

Safe Online Talk

*** DID YOU KNOW ...**

“Belt up!” is the British version of “Shut up!” (As in, “I told my sister to ‘belt up’ about the extra cookies we ate.”)

Match the words to their definition

| | |
|------------|--|
| log | an image or character that represents a person online |
| plagiarism | a written record of an occurrence over time |
| anonymous | the copying, “lifting,” or making slight changes to some or all of someone else’s work and saying you wrote it |
| avatar | having an unknown identity |

*** WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What motivates people to present themselves differently online than in person?

*** DO YOU REMEMBER ...**

How you should handle inappropriate online talk?

1. Family Activity

Imagine you’re asked to give a younger kid advice about staying safe online, especially when he or she is using social media or online gaming. Come up with a dos list of how to safely enjoy social networking or gaming and a don’ts list of risky behaviors to avoid. These lists should be created to avoid unwanted contact with strangers or people whom they might already know online. (Bonus: Ask a friend or family member to do the same exercise, and then compare your lists. How many of your dos and don’ts are the same? How many are different? Compile a master list with all the tips you both agree on.)

2. Tech It Up!

Record a video of yourself sharing your dos and don’ts for safe internet behavior. With permission from a parent, consider sharing your video with a younger sibling, cousin, or friend.

3. Common Sense Says ...

When you’re communicating with someone online, keep the following four questions in mind. If you find that you’re answering “yes” to any of the questions, log off and share what’s going on with an adult you trust:

1. Has this person asked to keep anything about our relationship a secret?
2. Has this person hinted at or asked about anything sexual?
3. Have I felt pressured or manipulated by this person?
4. Do I feel true to myself -- sticking to my values -- when I communicate with this person?

