Barefoot
from Computing at School | BT

Cyber snakes Home learning

Overview

In this activity children play a special online safety edition of snakes and ladders. The snakes and ladders board includes a variety of online safety 'Dos and Don'ts'. If they land on a 'Do' they climb a ladder, but land on a 'Don't' and they slither down the board on a snake!

Concepts and approaches covered



Data



Internet Services

Age group: **4 - 6 years**
Duration: **15-20 minutes**

Materials you will need:

- Cyber snakes board (on screen or print out)
- A counter or a coin for each player
- Dice

All the above available to download or use an online dice

eg. https://www.google.com/search?q=dice+roller

What will your child/children learn?

Internet Services

- How to stay safe when using internet services such as online games or websites
- How to use internet services respectfully and responsibly

Data

- Which kinds of information should be kept private
- How to keep personal information or private data safe

What do we want to encourage from your child?

- Being able to concentrate and pay attention
- Being able to take turns to play a game
- Showing they can listen for a short time
- Being able to talk about what they are doing
- The chance to learn new words and use within their play
- To be able to answer questions with support

Words to try and use

- Safe
- Private
- Personal
- Time limit
- Passcode / password
- Avatar

Getting started

1. Explain that you are going to play a snakes and ladders game. If your child is not familiar with the game, explain that you will take turns to roll the dice and then move your counter to the right square.

2. Explain that in this version of the game, they will find 'Dos and Don'ts' as they move around the board. These are situations which they may find themselves in when using technology. The Do's represent positive choices which will help to keep them safe online and the Don'ts give examples of less sensible choices.

3. Play the game together, stopping to talk about the Dos and Don'ts with your child when you land on them.

Notes for discussion (Numbers match squares on the game board)

2. You and your parent agree which fun websites and games you can use at home.
Select apps, games and websites together with your child to make sure you are happy with the contents. Try to preview the app first and consider whether it is age appropriate, how it might support your child's development or learning, the features it contains (e.g. is there a chat function?), any privacy settings and whether it has adverts which may be distracting or inappropriate.

3. You are playing a game and a picture pops up on the screen. You're not sure what it is but you tap on it and something starts to download.
Encourage your child to ask for help if something unexpected or unknown appears on the screen. Reassure them that they won't get into trouble, but you could help to stop any unwanted messages or take them back to the game they were playing.

4. Your cousin has posted a new YouTube video – you and your parent leave a positive comment underneath it.
Modelling good online behaviour is key to developing your child's own digital literacy skills. Sharing positive uses of online technologies with your child, such as appropriate online communication is a great example of this.

5. Your older sister leaves her computer on with her messages open. You send an emoji to one of her friends.
Make sure that the apps, games and websites your child is using are age-appropriate. Games which older siblings use may not be appropriate for your younger children. Look at age ratings but also the content and features within the games before you let them play. Encourage older children to lock their devices when they are not being used.

7. You played a fun game yesterday but you can't remember how to find it. You ask your parent for help to find it.
Take an interest in the games and apps your child likes to use - maybe you could sit down and play their favourite game with them. Make sure they know that if they need help when using technology, they should always ask a trusted adult.

8. Something scary appears on your screen when you are watching a TV program. You show your parent and they help you take it away and get you back to your program.
If your child likes to watch TV programs on a device, you could download the official app for the channel, e.g. BBC iPlayer. This will make it less likely for them to come across inappropriate content, adverts or pop-ups. Make sure they know that if they need help when using technology, they should always ask a trusted adult.

9. Your parent lets you play a game on the tablet but you get bored of it and change to a different game without asking them.
Establish rules for apps and games you are happy for your child to play. Keeping each child's apps in their own folder could help limit their choices to an appropriate selection.

11. You find your parent's phone and it needs a passcode to log in. You don't know it, but tap on lots of different numbers to see if it will turn on.
Talk about the idea that passwords and passcodes should be kept private and not shared. Model good practice by not sharing your own passwords with your children.

12. You and your parent make a cool avatar for your favourite game which you use instead of using your own picture.
Help your children to understand that some information about ourselves should be kept private and not shared with others. Personal information includes our name, address, date of birth and photo. Talk about how information that we post online can be seen and shared by others.

13. Your time limit is up for using the tablet but you really want to play for a bit longer so you keep going.
Setting time limits for your child's screen time can be useful to give them a break from devices, and some devices will allow you to set time limits within them. You might also have device free zones (such as the dinner table!) and most importantly, try to set a good example yourself by putting your phone down too, as children will model their behaviour on you.

Follow up activities

Ask your child to show you what their favourite thing to do online is, and to show you how it works. As you look at it together, invite them to tell you what they like about it. Taking an interest in your child's online activities will help to encourage open discussion, which is a key part of keeping them safe online.

Linked online activities

Read the story of Digiduck's Big Decision from Childnet and find how to be a good friend online
https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/digiducks-big-decision