



# Communications Learning Activity

## Title

Selecting a Safe User Name and Password

## 4-H Project Area

- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Science and Technology

## Purpose

To enhance the ability of youth to understand that people they first “meet” on the Internet should never be considered their friend.

## Age Level

Ages 10-11

## Materials Needed

- Pencils
- Blank pieces of paper

## Time

15-20 minutes

## Background

The Internet is a place where we can meet new people and talk about things we have in common. But on the Internet, we must be careful when meeting new people.

This activity demonstrates to youth one way in which they can develop a personal user name and/or password to be used safely in online environments.

## Activity

- Distribute the pencils/paper to youth
- On your paper, list the following information:
  - Favorite color
  - Favorite animal
  - Action verb
  - Favorite vacation spot
  - Favorite number
- Create a rhyme, jingle, wrap, or song using the above information (ex. Purple Monkeys Fly To Cancun at 9 o'clock)
- Use the first letters in each word of the rhyme, jingle, wrap, or song to create a safe user name or password (ex. PMFTCA90).

## Discussion Questions

- A safe user name and password does not include any personal information, such as your name, age, address, street, town, school name or mascot, or pet's name. Why is it unsafe to include this information in a user name? Or a password?
- A safe password is eight characters long and has letters and numbers. Why do you think passwords should have both letters and numbers?
- Why should your user name or password be something that you can remember?
- Why should you and your parents/guardian be the only ones who know your password?

## Prepared By

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Activity adapted from [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)