

**Title of Session:** Teachers In Training: Teaching Internet Safety

**Moderator:** Mary Thompson

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Room: Teachers In Training Group

**MaryFT:** I am your discussion leader for Teachers in Training tonight

**MaryFT:** I am a professor at the University of Houston - I teach Instructional Technology

**GlyndiA:** I'm a student teacher in Katy ISD. I'm currently in 4th grade

**MichaelAM:** I teach government in Virginia and am working on a Masters in IT

**BJB2:** I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania and am on Tapped In helpdesk

**MaryFT:** HS right Michael?

**MichaelAM:** yes

**JoseE:** I am doing my student teaching and am a student of DR. Thompson

**MaryFT:** what grade now Jose?

**MaryFT:** Alexes? What grade do you teach?

**AlexesR:** I am student teaching in a 3rd grade classroom. I hope to teach 2nd or 3rd grade

**MaryFT:** great

**JoseE:** I am doing kindergarten, and am loving it. Different experience!

**MaryFT** smiles

**MaryFT:** Ok...for my elementary folks I have a really nice and age-appropriate resource for teaching Internet Safety...

**MaryFT:** but don't despair Michael, we are going to review an activity that will be great for your students too

**MichaelAM:** thank you

**MaryFT:** first though I want to ask each of you why you are here - what concerns do you have re: Internet Safety?

**MichaelAM:** I have concerns over 14-15 year olds putting themselves onto the Internet with personal information, also online bullying can be an issue

**MaryFT:** yes Michael - we should discuss online bullying as part of tonight's session

**GlyndiA:** online bullying?

**AlexesR:** I want to know how to keep my students safe when they access the internet. I want the internet to be a truly wonderful experience for my students.

**MichaelAM:** students saying negative things about each other in chat rooms or blogs

**MaryFT:** sharing personal information either purposefully or inadvertently is also a danger for all Internet users

**JoseE:** Accessing internet can always be risky when children involved. Need to be careful where they go.

**GlyndiA:** the internet is just such a wide open space where danger lives

**MaryFT:** Very good Alexes. Jose, and Glyndi - you seem to have similar goals

**MaryFT:** what I like about that is that you are open to using the Internet with your students but you want to do it safely

**MaryFT:** Michael - you realize that your students WILL use it and that they will sometimes make dangerous or inappropriate choices

**MichaelAM:** unfortunately so

**MaryFT:** you want to help them to see where this is a problem

**BJB2** . o O ( they're teenagers...that's what teens do! )

**MaryFT:** for starters let me share with you my philosophy of internet safety - I openly share this with the kids (ms and hs) that I teach as well

**MaryFT:** I tell them that for me Internet Safety is a lot like Driver's Ed.

**BJB2** likes the metaphor

**MaryFT:** cars are dangerous but no one tells them that they can't drive

**MaryFT:** we teach them the "rules of the road" so that they can learn to drive safely

**MaryFT:** because telling them that they can't drive would be ridiculous

**GlyndiA:** that's good

**MaryFT:** the same thing is true with Internet Safety

**MichaelAM:** interesting perspective

**MaryFT:** they're going to drive on the Information Highway so we need to teach them the rules of the road for navigating it safely

**MaryFT:** Michael - it works REALLY well with HS students

**MaryFT:** I get them really worked up when I ask them what they would say if I told them they couldn't drive

**MaryFT:** it's fun

**MichaelAM:** yeah, that would get them worked up!

**GlyndiA** smiles

**MaryFT:** Anyway - once you have their attention and you let them know that you're not going to disconnect their internet access - they seem to open up to listening

**MaryFT:** again - for the older students MS/HS a lot of Internet Safety is personal responsibility ONCE they understand what the dangers are

**MaryFT:** unfortunately a lot of them are woefully uninformed

**MichaelAM:** our county mandated this year that Internet safety be taught in all levels

**MichaelAM:** hopefully we can teach them at a young enough age

**GlyndiA:** even in elementary school?

**MichaelAM:** yes

**MaryFT:** for my elementary teachers - now is a good time to start teaching your students about some of the basics so they won't make the mistakes that many of the MS/HS students are making

**AlexesR:** ok

**MichaelAM:** i think they are teaching them to keep passwords secret... a real secret

**GlyndiA:** yeah.. it would seem that ms/hs would have much more potential for danger than elem students

**MaryFT:** basics include - not posting personal information, corresponding with someone you don't know, or, heaven forbid, arranging to meet someone you've only talked with online

