



Secure Your Secrets

December and January Digital Citizenship Focus for Elementary

Living in this digital age allows for many conveniences that would otherwise not be possible. From mobile food apps and ordering your groceries online, to managing a digital wallet to pay for purchases, businesses are using smart technology to deliver faster, smarter services to consumers. While all of this convenience can save us time, all online activities leave a digital footprint that provides a trail to expose our personal information. Online gaming and social media allow access to chat features and in-app purchases exposing our students to potential online threats. Safety is always a top priority when utilizing all the great things technology has to offer and creating strong, secure passwords is the first line of defense to protecting our families. Passwords protect our personal safety, devices, identities, reputations, and relationships, and weak ones make it easy for criminals to get our information. One of the most fundamental things we can teach our students' is how to create strong passwords.

Vocabulary

Privacy
Security
Two-step Verification
Password
Passcode
Encryption
Complexity
Hacker

How to continue the discussion at home:

- **Learn** why privacy matters, and how it relates to online security.
- **Practice** how to create strong passwords.
- **Review** the tools and settings that protect against hackers and other threats.

Family Activity: Create a Strong Password Together

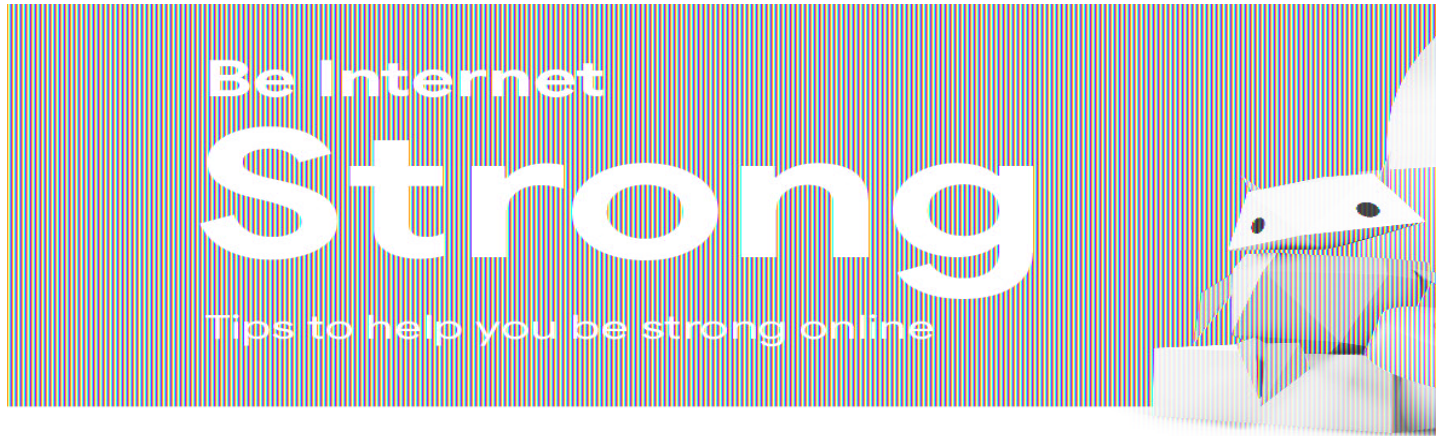
1. Think of a fun phrase or an event that you can remember. It could be your family's favorite film, a children's book, when and from what high school one of your kids may graduate from, etc.
Example: Ethan T Rex will graduate from George Washington School in 2023.
2. Use the first letter from some or all the words in the phrase or title.
Example: ETRexwgfGWashingtoni23
3. Change some of the letters into numbers and some into symbols
Example: 3TRexwgfGWash1ngton!23
4. Make some of the letters uppercase and some lowercase
Example: 3TREXwfgfWash1ngton!23

There you go! You've created a super strong password together.



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Tip 1

Create a strong password.

Choose at least 8 characters and use combinat (uppercase and lowercase), numbers, and sym

Tip 2

Switch it up.

Use a different password for each of your impo

Tip 3

Get creative.

Don't use a password that's easy to guess, like : just the name of your school, favorite basketbal of numbers (like 123456), etc. And definitely do "password"!

Tip 4

Avoid getting personal.

Don't use personal information (name, address, number, Social Security number, mother's maid dates, etc.), or common words in your passwor

Tip 5

Don't hesitate to change your password

Immediately change your password if you know it may be known by someone other than a trust