**Fraud Awareness for Kids**

### **1. What Is Fraud?**

Fraud is when someone tricks or lies to steal your information, money, or accounts. This can happen online when scammers send fake messages, pretend to be someone else, or offer things that are too good to be true! It is important to be careful and know how to stay safe.

### **2. Different Types of Online Fraud for Kids**

Here are some common scams that children should watch out for:

#### **A. Fake Friend Requests**

* **What It Is:** A stranger might send you a friend request in a game or on social media, pretending to be your age. They may even use a fake profile picture.
* **Why It’s Dangerous:** They could ask personal questions like where you live or go to school. They might trick you into clicking on bad links.
* **How to Stay Safe:** Only add people you know in real life and always ask a parent before accepting a new friend request.
* **Helpful Tip:** If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, block and report them!

#### **B. Phishing Messages or Emails**

* **What It Is:** These are fake messages or emails that ask you to click a link or enter your username and password. They may say they are from a game company, your school, or a famous website.
* **Why It’s Dangerous:** Clicking on bad links can let scammers steal your account or even put a virus on your device!
* **How to Stay Safe:** Never click on links from strangers. If you get a weird message, show it to an adult before doing anything.
* **Helpful Tip:** Real companies **never** ask for passwords over email!

#### **C. Gaming Scams**

* **What It Is:** Scammers in online games might say they will give you free skins, extra points, or game money if you give them your password or account details.
* **Why It’s Dangerous:** If you share your account details, scammers can steal it and you might lose everything in the game!
* **How to Stay Safe:** Never give out your game password. Only get game items from official stores inside the game.
* **Helpful Tip:** If someone claims to be a "game admin" and asks for your password, they are lying!

#### **D. Fake Contests and Giveaways**

* **What It Is:** You might see a pop-up or social media post saying, "YOU WON A PRIZE! Click here to claim it!"
* **Why It’s Dangerous:** These scams ask for personal details like your name, address, or phone number. Some even ask for money!
* **How to Stay Safe:** If you didn’t enter a contest, you **didn’t win!** Always ask a parent before clicking on a giveaway.
* **Helpful Tip:** Real contests don’t ask for personal information up front.

#### **E. Identity Theft (Someone Pretending to Be You)**

* **What It Is:** A scammer could steal your pictures, name, or personal details and pretend to be you online.
* **Why It’s Dangerous:** They might trick your friends or use your identity to scam others.
* **How to Stay Safe:** Keep your social media accounts private, and never share personal details in public.
* **Helpful Tip:** If you find a fake profile of yourself, tell an adult and report it!

### **3. Real-Life Examples of Kids Avoiding Scams**

* **Emma’s Fake Friend Request:** Emma got a friend request from a "kid" she didn’t know. She asked her mom, who found out it was a scammer pretending to be her age. Emma blocked and reported the profile.
* **Jake’s Gaming Scam:** Jake was told he could get free coins if he shared his password. Instead, he lost his game account. Now, he knows never to share passwords!
* **Lily’s Phishing Email:** Lily got an email saying she won a contest she never entered. She showed it to her dad, who told her it was a scam. Now she always checks with an adult first!

### **4. How to Stay Safe Online**

* **Keep Your Personal Information Secret:** Never share your full name, address, school, or passwords with strangers.
* **Think Before You Click:** If a message, email, or website looks suspicious, ask an adult before clicking on anything.
* **Create Strong Passwords:** Use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols to make passwords hard to guess.
* **Ask a Trusted Adult for Help:** If something feels wrong or scary online, talk to a parent, teacher, or another adult you trust.
* **Block and Report:** If someone is mean, asking for private information, or making you uncomfortable, block them and tell an adult.
* **Use Parental Controls:** Parents can help set up safe browsing and game settings to keep you protected.

### **5. What to Do If You Suspect Fraud**

1. **Tell an Adult Immediately** – If anything online feels off, talk to a parent or teacher.
2. **Block and Report** – If someone is acting strange or asking for personal info, block them and report the account.
3. **Take Screenshots** – Save messages or emails that seem suspicious so an adult can help you report them.
4. **Change Your Password** – If you think someone else has access to your account, update your password quickly.

*(Use an infographic with these four steps in an easy-to-read format.)*

### **Remember!**

Being online is fun, but staying safe is **super important**. If anything seems suspicious, **always ask a trusted adult before clicking or sharing anything!**