

Critical Thinking – The Rungs of Responsibility

KS2: 7-11 YEARS

These activities are designed to help your pupils in Key Stage Two/ages 7-11 to think about how they can react to situations that they may face at school or at home.

The aim is to make all pupils responsible, competent, confident and creative users of technology. Although critical thinking about information online is taught from Key Stage 3/11 years onwards, all children can begin to think critically about their experiences online.

Age group of learner

KS2, ages 7-11

*This session is designed to take no more than 60 minutes. However, the session can be shortened or lengthened over a number of days depending on your setting.
Each activity could be completed on a different day over a week.*

Session title		The Rungs of Responsibility.	
Outcome for the session		Children will be: More confident decision makers. Able to say why they think in a certain way. Beginning to consider their actions online.	
Extension activities		It would be great to create a ladder to have in the classroom and regularly change the contents of the ladder so children are sorting and making decisions through the rest of the year.	
How will you know the children are learning?		Children will be actively making decisions. The discussion will give all children the opportunity to share their experiences and state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how they are safe online, • how much they value resources. 	
Time	Activity	Resource	Outcome
10 minutes	<p>Starter: Animal Madness</p> <p>Divide the class into groups of a manageable size and give each class a line (masking tape or border rolls from display boards.)</p> <p>Show the children the first slide and talk them through the first activity where they rank the animals using a scale of most horrible to nicest animal. Give them time to make their decisions.</p> <p>Go through the slides using questioning to find out why children make certain decisions. Try to encourage the decisions to be based on experience rather than emotion.</p>	<p>Presentation.</p> <p>Animal cards.</p>	<p>Children are able to make decisions based on experience.</p> <p>Children are given the opportunity to change their decisions based on evidence or discussion with others.</p>

<p>10 minutes</p>	<p>Activity: Online behaviour.</p> <p>The focus now changes from animals to how we could behave online and offline. In their groups, they sort 12 cards into what they would consider safe and unsafe behaviour.</p> <p>Once the children have made the decisions, explore why they made those decisions, giving children the chance to speak and change their mind before the end.</p>	<p>Presentation. Behaviour cards.</p>	<p>Children are able to think about why rules are important.</p> <p>Children are able to make safe decisions in life and online.</p> <p>Children are able to share their feelings and base decisions on facts and experience.</p>
<p>10 minutes</p>	<p>Activity: Examining information</p> <p>The group now turns their attention to how we gather information online. They are presented with 12 ways they could find out about World War 2.</p> <p>In the groups they must have a discussion and rank the ideas from unreliable to reliable.</p> <p>Following the exercise, open a discussion trying to facilitate the children to respond to each other's thoughts.</p>	<p>Presentation. Information cards.</p>	<p>Children are able to discuss a scenario and build a response.</p> <p>Children are able to base their responses to online behaviour using real life experiences.</p> <p>Children begin to think critically about what they do online to gather information.</p>
<p>10 minutes</p>	<p>Plenary:</p> <p>The Rungs of Responsibility could go on forever. Ask the class to share one thing they have learnt or discovered today that they think will make them safer or more informed online. Display their thoughts on the ladder and try to refer to their decisions during the week.</p>	<p>Presentation.</p>	<p>Children will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more confident decision makers. • able to say why they think in a certain way. • beginning to consider their actions online. • be responsible learners online and offline.