child protection materials to schools across Canada free of charge. More information on their commitment to children and the community can be found at shaw.ca.

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Parent/Guardian Letter REPRODUCIBLE

Teacher	School	
	Date	

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The **Canadian Centre for Child Protection** (Canadian Centre) has partnered with **Shaw Communications** to create an exciting new educational tool to help Grade 3 teachers and parents teach kids how to stay safe online. The *Zoe and Molly Online: Caught in the Net* comic book and lesson plan are part of the Canadian Centre's Kids in the Know safety education program, which educates students about personal safety in an age-appropriate way. We have made this lesson available to hundreds of Canadian schools free of charge.

Today in school, your child was introduced to the concept of online safety. We encourage you to re-read the story with your child. If your child didn't bring the *Zoe and Molly Online: Caught in the Net* comic book home, download a copy from ZoeandMolly.ca. Be sure to select the Grade 3 comic book. By re-reading the story at home and having a discussion with your child about online safety, you will help reinforce important safety strategies and ensure your child is better prepared to properly deal with difficult situations s/he may encounter online.

We hope that you and your child enjoy the *Zoe and Molly Online: Caught in the Net* story. Together we will help ensure our children's online adventures are safer ones!

Sincerely,

Lianna McDonald, Executive Director Canadian Centre for Child Protection Inc. Brad Shaw, CEO

Shaw Communications Inc.









At-home activities to help parents teach their Grade 3 children about online content

What can you do?

- 1. Read the story together with your child to help teach them about what to do if they see inappropriate content online.
- 2. Explain to your child that there is information online that is not okay. Sometimes kids find this information when they are searching for games or looking for other information online. This is not a child's fault, and it can be uncomfortable and upsetting for kids to come across this type of information. If this happens, kids should walk away from the computer and tell an adult who can help them.
- **3.** Set clear expectations for safe online practices:
 - Set the expectation that you will monitor your child's online activities, as the Internet is a public place.
 - Assist with the creation of online profiles. When signing up for games, provide a family or parental email account rather than your child's email address.
 - Monitor your child's online communications closely and discuss the qualities of healthy and unhealthy friendships.
 - Know your child's login information. What username or character names has your child given herself/himself?
 Does it provide identifying characteristics about her/him or her/his hobbies (shygirl, bookworm, etc.)?
 - When initially setting up any gaming console for the first time, be sure you are present to set up any parental controls and create passwords for the parental control features.

You can also visit the **Canadian Centre for Child Protection's Kids in the Know** website (**kidsintheknow.ca**) to access other age-specific, developmentally appropriate prevention materials and educational programs.





Grade 3 — Zoe and Molly Pre-test

Circle your answer.

1. Is it okay to share pictures online?







2. Do kids see things online that are weird or gross?







3. Do kids get in trouble when they see bad pictures online?







4. When kids see something online that is weird, what should they do?

a. Nothing.

b. Log off the computer.

c. Log off the computer. Tell an adult.

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Grade 3 — Zoe and Molly Post-test

Circle your answer.

1. Is it okay to share pictures online?







2. Do kids see things online that are weird or gross?







3. Do kids get in trouble when they see bad pictures online?





Maybe

4. When kids see something online that is weird, what should they do?

a. Nothing.

b. Log off the computer.

c. Log off the computer. Tell an adult.

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