**AlexesR:** how else would we teach them safety

**MaryFT:** for Elementary Students, the analogy could be "crossing the street" instead of driver's ed

**MaryFT:** very young children always hold an adult's hand when crossing the street

**GlyndiA:** yes.. great!

**MaryFT:** older kids can do it on their own but they follow basic rules - look both ways, etc

**JoseE:** Why not teach the parents as well?

**MaryFT:** if we teach them early on we might avoid some of the issues that crop up in later years

**MaryFT:** DEFINITELY Jose - which brings me to tonight's audience participation activity

**MaryFT:** I have an activity that I would like to walk you all through

**MaryFT:** this is a great tool for teaching MS/HS students about safe use of online social networks

**MaryFT:** but the interesting thing is that it might teach you a thing or two also

**MichaelAM:** good

**MaryFT:** once you have the knowledge you will be able to model it for your younger students

**GlyndiA:** that's key!

**MaryFT:** modeling Internet safety and appropriate use is probably the best way to get the "rules" across to your younger students

**MaryFT:** so let's get started

**AlexesR:** ok

**SusanR** nods

**MaryFT:** this activity is call the MySpace Mockup

**MichaelAM:** lol

**MaryFT:** because MySpace has received ALOT of attention in the media in recent months

**MaryFT:** but a key point to stress to your students is that online social networks can be ANYTHING where you correspond with others

**MaryFT:** for younger students, email is just as much an online social network as MySpace

**MaryFT:** also, with the attention that MySpace is receiving, younger and younger students are getting accounts

**MaryFT:** several 6th graders in my last class had one already

**GlyndiA:** yes

**JoseE:** what issues might come up using e-mail

**MaryFT:** even though there is an age limit

**GlyndiA:** it is becoming crazy

**MaryFT:** Jose - SPAM and viruses are huge in email

**MaryFT:** also pornographic pictures

**MaryFT:** I am sure we have all received THOSE emails

**JoseE:** nods

**GlyndiA:** I've had to change emails in the past because of it

**MaryFT:** the MySpace activity is designed to show you how you might accidentally share information about yourself online without realizing it

**MaryFT:** when you go to the activity, you will see 5 MySpace profiles

**MaryFT:** these are all kids who are friends with each other on the MySpace network

**MaryFT:** I want you to look at each of the profiles and decide whether or not the student is being safe with their personal information

**GlyndiA:** ok

**MaryFT:** the question I always ask the kids is "which profile is safest" and "which student is in the most immediate danger"

**MaryFT:** as you look through the profiles though, take notes on anything you find that might not be a good idea

**MaryFT:** are you ready to get started?

**MichaelAM:** yes

**SusanR:** yes

**JoseE:** yes

**GlyndiA:** yep

**AlexesR:** yes

**MaryFT:** okay - click on the link  
<http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3111/safety/myspace/> and then click Enter Site

**MaryFT:** take about 10-15 minutes and post messages as you go

**MaryFT:** any questions out there?

**MichaelAM:** in example 1 it seems as if she just supplies her age and location, but with a picture... it's a good thing that it is "blocked" for me

**MaryFT:** good observation Michael

**GlyndiA:** example 1 is definitely safest

**MaryFT:** does making the profile private mean that Example 01 is completely safe?

**MaryFT:** really Glyndi?

**GlyndiA:** I think so because the profile is blocked and she doesn't list her location

**GlyndiA:** exactly

**MichaelAM:** no, it just means that only people who are blocked can not see it, but if they are unblocked they could view more info

**MaryFT:** try to decide which student profile is safest and which is least safe

**MaryFT:** Glyndi - keep looking at the profiles - read the postings and see if you revise your opinion

**SusanR:** are #1 and #5 the same

**GlyndiA:** except 5 says the town

**GlyndiA:** and 1 says land of oz

**MichaelAM:** In example 3, it looks like the girl from example 1 (or a girl) gives her "phone number"

**GlyndiA:** as the location

**MaryFT:** no - they're both set to private but they're not equally safe

**JoseE:** still could not link

**MaryFT:** Very good Michael - what does this mean in terms of her safety

**GlyndiA:** now I'm thinking 4 might be safe because of the lack of info on the page

**YenT:** what are we exactly talking about here Dr. Thompson

**YenT:** please help

**MaryFT:** Jose - try holding down your Ctrl key and clicking the link

**YenT:** the links above?

**MaryFT:** we are looking at the following activity  
<http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3111/safety/myspace/>

**MaryFT:** click the Enter Site link

**YenT:** it said pop up block

**MaryFT:** and look at Examples 01 - 05

**GlyndiA:** yeah.. #4 doesn't seem to mention any info anywhere

**MaryFT** nods

**MaryFT:** very good Glyndi

**MichaelAM:** with her phone number there she puts herself at risk for someone to call her, even though she can block people, she gives information in other places

