

Lesson Plan

Creating a Secure Password

Overview

A lesson to help children understand the importance of having secure passwords, and how to create one.

The five dimensions of learning about online safety are:

- *Values, rights and responsibilities*
- *Wellbeing*
- *Respectful relationships*
- *Digital media literacy*
- *Informed and safe use of information and devices.*

Learning Intention

To understand the importance of having a secure password. To know how to create a secure password.

Curriculum Links

[ACPPS054/ACPPS055/](#)
[ACTDIP022](#)

Resources

[Make your password your padlock- Tutorial](#)

Password Trumps cards- print and cut out

Blank Password Trumps card- one per child

1. **Password** game- [To enter the classroom, you need to guess what the password is.](#) (Choose something easy and obvious- name of the school/class, something that the children know about you.) When the password is guessed correctly ask [why was this not a good password to choose?](#) (not secure, can be guessed easily, etc.) *Explain to children that they are not to disclose any of their actual passwords!*
2. **Acknowledge** that that was only a silly game, but passwords do actually have real importance. Tell the children that passwords have been around since ancient times when people needed to give a correct password to a guard in order to gain access to a certain room or area. [What do we use passwords for?](#) (online gaming, social media account, phone, email, banking, etc.) [How do passwords protect us?](#) (They protect our identity online. If people have access to our passwords, they can find out lots of private information about us and use it against us.)
3. **Ask** the children: [why do we need strong passwords?](#) (so that they can't easily be guessed by someone you know who might want to do something silly or unkind using your details, or even by a hacker who may be trying to steal your information.)
[What would make a good password?](#)
Memorable- [you need to be able to remember what it is as it's not a good idea to write it down!](#)
No personal details- [it's far too easy to guess if you use your personal information.](#)
Mixed characters- [using a mixture of capitals/lowercase, numbers and symbols makes for a much stronger password.](#)
Password length- [ideally your password should be at least 8-14 characters long.](#)
Not predictable- [if everyone knows that you love dogs then 'llovedogs' probably won't be the most secure password!](#)
4. Watch- ['Make your password your padlock'](#).
5. **DiGii-discuss-** [Should we share our passwords with our friends?](#) (Our passwords protect us online. If you tell someone your password, they could access your online accounts and pretend to be you- which could end up getting you into trouble. Although it's nice that you might trust your friend, you never know what might happen. There is no need for friends to know your password- so keep it private.)
[How else can we protect our passwords?](#) (regularly change them, don't write them down).

6. **Play** Password Trumps. Resource attached. Print enough copies so that the children can have one pack of cards between two. Share the cards out so that each child has 6 cards each. Play like you would play the game 'Top Trumps'. Each child to take it in turns choosing a category, e.g. memorable. The child with the highest ranking on their card wins the other person's card. Repeat until someone wins all of the cards. Children can shuffle the cards and play again if time permits.

Points to note for the game:

Memorable- score will be high if it's easy to remember.

Personal Details- score will be high if it does NOT include personal details **Mixed**

Characters- score will be high if the password uses a combination of letters (uppercase and lowercase), numbers and symbols.

Password Length- score will be high if password is at least 8-14 characters in length.

Predictable- score will be high if the password is NOT predictable- e.g. the name of your favourite football team.

7. **What made the passwords strong?** (memorable, used a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols, 8-14 characters). **What made some passwords weaker?** (Too short, used personal information such as name, dob, predictable, etc.)
8. **Blank** Password Trumps- give each child a blank card. **Can you write your own password, trying to achieve the highest score possible in all categories?** Ask children to swap cards with the person sitting next to them and give them a rating for each category as in the previous game. *Remind children not to use any of their real passwords!*
9. Share some of the children's examples with the class. Does the class agree with the scores the passwords have been given?