# CYBERSAFETY

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## Lesson: Cyber Strangers



**Health**

Years
**6-8**
45 mins

### Lesson Background ✖

Encountering 'strangers' online can happen more frequently than we'd like to imagine, and preadolescents are the most vulnerable in these situations. Although we'd hope that most children and teens will actively avoid someone who they don't know online, children can often be easily misled as to the true identity of someone they are 'chatting' to, and the true intentions of that person. In these circumstances, protecting their private details and digital identity is MOST important, and may happen ANYWHERE online.

This lesson examines a mock script in which two preadolescents 'seemingly' encounter another of their age group in Nintendo's Miiverse and get to chatting. Students must examine the script, and locate parts in which their identity is at risk.

### Curriculum Links ✖

**HEALTH:** Personal, Social & Community Health
- *Yr 5/6 - Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing (ACPPS054);*
- *Yr 7/8 - Develop skills to evaluate health information and express health concerns (ACPPS076);*
- *Yr 7/8 - Investigate and select strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing (ACPPS073);*

### Preparation Materials ✖

- ✓ Mii Universe Script [DOWNLOAD]
- ✓ Identity Threat Worksheet [DOWNLOAD]

### Student Activity ✖

1) Open the lesson by discussing with students their knowledge about the dangers of encountering someone they don't know on an online forum. What are the risks? What should they do?
2) Ask the class for 3 volunteers for a verbal drama activity involving two friends and an anonymous encounter in the Miiverse. Tell them that they are going to read through and act out the script for the rest of the class.
3) Once the students have read out the script, examine the threats to their personal details and identity, which the two friends were exposed to during their interaction with the stranger. Start off by discussing WHY interacting with an anonymous person who claims to be their age is still a threat. For teachers, these are the issues you should guide the students towards:
   a. Both friends reveal their real names to the anonymous Superkid;
   b. One of the friends reveals their location to Superkid;

c. When asked whether their Mii really looks like them, one of the friends gives away aspects of their true appearance
d. They both tell Superkid which school they go to.
e. One of them mentions the sporting club they play for – this information could be used by Superkid to locate a game schedule for that team, and find out when and where he is playing next.

4) Discuss with the students that cyber criminals ask for this information to piece together your identity, and potentially reveal where they can find you. They easily obtain the information they use to relate to you through a simple Google search.

5) Reiterate to students that they should **NEVER INTERACT WITH ANYONE ONLINE THEY DO NOT KNOW**, or are not 100% sure of THEIR identity, and to **NEVER REVEAL PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEMSELVES ONLINE**.

6) Students then complete the Identity Threat Worksheet and Identify the things the two friends should NOT have revealed in their interaction with the anon.

## Extension Activity ✖

The teacher should discuss and gather information with the students about cyber programs/sites/forums in which 'open discussion' with ANYONE is possible. Suggest that they should avoid them, and discuss possible strategies for making sure people you do not know cannot contact you or chat to you (such as making your profile private).