

Lesson Plan

Viewing Inappropriate Content

Overview

A lesson plan to discuss inappropriate content being viewed and shared, and what children need to do to if they see anything that causes worry, fear or harm.

Learning Intention

To understand what inappropriate content is and how to avoid it.

To know what to do if they see something that is upsetting or disturbing.

Curriculum Links

H21, H27, H42

L23

R20, R29

Education for a connected world framework & DiGii Social

Self-image and identity	(Digital Identity- DiGii Social)
Online relationships	(Digital Relationships- DiGii Social)
Online reputation	(Digital Identity- DiGii Social)
Online bullying	(Digital Safety- DiGii Social)
Managing online information	(Digital Citizenship Legalities- DiGii Social)
Health well-being and lifestyle	(Digital Health- DiGii Social)
Privacy and security	(Digital Security/Digital Safety- DiGii Social)
Copyright and ownership	(Digital Citizenship and Legalities- DiGii Social)

Resources

Scenarios to read out- Lesson Resource 1

Posters to display- Lesson Resource 2

Paper chain template- Lesson Resource 3

Sticky tape

Post-it notes and a box for children's responses

- 1) Have you heard the term 'inappropriate content'? What does inappropriate content mean? What might inappropriate content include? Record children's answers on the board. [Answers may include violence, drug and alcohol use, scary/frightening scenes, material which is intended for adults, hateful or offensive material, extremism or terrorism.](#)

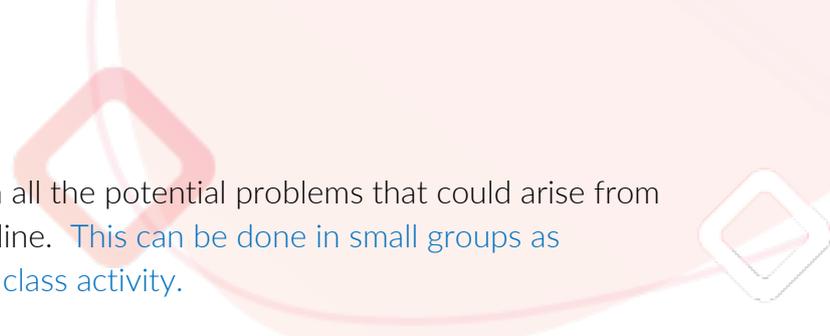
"As children become more active online at a younger age, the possibility and probability that they'll see something inappropriate all depends on what they're doing online. Whether it's an explicit pop-up ad on a free game, videos showcasing children's cartoon characters in adult situations, or a forum promoting self-harm, an innocent search can expose children to content that can make them feel upset and confused."

Internetmatters.org

- 2) What protections are in place to stop children from seeing things which may be inappropriate? [Age restrictions on movies, third party reviews \(common sense media\), warnings about explicit lyrics, parental locks and restrictions, programs on after certain time of day etc.](#)

Remind children that the internet is not sorted into age-appropriate categories or safe without supervision areas, and so when we are online, we need to be extra careful and aware of what to do if they do see something which is inappropriate.

- 3) Activity- Display posters around the room with '[Any Age](#)', '[10+](#)', '[15+](#)' & '[18+](#)'. Read each of the [content examples](#) to the children and ask them to decide which age category they should head to. [Do any of the scenarios require further information for them to decide where they should go? Do children have different views on what is appropriate for different ages? Discuss how some parents also have different rules.](#)
- 4) Ask children to think about why we need to have age restrictions? Why does it matter if children see adult content? [Seeing adult content can cause children to feel scared, worried and confused. Regularly viewing violent content can de-sensitize children to violence- making them think some behaviours are ok when they are not. Children may have nightmares, trouble sleeping, or might begin acting out inappropriate behaviours that have been seen online.](#)
- 5) Ask- has anyone ever had someone say or do something which has really played on their mind and affected their mood? Say: [It can be difficult to shake it off. Seeing inappropriate content can be a bit like that. Once it's gone in, it can play on your mind, make you feel worried, sick, confused or frightened. Sometimes it can affect your sleep which can have other consequences- like finding it hard to concentrate at school.](#)

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- 6) Chain reaction game- create a chain with all the potential problems that could arise from a child viewing inappropriate material online. [This can be done in small groups as mentioned below, or it could be a whole class activity.](#)

Children to work in small groups. Create a paper chain using strips of paper. Write the scenario on each piece of paper (see examples below) and attach them all together to make a long paper chain with some sticky tape.

[Child views inappropriate video > shows another child > that child feels frightened > can't sleep > can't concentrate at school > makes poor choices > copies the game play that they have seen online > another child ends up getting hurt > child who viewed content gets in trouble for hurting someone else > parents are contacted >](#)

- 7) Share some of the chain reactions with the class. Identify how our actions can also start a chain reaction for someone else. [\(If the child shares the content with other children, brings the inappropriate game play to school, makes poor choices which have an impact on those around them\)](#)

- 8) Explain that sometimes we might come across something that we don't want to see, and so we need to know what to do to keep ourselves and others safe when that happens. How can we stop the chain reaction, or create a positive chain reaction? Working as a whole class, make a new paper chain.

[Child sees material > child tells a trusted adult > content is reported/blocked > child talks through what they have seen with someone they trust so that they don't feel scared or feel the need to act out the behaviours > content is removed so other children don't need to see it](#)

- 9) Explain to children that we need to be the gatekeeper of our mind and make good choices about what we look at, watch, listen to and read. This is important to protect ourselves from harm. Ask: how can you be the gatekeeper to your own mind and control what goes in? [\(Only visit websites that you know and trust, check with parents/teachers before downloading new apps, never click on pop ups or unknown links that you may be sent, if you see something inappropriate turn the device upside down and take it to show a trusted adult straight away\).](#) Remind children that they also have a responsibility not to share things that we know are inappropriate with other children.

- 10) Self reflection: explain that this is an opportunity to consider how this lesson has impacted them. Give each child a post-it note and tell them that they need to write their name and something about this lesson. [It may be something they have learnt, something they are still unsure about or it could be an opportunity to tell the teacher about something they have seen online which has made them feel confused, scared, or worried.](#) Remind children that it is not their fault if they see something they shouldn't have, and they will not be in trouble. Now may also be a good opportunity to remind children

about [Childline](#) and [Think U Know](#) if they need further help or support. Don't forget the help function on DiGii!