

Simon Says

Use this activity to teach children how to recognize the warning signs that an online friend is a predator.

Ask the children to stand in a circle.



Now tell them: *You're online and you just made a new friend named Simon. Simon says, "Tell me about that new movie you saw." Is that OK to talk about? Raise your hand if you say "yes." Keep your hand down if you say "no."*

Wait for everyone to answer, and then call on someone who said "yes" to explain why they answered that way. Some requests from Simon are OK to talk about online, but some hint that he is an online predator. Ask the rest of these questions. After everyone answers, you can raise your hand if the best answer is "yes," or keep it down if the best answer is "no." Then call on someone who answered correctly to tell you why that answer is right.

- *Simon says, "Tell me your cell phone number so we can talk all the time." (No)*
- *Simon says, "Tell me what you thought of that book I was telling you about." (Yes)*
- *Simon says, "Tell me your e-mail address so I can send you something." (No)*
- *Simon says, "Tell me your address so I can send you a gift." (No)*
- *Simon says, "Tell me about your favorite online game." (Yes)*
- *Simon says, "Tell me why you can't trust your parents, but you can trust me." (No)*

Ask everyone to sit down and remind them that some things are OK to talk about with online friends like hobbies and games, but when someone starts asking for personal information, sending you gifts, or trying to turn you against family or friends, they might be a predator. If an online friend is making you uncomfortable or talking about inappropriate things, you should tell a trusted adult right away.

