

Hector's World™ – Lesson Plan

Episode 1 – 'Details, Details...'

Years 5-6

BACKGROUND:

Many websites require the submission of personal details. These requirements can range from simply asking for a nickname, to requesting the visitor enter their full name, date of birth, address, and other contact details. All websites that collect such details should have an accessible, easy to understand privacy statement which outlines why the information is being collected and what it will be used for.

Even if limited information is given during a registration screen, information provided elsewhere (during chat sessions for example) can be amalgamated to develop a detailed profile of an individual.

Children at this age level may be signing up to a variety of websites such as gaming, music, fan sites, chat sites and so on. They are also quite capable of communicating independently through other forms such as email, instant messaging, text messaging and in-game messaging (where players within the same online game communicate in real time while playing).

Although this lesson plan focuses on the data collected during registration to a website, children also need to be wary of providing too much information while communicating with people online in the methods mentioned above.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students are able to describe what personal information may consist of.
- Students gain an appreciation of how their personal information is collected by websites and what it may be used for.

PROCESS:

Teacher's Hints

A note about timings: The length of time spent on the components of this lesson will vary depending upon many factors such as class size, level of ability, prior experience, and topics which may arise during discussions. Teachers should therefore let their expertise judge how long to spend on each section.

As a rough guide, this lesson should take approximately 90 minutes.

Introduce the topic by leading a short class discussion about the kinds of websites class members may already be signing up to, and what sorts of details the websites ask for. Some leading questions you may wish to use are:

- What sorts of websites ask you for your details, e.g. email services, chat rooms, gaming sites, competitions, music downloads?
- Do you ever have to provide your full name?
- Are you asked for your age?
- Do any websites ask for your parent's permission before you sign up?
- Is the information you provide available in a member directory for others to see?
- Do the websites tell you what will happen to the information they collect about you?

View Hector's World episode 1, 'Details, Details...'

Discuss the following questions as a class:

- What details was Ranjeet about to enter?
- What is 'personal information'?
(a definition could be generated on a whiteboard for reference)
- What other details might be considered 'personal'?
(these could follow the above definition)
- What does Kui mean when she says Ranjeet is about to send his details across the entire ocean?
- What does Kui mean when she says "all who view the information may not be true friends"?
- What is the best alternative suggested to Ranjeet rather than entering his full name?
- Do you think the same advice should apply when using other devices such as mobile phones or game consoles?

ACTIVITY:

Distribute copies of the three website homepages (following), and sufficient copies of the survey form to students. Students may be paired or placed in small groups for this exercise.

As a class, complete the survey for the 'Harry's Homework Zone' website.

In groups, complete the survey for the remaining two websites. (Allow approximately 15 minutes for this process.) Once completed, the results may be collated and/or discussed as a group.

Teacher's Hints

In order of suitability for children, on the basis of cybersafety, from best to worst the websites are ranked:

1. Harry's Homework Zone
2. CandyZone Kids Klub
3. 4kids4free.co.nz

Harry's Homework Zone is the most suitable site for children. The site asks for no personal details whatsoever. The only information the user is requested to provide is a fictitious nickname, which can be changed each time the user enters the site. The site also has a well presented Privacy Statement, which clearly states that no personal information is collected or passed on to third parties, what the nickname is used for, and the reason for the use of cookies.

KandyZone Kids' Klub asks for more personal details, and passes these details on to unidentified partner sites. Although this is clearly stated in the Privacy Statement (which is displayed in very small text), enough information is gathered to enable a determined individual to precisely identify and make contact with the child, even though the last name is not requested. The use of a nickname is commendable, and there is good advice about not using a nickname that could identify the child. It is concerning however, that the nickname is matched up with the email address, and displayed in the member directory, effectively allowing the child to be contacted directly. If this information is combined with other information given during the registration process, or perhaps by the child during some site-related activity, the child's privacy and possible safety is immediately compromised. Standard use is made of cookies, and the statement covers this well.

4KIDS4FREE.CO.NZ asks for full personal details and does not state what use is made of these. In fact, the tiny disclaimer actually attempts to shed all responsibility for the information provided. Any person completing the registration process has immediately lost control of their personal information. While the site may be legitimate, and may in fact hold the details securely and not share them, the fact that no attempt is made to state this should immediately arouse suspicion. As the teacher, you could remind the students that this website claims to have free chat, games and music, but the actual cost is the provision of the student's personal details. This may help to emphasise that their personal details do in fact have a value, even if it is a commercial one (i.e. their details are forwarded to a bulk (spam) mailing service for a fee).

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK EXTENSION:

To reinforce the learning, the website survey could be sent home as homework, with students assessing sites they may have already signed up to. Care should be taken to emphasise that students are not being asked to sign up to new websites.

It would be prudent to advise parents prior to this assignment being set. Parents could even be invited to participate, exploring the websites with their children.

The school policy regarding use of the internet should also be consulted prior to setting the assignment.

Online Privacy Website Survey

Website name or URL:

Are you required to enter personal details before using the site?

YES NO

What information does the site ask for?

What is your personal information used for? (e.g. email updates)

Can other people see your information? (e.g. member directory)

YES NO Don't know

Did the website contain a privacy statement?

YES NO

Was the privacy statement easy to find and understand?

