

OVERVIEW

Students discuss the concept of non-identifying information and basic ideas for what makes up a good password.

PROGRAM GOAL

Enhance the ability of children to protect their personal information on the Internet.

MATERIALS

- computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- "UYN: The Password Rap" show
- whiteboard and markers, or chalkboard and chalk

INTERNET SAFETY MESSAGE

I will never share personal information such as my address, my telephone number, my parents' or guardian's work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' or guardian's permission.

TIME

25 minutes

ACTIVITY

Ask children to remember what they learned about passwords, keys, or the rap. Suggested answers include: only one key fits into a lock; passwords are just like keys for the Internet; "If nobody can guess [your password], then nobody can steal it."

Show "UYN: The Password Rap" to promote memorizing the song.

What are some examples of information that you need to keep private? Name, age, location, pet's name, school name, all personal information.

A good password doesn't include any personal information. If we can't use all of the information we just wrote down on the board, what CAN we use? Numbers, silly or made up words, anything that doesn't identify you.

Do you remember the other things that Clicky said you need to make a password? Make it 8 characters long; use letters and numbers; use acronyms; make a song.

Once the group has a solid definition of what a password is and does, ask them to come together to help you. You have a very important secret that might leak out if you can't think of a better password: you are actually a caped superhero who fights the dastardly evils of the world. The fate of the world rests on the group coming up with a new password, so that the secret will be safe with them. Invite everyone to help you come up with a better password. This should be a group secret, so they can use things that the class might know together to create an 8-character password and save you from the evil doers. Write possible answers on the board.

This activity card builds on concepts learned in "UYN: The Password Rap 1."

For more information about passwords, please visit www.staysafeonline.info, sponsored by the National Cyber Security Alliance.