


Find the Scam

**Use this activity to demonstrate how online scams are difficult to recognize.
You will need three small rubber balls and three colored plastic cups.**

Ask the children to close their eyes. While they aren't looking, place the rubber balls inside the three cups on a table. You should not be able to see through the cups. Now ask everyone to gather around the table and ask for a volunteer.

 Say to the volunteer: *You know this game. I've hidden a ball in one of these cups. These cups represent online contests that you want to enter, but one of these contests is a scam. I'm not going to show you where the ball is right now because online you never know. Find the cup with the ball; find the scam. Now rearrange the cups being careful not to show the three hidden balls. Ask the volunteer to choose.*

Pick up the chosen cup and show the ball: *You've been scammed!*

Now ask for another volunteer and do the same: *You've been scammed, too!*

Now show that all three cups have a ball inside: *Just like I tricked you into thinking that two of these cups did not have a ball in it, online scammers can trick you into believing they are offering legitimate contests. You can guard against online scams by asking a trusted adult before giving away personal information like your name, address, and phone number online. Remember, don't give your personal information to any website you aren't 100% sure of.*

