Internet Safety

Sometimes children reveal personal information or details about incidents that, in order to respect confidentiality, need to be handled outside of the classroom. If this happens, tell the child, "Thank you for sharing that, _____. That sounds really important. I will talk to you about that later" (at the end of class, at the break, as soon as humanly possible, etc.) When this happens, be sure you talk to the child at your first opportunity and alert the administration. Remember that you are the responsible reporter in cases of suspected abuse.

This lesson compliments the following Catholic teachings:

- Jesus' life as a model for our own
- God calls us to be responsible for our actions
- Understand the importance of serving others as Jesus did
- God teaches us to lead a healthy life and make good choices
- Human life is sacred and must be respected
- Responsible relationships are based on love, honesty, and respect
- We are called to respect the human body as sacred life
- Our conscience helps us to know what is right and to what we believe is right
- God calls us to be responsible for our own actions.

Lesson Goal

Children will come to understand the concept of a Circle of Grace in relation to use of the Internet.

Lesson Objectives

Children will be able to:
1. Understand the difference between a safe secret and an unsafe secret.
2. Recognize and define vocabulary that relate to the Internet.
3. List positive uses of the Internet.
4. Review and describe their Circle of Grace.
5. Identify behaviors that would be appropriate in relation to a child's Circle of Grace when using the Internet.
6. Identify boundaries when using the Internet.
7. Formulate an action plan for safe use/safe exit of the Internet.

Vocabulary

<u>**Review**</u>
1. **Boundary**: The borders or limits we need to keep ourselves safe within our Circle of Grace.
2. **Circle of Grace**: The love and goodness of God which always surrounds me and all others.
3. **Safe Secret**: A secret is safe when it does not hurt oneself or others.
4. **Unsafe Secret**: A secret is unsafe when one thinks that someone, including oneself, might be hurt or get in trouble if one does not tell.
5. **Trust**: Being able to count on someone to help one to stay safe within one's Circle of Grace. Trust will also include to be safe from one's Circle of Grace to another person's Circle of Grace.
6. **Trusted Adult**: A grown-up who helps one to stay safe in their Circle of Grace and to respect others within their Circle of Grace.

<u>**New**</u>
1. **Blog**: An on-line journal. Personal stories can be posted or thoughts as in a personal journal. This is a public journal that anyone can access.
2. **Chat room**: The name given to a place or page in a web site or on line service where people can chat with each other by typing messages which are displayed almost instantly on the screens of others who are in the chat room.
3. **Flaming**: Sending a deliberately confrontational message to others on the Internet.
4. **Inappropriate Material**: Pictures or words on the Internet that make you feel uncomfortable scared, or that intentionally degrade a human person.
5. **Instant Messaging (IM)**: Technology similar to that of chat rooms which notifies a user when a person is on-line allowing them to converse by exchanging text messages.
6. **Netiquette**: Courteous, honest, and polite behavior practiced on the Internet.
7. **Personal Contact Information**: Information that allows an individual to be contacted or located in the physical world, such as a telephone number or an address.
8. **Phishing**: An identity theft scam in which criminals send out spam that imitates the look and language of legitimate correspondence from e-commerce sites. The fake messages generally link to websites that are similarly faked to look like the sites of the respected companies. On the sites you are directed to enter your personal information for authentication or confirmation purposes. The information, when submitted, goes to the thieves not to the "spoofed" company.
9. **Predator**: Someone who uses the Internet to obtain personal information about others with the intent to do harm.

Materials Needed:
1. Vocabulary Matching Game for each child (see the end of Grade 4 lesson)
2. Vocabulary Matching Game Key for the leader (see the end of Grade 4 lessons)
3. Chart paper or marking board for listing uses of the Internet
4. Chairs/String

Opening Prayer
Leader calls class to prayer by asking children to join in the Sign of the Cross.
Then say together,

<div align="center">

Holy Spirit, show us the way,

Be with us in all we think, do, and say. Amen.

</div>

> It is important to begin the lesson by explaining that God does not want or cause bad things to happen. There will be children who may have already experienced unsafe or hurtful situations. We want our children to understand that God is with them and for them even when they are hurting or sad.

Lesson Activities

<u>Getting Started</u>

Review Circle of Grace concepts:
1. We are all made in the image and likeness of God and therefore we are sacred and holy, deserving of great respect.
2. Jesus told us that he would always love us and His Spirit would always be with us. If we are always in His presence, we are always in a special, holy place. We call that place our Circle of Grace.
3. If we remember that we are in a Circle of Grace, that God is there with us and we are surrounded by His love, we will remember to behave with special respect for ourselves and for others.
4. *Leader to reinforce the children's understanding of the difference between a safe secret and an unsafe secret (see Vocabulary).*

Activity

The topic of this lesson is the use of the Internet. Have children make a list of constructive and destructive uses of the Internet. Think about the analogy of how the use of a hammer can be constructive or destructive. This may be a good analogy for the children. For example:

CONSTRUCTIVE	DESTRUCTIVE
Communication	Damage someone's reputation
Information	Steal someone's identity
Entertainment	View inappropriate sites

Leader assigns the children to complete the Vocabulary Matching Game either as individuals or with partners (see the end of the Grade 4 lesson).

