



# Privacy Matters

Grade Levels  
**3–5**

## Did You Know?

As your child grows up, they will begin using the Internet more and more—both in and outside of school. In addition to setting guidelines around your child’s screen and media time, it’s important to have discussions about Internet safety. One key aspect of Internet safety is understanding the difference between *private* information and *personal* information.

Private information is specific information that can be used to identify you—such as your phone number or home address. It can be unsafe to share this information freely online. Personal information, on the other hand, is information that can be used to describe you—such as your age or favorite food. This information cannot be used to identify you and is usually safe to share online. Understanding this difference is an important part of Internet safety!

## Help Them Lead at Home

**Talk:** In school, your child learned about the importance of secure passwords and created several that they can use in the future. Ask your child to share some of the passwords that they developed and explain why this password may be difficult for others to guess. Then discuss: Why is it important to keep passwords private and not share them with anyone other than trusted adults?

**Do:** Explain that just like passwords, there is other information that shouldn’t be shared online. This information is called private information. Together, watch this **Private and Personal Information** video and then discuss: Why is it usually okay to share personal information online but not private information?

Once your child understands the difference between these two types of information, complete the *Introducing Me* sheet together. Each family member should have their own copy. Everyone can begin by writing their name on the top line and adding personal details to make the stick figure look more like them.

Your family should then work as a team to describe each other. As you do, think about whether each piece of information could be used to identify the person (this is *private information*) or just describe them (this is *personal information*). Then write the description in the correct column of the chart. Brainstorm as many qualities as you can to paint a full picture of each family member!

Wrap up the activity by reminding your child that, like the world outside, the Internet also has many strangers. Just like your child wouldn’t tell a stranger their home address, they also shouldn’t share private information with the Internet unless they have checked with an adult to make sure it is okay.

Check out no-cost resources for you and your girl to extend the learning at home: <http://bit.ly/GirlScoutsDE>

*For More Tips*

Learn more about how to help keep your child safe online with these **privacy and Internet safety tips** from Common Sense Media.

**Introducing Me:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>My Private Information</b> (This should not be shared online without checking with an adult first.)	<b>My Personal Information</b> (This can usually be shared online.)