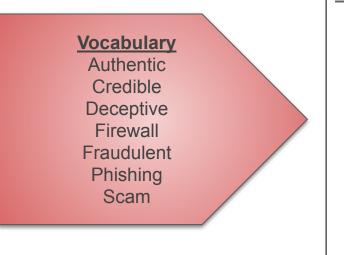# Don't Fall for Fake

October and November Digital Citizenship Focus for Elementary

In today's 24/7 digital world, we have instant access to information online. Responsible technology use is imperative for maintaining a safe learning environment and preparing students to be capable users of technology in the workforce. In the digital age that we live in, students must understand that not all content they find online is necessarily true and reliable, and could involve malicious efforts to steal their private information or identity. Online scams, like Phishing, encourage internet users of all ages to respond to communication from people they do not know and sometimes from people pretending to be someone they do know.

Vocabulary
Authentic
Credible
Deceptive
Firewall
Fraudulent
Phishing
Scam

How to continue the discussion at home:

- **Understanding** that just because something is online doesn't mean it is true.

- **Talking** about the value of search results, websites, and other sources of information. Be on alert for misinformation, "fake news", and manipulation.

- **Learning** how online search works and why it's important to use critical thinking when searching the Web for information.

Family Activity: Becoming Smart Web Searchers

1. Sit down together with a tablet, computer, or smart mobile phone, and go to your favorite search engine home page. **Check to see if the safe search feature is turned on.**

2. Pick a topic your child is interested in (favorite athlete, actor, musician, author, film, etc.) and type it in the search box.

3. Click on a variety of results that appear at the top of the search as well as some that appear several pages deeper.

4. Ask your student how they feel about the results at the top of the list versus the results that appear later in the list. Do they trust one site more than another?

5. Are there results that you or your student are not clicking? Why? Are there sources like "sponsored" or ads that you avoid? Is the content positive? Whether positive or negative, is the source sharing opinions or credible information?

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Be Internet Alert

Tips to help you be alert online

🔺 Tip 1

Double check a site for credibility.

Before you click on a link or enter your passwor[d]
haven't been to before, check that the site's URL
product's or company's name and information y

🔺 Tip 2

Use secure websites.

Make sure a website's URL starts with "https://
green padlock to the left of it.

Example: ← → C   🔒 https://www.donutsandmoreshop.com

🔺 Tip 3

Don't fall for scams.

If the email or site offers something that soun[d]
true, like a chance to make a lot of money, it's a
good to be true. Don't fall for the fake message

🔺 Tip 4

It can happen to anyone.

If you fall for a scam online, tell your parent, tea
trusted adult right away and change your pass[word]
accounts immediately.

🔺 Tip 5

**Attention! Remember that website or a[d]
there's anything wrong with your device**

There are scams that may try to trick you into [download]
malware or unwanted software by telling you t[hat]
something wrong with your device.