

Episode Guide: Episode 2 "TMI"

ABOUT
THE ISSUE

ONLINE PRIVACY

Privacy means something different to children who've grown up online. In fact, many children have an online presence that is documented even before they are born due to their parents' use of social media, web forums, blogs, etc. Most social media sites require users to be at least 13 years old, but other platforms, such as some online games, also allow younger children to use chat features in the game or app. There is some information that is generally okay for kids to share, such as information about their hobbies and interests, and, when they are older (and with permission), pictures of family and friends. Information that should not be shared includes, but is not limited to: passwords, location, home/school addresses, school name, and phone number.

Children who have shared the type of personal information noted above have been shown to be more susceptible to online scams and identity theft¹. Data from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children also notes that individuals who engage in online sexual exploitation or extortion of children often develop a rapport with children through compliments, "shared interests," and "liking" their online posts as part of the grooming process.²

EPISODE SUMMARY

Nettie and Webster help a young Badromedan boy understand why privacy is as important online as it is offline.

LESSONS LEARNED

Everything you say and do online reflects on your character and can expose you to others who may try to take advantage of you, so leave a footprint you can be proud of later. Be careful what you post for others to learn, know, or assume about you.

Activities for one-on-one and small group settings.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What type of information did the character Zion share online?
- What were some of the ways Nettie said people could trick you online?
- Think about when you're online, what type of information can others see about you?

PUT IT INTO ACTION

As a trusted adult, you can help guide children through the following activities.

- With a trusted adult, sign into the online games or apps you usually use. Have your trusted adult help you locate the privacy settings and talk about if there are any you want to update.
- Individually, make a list of the types of information you think it's okay to share online and in apps. Compare your list to a partner's list. What things appear on both lists? What things are different? Discuss your choices to include/not include certain information.

1 *Teen Identity Theft: Fraud, Security, and Steps Teens Are Taking to Protect Themselves Online*(Rep.). (2013, November). Retrieved February, 2019, from Family Online Safety Institute website: file:///C:/Users/bmperna/Downloads/Teen_Identity_Theft_Full_Report_Nov_13.pdf

2 *The Online Enticement of Children: An In-Depth Analysis of CyberTipline Reports*(Rep.). (2017). Retrieved February, 2019, from The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children website: [http://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/pdfs/nmec-analysis/Online Enticement Pre-Travel.pdf](http://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/pdfs/nmec-analysis/Online%20Enticement%20Pre-Travel.pdf)