**MaryFT:** do you think you know who is safest and who is in the most danger now?

**AlexesR:** I would say #1 is in the most danger because she responds to friend with her phone # and the fact that she will be at home at 5pm

**MaryFT:** also, you can always type in the address directly

**GlyndiA:** I agree with Alexes

**MaryFT:** very good Alexes!

**AlexesR:** # 4 doesn't tell any really private info when chatting or on the profile

**AlexesR:** #5 tells that he is on the basketball team

**MaryFT:** does anyone else agree/disagree with Alexes and Glyndi

**MaryFT:** why is that a problem Alexes?

**AlexesR:** #3 talks about the galleria area and the team the hawk

**JoseE:** anyone giving any personal info or where they hang out could be dangers

**MaryFT:** Alexes is picking up all kinds of clues

**GlyndiA:** they're all mentioning the Houston area too

**AlexesR:** #2 says the city they live and the university is nearby so I feel all give out too much info except #4

**MaryFT:** excellent - how long do you think it would take a cyber - predator to track down any of these folks?

**MichaelAM:** In example 2 they lie about their age... I don't think MySpace has any way to determine real age

**JoseE:** not long at all, if you see the reports in the news

**AlexesR:** basketball team and the city they live in combined with picture lets people know where to look for them

**YenT:** you're right Alexes

**MaryFT:** very good observation Michael - kids can easily put a fake birthday into MySpace

**YenT:** that was on the news too

**YenT:** all the people have to do is to list their city and the background might be familiar to others around town

**SusanR:** they are all interconnected..

**MaryFT:** users 14 years and younger always have their profiles set to private so many kids put a different birth date so that they can make their profiles public

**SusanR:** a potential problem to slip

**GlyndiA:** isn't that so silly?

**YenT:** That's what I do when I create websites. I list a fake birthday

**MaryFT:** nods to Susan

**MichaelAM:** popularity for a young person is very important to them

**MichaelAM:** they are trying to fit in and this gives them a way to do so

**MaryFT:** Example01 thought her information was private because she assumed that her friend's profile was also blocked

**MaryFT:** but it was not

**GlyndiA:** exactly

**MaryFT:** excellent point Michael

**MaryFT:** 1 thing I need to point out

**MaryFT:** these profiles are VERY TAME compared to what students will actually post

**AlexesR:** only on her profile was it blocked once she started talking everything was there

**MaryFT:** if you visit MySpace and surf around you will see pictures (particularly of young girls) that would make you blush - and those are pics they have posted of themselves

**GlyndiA:** yes.. it's very sad.. so how do you get the message out there to them?

**AlexesR:** Someone brought up the fact that we could educate parents also. I think this is an excellent idea to bring up at a school meeting

**MaryFT:** they are deliberately flirting with danger

**MichaelAM:** the flip side is pics that others post that may not be with their approval

**AlexesR:** The parents internet safety will reflect what the student can post to a cite sometimes

**MaryFT:** very good point Michael - spoken as if you've had experience with that

**MichaelAM:** our principal

**MaryFT:** yes Alexes - educating parents is key

**MaryFT:** but making sure that they don't get too scared and just try to cut off student access is the issue - that approach tends to backfire

**MaryFT:** to close out the MySpace activity - this is a very powerful Internet safety tool to use with upper MS/HS students

**SusanR** checks her own myspace account

**MaryFT:** many of them are already using MySpace

**MichaelAM:** lol

**YenT:** lots

**AlexesR:** I think if it is done in a slow easy fashion by teaching the parents how to use the internet first it might not backfire

**MaryFT:** they start the activity thinking that they are safe just because their profile is private - they are very interested to learn otherwise

**YenT:** I know children in my neighborhood that are using it and they are only in 3rd grade

**SusanR:** it's a good idea to get a myspace account to get a feeling for what actually goes on

**MaryFT:** wow Yen - that highlights how important it is to start teaching Internet Safety early

**YenT:** yes

**MaryFT:** I agree Susan - I actually have a FaceBook but it's the same thing

**GlyndiA:** I almost can't believe that!

**JoseE:** coop between parents and children is important so together they learn of the dangers

**GlyndiA:** shocking

**MichaelAM:** as a teacher I won't do that, it could be possible that students come across it

**MaryFT:** and I have made stupid mistakes on my profile too

**YenT:** and also the girls that I talked to said that they communicate through it everyday

**GlyndiA:** when cutting off from a parent starts, the children start to rebel

**YenT:** they use it as a journal too

**MaryFT:** Michael - the youth leaders at my church all have MySpace accounts because they want the students to come across it - they try to model good ways to use their profiles

