

Episode Guide: Episode 5 "Checking In"

ABOUT THE ISSUE

INAPPROPRIATE ONLINE CONTENT

As noted in the guide for "Fact or Fake?", between 2014 and 2018, NCMEC's CyberTipline received over 4,000 reports of misleading domain names and over 10,000 reports of misleading words or digital images online.¹ These misleading domains often lead to sites that contain content that is sexual or violent in nature and inappropriate for children. If a child encounters inappropriate online content they can use the back button or (x) to exit the page or turn off the monitor and get help from a trusted adult.

Sometimes, as children become more sexually curious, they may use the internet to seek out sexual content. A 2017 study found that the average age that male children first were exposed to pornography was 13, with the youngest exposure reported at age 5.² If children have questions about sex and development, it is preferable that they have a trusted adult they are comfortable talking to about these subjects, rather than turning to the internet where the information may or may not be accurate or appropriate.

EPISODE SUMMARY

Realizing they haven't checked in with their trusted adult, Nettie and Webster attempt to send him a message but wind up on a site with inappropriate content. They turn off the monitor and get an adult to help them exit the site and send a message. However, the message fails to send between the two realms of the cloud. Back in the NetSmartz Neighborhood, signs that the Webville Outlaws plan to make the internet less safe are starting to appear.

LESSONS LEARNED

Checking in with your trusted adult is always important. If you see anything online that makes you sad, scared, or confused, you can always close the window or turn off the monitor, then tell a trusted adult about what happened.

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

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Have you ever accidentally found something online that you didn't mean to? How did you feel? What did you do about it?
- Who could you talk to if you found something online that upset you?
- Have you ever looked up information on the internet that you felt embarrassed to ask an adult about? How did you think an adult might react to your question had you asked them? How would you have wanted them to react instead?

PUT IT INTO ACTION

- Imagine a friend of yours found something inappropriate online. They've told you about it and have offered to show you. What would you say? What would you do?
- Imagine you've accidentally found something online that is inappropriate. You want to ask a trusted adult for help. What could you say to ask for help?

¹ NCMEC Quarterly Program Progress Report

² Age of First Exposure to Pornography Shapes Men's Attitudes Toward Women. (2017, August 3). Retrieved March 28, 2019, from <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2017/08/pornography-exposure>