

Lesson Synopsis



Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson

Upper Primary 2020

Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson has been developed using age-appropriate, evidence-based personal safety education strategies for children aged 8 to 12 years. All language used in *Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson* is appropriate for children in the primary age range and we encourage the use of positive and appropriate vocabulary.

Introduction

Our newsreader, Liam Bland, introduces children to the lesson concept – a news bulletin - and provides an overview of the stories that will be covered. An explanation of 'Day for Daniel' is provided.

The Online World

The newsreader outlines what the online world is and explains how it is different to the real world. An analogy of throwing a ball to a friend is utilised to assist students to understand that our interactions differ between the online world and the real world. Being online is defined as being connected to the World Wide Web – either through a phone, a computer or a tablet. It is explained that we are online when we use our browser, games, apps, visit social media sites, join video calls and the virtual classroom.

This segment includes the first 'Vox Pops' segment, as children from Woombye State School share their responses to questions about the online world.

Questions include:

- Why is the internet awesome?
- What is your favourite thing to do online?

Student responses include ideas such as gaming, communicating with friends, researching for schoolwork, and watching videos.

Recognise, React, Report

A short dramatisation explores an unsafe situation which occurs online. In this situation, 'Jess' is communicating via a social media app. She responds to a message from someone in her contacts list, although she is not initially aware of who it is. Jess receives inappropriate messages which make her feel uncomfortable.

During this scenario, the newsreader narrates the processes of recognising, reacting, and reporting. The segment demonstrates the concept of body clues. It addresses key safety messages such as safe and unsafe secrets and persistence in help-seeking. The segment also incorporates an interactive component which asks viewers to indicate reasons the situation is unsafe – with a 30 second timer.

The newsreader explains who Safety Helpers are and why it is important for a child to talk to someone when they are not feeling safe. Children are encouraged to keep telling someone until someone listens. Example Safety Helpers are introduced e.g. Mum/Police/Kids Helpline.



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Online Safety Tips

The sports presenter (Steven Bradbury) presents an 'around the grounds' approach to some key online safety tips.

In order, these tips include:

- Only add people that you and your family know
- Never meet up with someone from the online world, without checking with your parents or carers
- Think carefully about what you share online
- Ask a parent or carer before you buy anything online
- Share what you do online with your parents and carers
- When you go online, do so in a shared space such as a kitchen or living room.

eSafety Commissioner

A Junior Journalist (15-year-old girl) interviews Australia's eSafety Commissioner – Julie Inman Grant. In this interview, Julie Inman Grant outlines what eSafety does. She also discusses some of the key dangers which may be encountered in the online world and outlines ways people can be safer online.

Brain Science and the Online World

A 'wacky scientist' explains what dopamine is. He outlines the effects dopamine can have and explores why it is relevant to our online experiences. He describes how individuals can become wired to seek reward in the online world and how this leads to addictions and unsafe situations.

Looking out for a Friend

In the second 'Vox Pops' segment, children from Woombye State School share more responses to questions about the online world.

The question is:

- What would you do if a friend told you they had felt unsafe online?

Student responses include listen to them, comfort and support them, tell them to speak to one of their Safety Helpers, recommend they call Kids Helpline, suggest they turn off the device, or block the messenger.

Conclusion

The newsreader recaps the messages: the right to be safe; recognise, react, report; and help seeking behaviour. The newsreader also reinforces that Kids Helpline is a supportive organisation for children.