**GlyndiA:** I do that for my nephew as well

**YenT:** you know what's every interesting.. the kids are very experienced in technology .. especially creating websites

**YenT:** I actually learn from them a lot

**YenT:** and as for safety they don't really care much when I tell them

**YenT:** it's just an OH ok..

**GlyndiA:** it's foreign

**MaryFT:** if you are interested in using the MySpace activity to teach, you will want to have the answers page at

<http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3111/safety/myspace/results2.htm>

**MichaelAM:** In MySpace, can you control which postings actually get viewed by the public?

**GlyndiA:** if you choose to

**GlyndiA:** but not on others' sites

**MichaelAM:** is it all or none, or can you pick and choose?

**GlyndiA:** only on your own

**GlyndiA:** all or none.. only on your own site

**MaryFT:** the MySpace activity is most appropriate for upper MS/HS and adults - allow them time to do the exploration discovery activity before you give them the answers - they really like it

**SusanR:** This was valuable; plus an eye opener.

**GlyndiA:** indeed

**MichaelAM:** it is a good activity

**MaryFT:** I'm glad - not quite done yet though

**MaryFT:** some students are still not convinced that sharing little bits of personal information is a problem

**MaryFT:** I always close my session with the video "Tracking Theresa" from <http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/reallife.htm>

**GlyndiA:** I think this is because it's a foreign concept

**MaryFT:** it details how an online predator can use little bits of information to search out and find more and more details about you

**YenT:** yes

**MaryFT:** it always makes a huge impact with every age group

**MaryFT:** the room goes utterly silent while they watch it - even though the video is really tiny

**MaryFT:** Michael - there are several other videos on this page that address online bullying and peer - peer harassment

**MichaelAM:** ok

**MaryFT:** I've used those successfully as well - this website has lots on the topic along with scenarios and other teaching materials

**MaryFT:** since you have to teach Internet Safety does the district/state provide you with a curriculum?

**MissGst7:** Is that website only good for middle school/high school students? Or does it have videos and things that elementary students could relate to. Specifically fourth graders.

**MichaelAM:** I'm not sure, since it's still pretty new I don't know how much has filtered down from central office

**BJB2:** The next Teachers in Training discussion will take place on Thursday, December 7

**MaryFT:** It is primarily for MS/HS - although you can modify the activities

**MaryFT:** <http://www.netsmartkids.org/indexfl.htm> is specifically for younger elementary students

**MaryFT:** also try <http://disney.go.com/surfswell/> - Disney's Surfswell Island

**GlyndiA:** I will definitely be checking that out

**MaryFT:** these sites teach the basics of online safety and privacy - depending on your students you may need to adjust up or down

**JoseE:** I have found safety use on internet on district websites

**SusanR:** you may wish to check out the media awareness network

**SusanR:** [http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/special\\_initiatives/index.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/special_initiatives/index.cfm)

**MaryFT:** some 4th graders are pretty sophisticated web users while others are very new

**MichaelAM:** I think that video would be a big eye opener for my students, they think they're safe, but when you hear how quick it can change

**MissGst7:** I've tried the Disney one before, the kids enjoyed it, but I kind of want something more since a lot of them are mature for their age.

**MichaelAM:** most already know not to share personal information

**MaryFT:** Yen - all I know to do is hold down the CTRL key and click at the same time

**MaryFT:** the MySpace activity just highlights how some things that we think are private can not be

**AlexesR:** oh my god

**MichaelAM:** Alexes... not feel safe suddenly?

**MaryFT** nods to **MissGst7** - try Susan's media-awareness link - it's VERY good

**AlexesR:** not safe at all

**MichaelAM:** and you thought you just had to be concerned about your social #

**SusanR:** and some are in game format [http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/games/jocool\\_jofool/kids.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/games/jocool_jofool/kids.cfm)

**MissGst7:** thanks . . . it

**MaryFT:** Susan - I meant to add this one last time - thanks for being here to remind me...again

**MissGst7:** it's kind of weird to think that some of my 4th graders have myspace accounts and lie about their age. What happened to kids being innocent through elementary school?

**MaryFT:** okay folks - that's the end of tonight's session but I'll be back next month with a different topic - not sure what yet

**MichaelAM:** Mary, thank you for your help tonight

**AlexesR:** Thanks Mary my eyes have definitely been opened

**GlyndiA:** thank you for the lesson!

**BJB2** waves goodnight. Thanks, everyone, for being such active participants!

**SusanR:** Thanks Mary..I may use this with 7/8 students

**MaryFT:** you're welcome - my pleasure

**MaryFT:** let me know how it goes Susan

**MichaelAM:** take care... night

**MaryFT:** bye