eSmart® Week
4 - 8 September 2017

Top 10 cyber safety tips

Alannah & Madeline Foundation
Keeping children safe from violence for 20 years

PROJECT ROCKIT

Here's five great cyber safety tips from our talented friends at PROJECT ROCKIT!

REPORT AND BLOCK HATERS

If someone is giving you a hard time online, you can always report and block them (or add them to your block list when gaming). Often people who hate on others online just want a reaction, so if they can't access you there's a good chance they'll move on. If you think they'll keep saying stuff about you after you block them, ask a mate to monitor the situation. That way you don't have to face the hate.

WRITE A COUNTER COMMENT

Sometimes it's hard to speak out against bullying ("Hey that's not cool, leave Ali alone"), but you can still stand up for someone who needs help by writing a 'counter comment' a.k.a something positive to counteract the hate ("Love this photo Ali, you look awesome"). Counter comments are a low risk way to show someone public support and discourage the haters without confronting them directly.

TYPE 'DISLIKE' ON HATEFUL CONTENT

If you feel confident enough to speak out against online bullying it's best to keep it short. Haters and trolls are looking for a reaction, so try not to give them the long public response they're hoping for. By adding a brief comment like "dislike" on hateful posts and/or comments, you can show that you disagree with the hate without adding fuel to the fire. Others may then do the same.

ASK FOR DODGY PHOTOS TO BE REMOVED

If someone posts a photo of you online that you don't like, ask them to take it down immediately ("hey I really hate that pic, can you please delete it?"). This is a much safer response than say, retaliating with an even worse photo of them - that could create drama down the track. Maybe they didn't realise the photo would make you uncomfortable, which is why an important first step is to calmly assert that you'd like it to be removed.

SCREENSHOT ONLINE HATE FOR EVIDENCE

It's completely understandable if you want to delete nasty stuff that's been posted about you online. After all, leaving it up hateful content a public forum could lead to further drama. Just make sure you grab a screenshot before you delete it! If things continue or get worse you should reach out to someone for help and it's really good to have evidence that supports you.

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And here's five of the best from our very own eSmart team!

CARE ABOUT THE SHARE

Social media wants you to share as much as you can bear! But the share should be rare. NEVER share: passwords, private/personal information, your location.

PRIVACY MATTERS

If you care about the share, you'll protect your privacy, no matter what. Regularly check your privacy settings on social media, and always think before you post. It's amazing where data ends up – usually all over the internet.

SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAMMIDY-SPAM

Even with the best anti-spam and malware software – that's up-to-date – spam is the modern version of junk mail. It's everywhere! Learn how to tell the difference between real emails and messages, and dodgy things with dodgy links. Sometimes they don't look so dodgy...always be suspicious of hyperlinks in emails.

CONTROL THE TROLL WITHIN

There be trolls out there – beware! Don't feed them, don't give them what they want: an angry response. Block/Report the trolls. But also: resist the inner troll. If you're not adding something to the debate online, don't bother. Don't be part of the problem.

CYBER BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

If you're being targeted by this kind of behaviour, know what you can do, and where you can get help. Visit the National Centre Against Bullying website and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner website.