BACKGROUND

Very young children may be quick to volunteer information about themselves both on and offline, and to people who appear to be an authority figure. This lesson aims to teach children that some information is ‘precious’ or ‘special’ because it applies just to them. This personal information is as valuable online as it is offline, and should therefore not be shared without a parent or teacher’s permission.

OBJECTIVES

• Students understand that some information about themselves is special because it makes them unique.
• Students know that they should never give out their personal details online without a parent or teacher’s permission.

SUGGESTED LESSON PROGRESSION

Teacher’s Hints

In the following activity, the students are asked to group themselves with others sharing similar characteristics. You will probably need to do a fair amount of shepherding until the students understand the process of forming groups. The actual characteristics you choose will need to suit the individual class composition. The aim is to start with broad categories and work down to the most specific i.e. full name. The included list gives an example of this process.

ACTIVITY

Ask the students to get into a group with everyone else who has the same following characteristics as themselves:
• number of eyes
• number of legs
• boy or girl
• in the same reading group
• the same colour hair
• the same colour t-shirt
• the same method of fastening shoes. For example, lace-up, Velcro or buckle.
• the same first name
• lives in the same house
• the same first and last name.
By the end of this process, each child should be standing alone. Ask the students to put up their hand if they are the only person in their group. Everyone should have their hand up. Ask them to explain why they are standing alone, that is, no-one else has the same name.

**Explain** that although they do have a lot of things in common, each of them is special and not exactly like anybody else. Some of the things that make us different are our names, what we look like, what we like doing, or our personality.

**Explain** that they are now going to watch a cartoon about how important it is to keep their special personal information safe.

In order to create the necessary cognitive link between the exercise above and the learning objective in the episode, you may wish to make use of the following introduction:

In this cartoon you are going to meet a group of friends who live under the sea. Watch carefully and you will soon see that each of the friends is special and different. One of them is in a rush to do things, one is a bit bossy, and another is sensible and likes helping his friends. While you are enjoying the cartoon, think about what the friends are learning about their personal information.

**View** *Hector’s World Episode 1: Details, Details...*

At the conclusion of the first viewing, spend no more than three or four minutes checking that the students have at least a basic understanding of the story.

**View** a second time. Before doing so, ask the students to try to remember:

- what information Ranjeet was going to send
- why Kui said not to share the information
- what Hector’s suggestion was.

**Teacher’s Hints**

You might prefer to divide the class into three, and allocate one question to each group. Alternatively you could work with the whole class, pausing the animation if possible between questions rather than asking all three questions at the very beginning.

**Review** the lesson, including these points:

- **What is special about personal information?**
  
  It makes us unique and is the important information that can be used to identify us. For example, if children get lost, giving their personal information to a police officer will help find the children’s parents.

- **Because this information is so special, we should be careful who we share it with** when we meet people offline and online.

- Children should **never share their personal information online without asking a parent or teacher first.** Online includes the computer, mobile phone, or gaming device like Xbox® or PlayStation® Portable.
**FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY**

Students complete the following sheet which has room to list two ‘special’ pieces of information about themselves and is designed to emphasise the ‘precious’ nature of the information.
Two special things about me

My Name: ________________________________

Another special thing about me is:

______________________________________

______________________________________