



SUGGESTED GRADES

Middle School

INTERNET SAFETY

ISSUES

- Cell phones
- Chatrooms
- E-mail
- IM
- Online predators
- Revealing too much

INSTRUCTIONS

Use this discussion guide to help students in grades 6-8 further understand and apply the lessons shared in the NSTEens video "Friend or Fake?"

RELATED RESOURCES

- » "Friend or Fake?"
Middle School Activity Card
- » Video - "Meeting Offline"



NetSmartz Workshop

A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Watch videos and play games at NSTeens.org

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Keyan trust Tracey?

Keyan trusts Tracey because she says the types of things that a good friend would. For example, Tracey tells Keyan that she likes the same activities that he does and that she will always be on his side. Keyan believes Tracey until Tad and Slick remind him that people can say whatever they want online. Online predators may pretend to agree with kids in order to gain their trust. Then they use that trust to convince kids to do things that will hurt them.

2. What information does Keyan share with Tracey that he should not have?

Keyan shares his cell phone number with Tracey, making it easy for her to contact him. Tracey uses Keyan's number to text him constantly, stealing his attention from friends and school. She also tries to make him feel bad when he doesn't respond right away. These are the same tricks that online predators use to isolate kids from their friends and family. Then kids feel as if they have no one to talk to when the online predator tries pressure them into meeting offline.

3. How does Tracey try to convince Keyan to meet offline?

Tracey tries to convince Keyan to meet offline by offering to watch his favorite movie with him. Keyan almost forgets the risks of meeting offline because he is so excited about doing an activity that he likes. This is what online predators want. They may try to trick and confuse kids into meeting offline by offering to do fun activities with them or giving them gifts.

4. Is it OK to talk to people you don't know online?

Get a trusted adult's permission before chatting with someone you have met online. A trusted adult can help you figure out whether that person is a friend or a fake. An online predator is a fake who will pretend to be your friend in order to take advantage of you. He or she may try to trick you into sharing personal information, sending inappropriate pictures and messages, and keeping secrets from your trusted adult. If you meet anyone online who tries to get you to do those things, tell your trusted adult immediately.

5. Why should you be careful about sharing information with people you meet online?

Sharing information with someone that you have met online is like sharing information with a stranger. No matter how well you think you know them, you can't be sure who they really are or what they want. They may try to use the information you share to try to get you to do things that you don't want to do. You wouldn't give a stranger access to your personal thoughts and feelings, so don't share them with people that you meet online.