

Name _____ Class# _____ Due Friday!

Royal Spring Middle School – Willow Hambrick – Literacy Coach – February - Week 3 - 2015

Literacy Strand – I-Safe – “Appropriate Online Behavior” – By: Traci Mahone

Monday: Identity Theft – As a member of the cyber community, a user of the Internet, you must understand that maintaining anonymity, remaining unknown, is certainly a challenge. Some would even argue maintaining anonymity is impossible. As a user, you must intentionally and deliberately establish and maintain barriers to protect your personal information to ensure your safety online and in your physical community. One specific danger related to the protection of personal identifiable information is identity theft: The I-Safe curriculum reminds us that identity theft is “a serious crime that costs American consumers billions of dollars and countless hours each year. It occurs when someone uses your information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes.” Protecting yourself from identify theft is a serious matter even for young users of the Internet.

In one sentence, explain why identify theft is considered an online danger.

Tuesday: Identity Theft Protection -- To protect yourself from identity theft, do not fill out survey forms associated with pop-up advertising that market lines such as: “You are a winner!” Also, do not respond to spam (junk email that often promotes hoaxes, “business” opportunities, chain emails, etc.) or websites that request personal information. By protecting your personal information, you reduce your risk of falling victim to spyware, “programs that are loaded onto your computer without your knowledge when you download other programs which gather user information, monitor web activity, scan files, create pop-up ads, and log keystrokes” thus jeopardizing password and credit card security among other things. Finally, you should always remember that “private” chats and instant messaging forums aren’t always private. You could be leaking or sharing personal identifiable information to others without even knowing it as with spyware/adware.

In one sentence, explain how you can protect yourselves from identity theft.

Wednesday: Online Strangers/Predators -- Another real and specific danger in the cyber community is that of the online stranger: any person who is met exclusively online. I-Safe reminds us that we should always apply the rules/advice of behavior toward strangers in the physical community to strangers in the cyber community. For example, just as you wouldn't walk up to a complete stranger in Wal-Mart, the grocery store or street and hand them a sheet of paper with information about who you are, where you live, where/when you practice at the soccer field, etc., we shouldn't engage in such absurd behavior online, and yet most users engage in this risky behavior every single day. Always maintain distance and protect your personal information from online strangers and more specifically online predators, people who "stalk or use lies, secrecy, or stealth to get close enough to another person" with the intention of harming them.

In one sentence, define an online stranger and explain why communicating and building a friendship with an online stranger is in fact a danger.

Thursday: Grooming Process -- Some people on the Internet lie about who they are and some do so with the intent of forming inappropriate relationships with children and young adults(pause here and view video clip: Pool Party). These people are known as online predators. I-Safe states that "Internet predators use what is known as the grooming process to create seemingly safe online relationships and then betray that friendship by attempting to break down barriers and cause harm." To "groom" their victims, Internet predators: 1. Establish similar interests – build friendships that then lead to more private communication like email or even phone calls 2. Build trust 3. Promote secrecy by requesting that the online friendship remain a secret 4. Break down barriers – expose the victim to inappropriate content slowly over time to desensitize the victim to the content 5. Make threats about keeping the relationship and the inappropriate communications a secret 6. Insist on a face to face meeting

If you notice that an online relationship is following the grooming process, you must end all communication and report the communication to your parents or another trusted adult in addition to local authorities.

In one sentence, explain what you should do in the event that an online relationship has gone from fun to uncomfortable and inappropriate or seems to follow the grooming process.

Friday: Remember the 4 Rs

RECOGNIZE

Recognize techniques used by online predators to deceive, groom, or intimidate their victims. Grooming techniques to encourage an eventual face-to-face meeting:

- Establishes Similar Interests
- Builds Trust
- Encourages Secrecy
- Breaks Down Barriers
- Makes Threats

REFUSE

Refuse all requests for personal information, to keep the relationship secret, or to meet in person. Refuse to provide personal information by phone or email if you didn't initiate the communication.

RESPOND

Respond assertively by disengaging from the communication by exiting the program, logging off, or turning off the computer.

REPORT

Report any suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you feel uncomfortable to a trusted adult.

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