Discussion – Children's Rules and Guidelines for Internet Safety

Present and discuss the following (copy of these rules and guidelines are at the end of the lesson for the children to take home to their parents):

- Never give out personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' names and phone numbers, or where you go to school or grade level.
- Never assume someone is who they say they are.
- Treat everyone that you encounter online as a stranger using the same rules for dealing with strangers online as you would for strangers you see on the street.
- Never agree to meet someone that introduced themselves on the Internet without a parent's or trusted adult's approval.
- Never send a picture or anything else to someone who requests it.
- If you come across information on the Internet that makes you feel uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult immediately.
- Never respond to any messages or send any messages that are mean, threatening, or make anyone feel uncomfortable.
- Follow the rules established by your parents for computer and Internet usage.
- Never download or install software or do anything that could jeopardize a family's privacy.
- Keep your Internet password secret and change it regularly.

Discussion – Identify and maintain appropriate Internet boundaries

List examples and discuss how one would know if there is a violation of boundaries.

Leader, make sure the following points are covered. The goal is to start to develop an internal sense of conscience about appropriate Internet boundaries.

Some suggested points to review:

- If you feel unsure or unsafe, you are probably not "safe" in what you are doing.
- It is important that you are comfortable with a trusted adult seeing what you are writing on the computer.
- It is important that you are comfortable with a trusted adult seeing what you are looking at on the computer.
- Could you say face to face to a person what you wrote about the person on the internet?
- You will cause harm to yourself by getting good at lying.
- Your Circle of Grace boundaries should not be crossed when you use the Internet. This is to keep you safe and respect others' Circle of Grace.

Activity – Telephone Game

This activity is to help the children understand how stories or conversations on the Internet may occur and not be totally accurate or true.

Suggested Instructions:

1. *Seat 6-8 children in a circle with backs to each other sitting so that the story can be heard by one person at a time.*
2. *Leader makes up a story with 3-4 details (e.g. soccer game, sleepover, school activity).*
   Possible stories:

   a. Three friends are going to go to the movie on Friday afternoon after school. They decide to go to the theater at the mall. One of their moms goes with them. At the movie they have popcorn and a soda. It is a funny movie that lasts two hours. After the movie they go out for pizza.

   b. The Saints had a soccer game on Saturday morning. They were playing the Knights. The game was played at Tranquility Park. The teams were playing for first place in the league. The final score was 3-2 in favor of the Knights.

   c. An author came to visit our school. The author writes mystery stories. The author has written ten stories and had six of them published. The author lives in Montana on a ranch. He has three horses and a dog.

3. *The leader has a ball of string that is stretched throughout all of the children (each child is able to touch part of the string).*
4. *Leader tells the story to the first child and surrenders to that child the tail of the string (that child now has the tail and the string that was between the leader and the first child.*
5. *That child moves to another child in the circle and hands off the stretched string and retells the story as heard from the leader.*

6. *The story is retold until all in the circle have a turn.*
7. *The final person repeats the story as they recall it. That child now has all of the string in a ball or wad.*
8. *Discuss if the story is the same as when the story was first told or if details changed as the story was passed on.*
9. *The string may be replaced with Talking Sticks (Native American story telling) or cards or any other suitable objects for the children to surrender to each other as the story is passed along.*

Action Plan

Pass out the Parent Information Sheet
After reviewing the following information have the children write both of the action plans on the Parent Information Sheet.
Instruct the children to take the Parent Information Sheet home.

Scenario A: You are unsure or feel unsafe while viewing something or interacting with someone while using the computer.

   Action Plan
   1. Find a trusted adult and show them what you are concerned about.
   2. Review how you got to this point on the computer.
   3. Have an adult help you exit the site.

Scenario B: You are unsure or feel unsafe when you are asked by someone to view something on the computer which makes you uncomfortable.

   Action Plan
   1. Walk away from the computer.
   2. Tell a trusted adult.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, God,
for always being with me in my Circle of Grace.
Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit
who helps me know what is good.
Thank you for giving me people who care about me
and want me to be safe.
Amen.

Vocabulary Matching Game

WORD BANK
INTERNET TERMS

A. Chat Room   B. Predator

C. Blog   D. Personal Contact Information

E. Flaming   F. Phishing

G. Inappropriate Material   H. Netiquette

         I. Instant Messaging

INTERNET DEFINITIONS

_____ Someone who uses the Internet to obtain personal information about others with intent to do harm.

_____ Sending a deliberate, confrontational message to others on the Internet.

_____ Courteous, honest, and polite behavior practiced on the Internet.

_____ Notifies a user when a person is online allowing them to converse by exchanging text messages.

_____ An online journal. Personal stories posted for anyone to access.

_____ A place or page in a website or online where people can type messages which are displayed almost instantly on the screens of others who are online.

_____ Information that allows an individual to be contacted or located such as a telephone number or an address.

_____ Pictures or words on the Internet that make you feel uncomfortable or scared.

_____ An identity theft scam in which criminals send out spam that imitates the look and language of legitimate correspondence.

Vocabulary Matching Game Key

WORD BANK
INTERNET TERMS

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C. Blog   D. Personal Contact Information

E. Flaming   F. Phishing

G. Inappropriate Material   H. Netiquette

I.   Instant Messaging

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__F__   An identity theft scam in which criminals send out spam that imitates the look and language of legitimate correspondence.