	YES	NO
Easy to find:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easy to understand:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Welcome to
Harry's Homework Zone!



Please enter the nickname you would like to use for this session:

ENTER

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Your Personal Information

Harry's Homework Zone does not collect any information which can be used to identify you. No information you enter while visiting this website will be passed on to any third party.

Your nickname

You must enter a nickname in order to access this site.

Your nickname is only used to personalise your visit to this website.

You must not use your email address, or any other information that could be used to reveal your personal identity as your nickname.

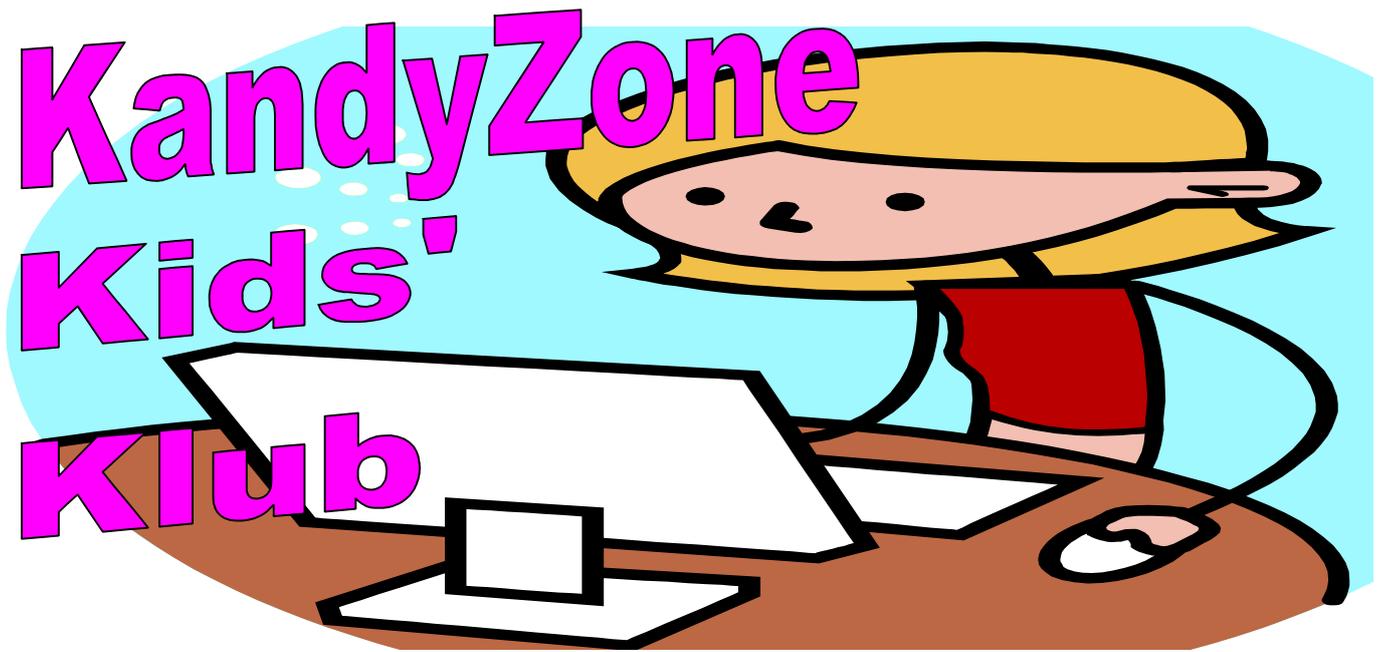
You may use a new nickname each time you visit.

Cookies

Harry's Homework Zone uses cookies to help personalise your visit, and these cookies are installed on your computer. The cookies are used for that individual visit only, and you may safely delete them when you have finished.

The cookies do not send any information to any other website.

KandyZone Kids' Klub



A great place to hang out and meet new friends

Please register to use this website

Your first name

City

School

Date of Birth

Email Address

Please enter a nickname to use for this website

Please enter the password you wish to use

Sign
me
up!

Privacy Statement

Your Personal Information

KandyZone Kids' Klub collects your personal information in order to personalise your visit to our site.
Your information is passed on to our partner sites who may send you advertisements via email.
Your nickname and email address are displayed in the membership directory for other members to see.

Your nickname

You must not use any information that could be used to reveal your personal identity such as your nickname.
You must use the same nickname each time you visit KandyZone Kids' Klub.

Cookies

KandyZone Kids' Klub uses cookies to help personalise your visit, and these cookies are installed on your computer.
If you have blocked cookies from being installed on your computer, KandyZone Kids' Klub will not work.
The cookies do not send any information to any other website.

4 kids 4 free - . c o . n z

Welcome to the coolest place on the Internet.
FREE chat FREE games FREE music



You must register to use this website

First name

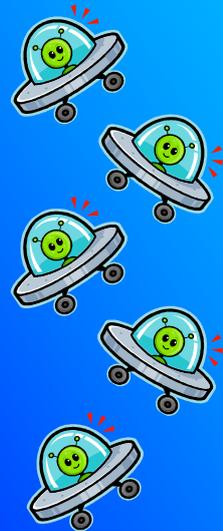
Last name

Date of Birth

Address

Mobile number

Email Address



Please enter a nickname to use for this website

Please enter the password you wish to use



GO!