Safe Choice Traffic Light

K-3 | Lesson | 30 minutes

Before class: Prepare the colored cards and fictional scenarios described below. The included worksheet prompts can be copied onto a classroom handout.

Time: 30 minutes Outcome: Learners will classify fictional online situations as stop , slow down and ask , or safe to continue with permission .

Materials

- Red, yellow, and green cards
- Six fictional scenario cards
- “My Safe Choice” worksheet
- Picture symbols or objects for nonreaders

Safety and Privacy

Do not ask learners to describe real incidents publicly. Use fictional names and services. Follow school safeguarding procedures if a learner shares a concern.

Preparation

Create scenarios such as:

- A familiar teacher opens an approved class website.
- A pop-up says the learner won a prize and asks for a home address.
- A game asks to turn on a camera.
- A classmate sends a kind message.
- An unknown person asks the learner to keep a conversation secret.
- A device asks whether to install an update while the learner is in class.

Launch

Show a traffic light and ask how it helps people make safe decisions. Explain:

- Red - Stop: Do not click, reply, download, or share.
- Yellow - Slow down and ask: Find a trusted adult before continuing.
- Green - Continue as directed: The activity is expected, approved, and appropriate.

Guided Learning

Model two scenarios. Think aloud about who is asking, what action is requested, what information could be exposed, and which adult is responsible for the activity.

Learner Activity

Read or show one scenario at a time. Learners hold up a card and explain one reason. Accept more than one defensible answer when the learner identifies missing information and chooses to ask.

Evidence and Assessment

Each learner completes three final scenarios. Mastery is demonstrated when the learner:

- Uses the stop-or-ask routine rather than acting impulsively
- Identifies an appropriate trusted adult
- Can explain one risk or uncertainty in age-appropriate language

Debrief

- Why can asking be a strong choice?
- What should happen after an accidental click?
- Why should adults avoid making learners afraid to report mistakes?

Family Extension

Families select a phrase the child can use when asking for help, such as “Something unexpected happened on the screen. Can you help me check it?”

My Safe Choice Worksheet

Situation: _____

Stop: _____

Ask: _____

Continue with permission: _____

Why?: _____

Source and use

The Complete Cybersecurity Educator, Dr. Jason Edwards. Editable companion - Lesson 1.1 - Safe Choice Traffic Light.

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