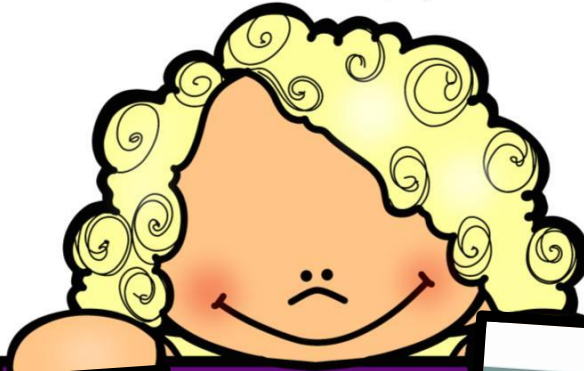


What's in a name?

Throughout this resource, I'll be using the term 'username'. Some EdTech tools call it a 'nickname', and some adults call them 'display names'.



About this resource

When you work with school-aged children, chances are you've used an EdTech tool to assess learning, practice academic skills, or encourage collaboration.

It's likely that you have experienced the immediate consequences of a child who puts up a nickname that isn't inappropriate for school, isn't school-friendly, and that causes others in the classroom to be outraged. The experience is enough to make you want to use one of these tools again!

No matter if you've been trucking on as usual, crossing fingers that the next time won't happen, or are new to EdTech tools that require students to create their own usernames, this resource is for you.

Having worked in teaching education for over a quarter, I've seen and done it all. I have 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who responsibly use Twitter (not their own blogs, and create usernames that don't make me grit my eyes.

The goal of this resource is to help with username generation go as possible and to keep fun that way.



Why teach usernames?

A username isn't just a life skill; it's also a school skill. Children learn key aspects of digital citizenship from it.

Online Safety and Privacy: It is important to teach kids how to create usernames that do not reveal personal information—their real names, ages, or locations. A friendly and creative username protects them from harassment, bullying, identity theft, and online predators. Secure usernames protect personal information. By creating a layer of privacy, they are shielded from unwanted attention and negative interactions.

Digital Citizenship and Responsible Online Behavior: Choosing a thoughtful username reflects a positive and respectful online presence. Virtual communities thrive when there is a culture of kindness and respect. By teaching kids how to thoughtfully create usernames, this can be accomplished. Choosing a username is an important first step in managing their online reputation and understanding long-term implications.

Building Digital Literacy and Skills:

By teaching kids how to create usernames, they can make informed decisions about their online identities. Children are encouraged to be creative and think critically about how they present themselves online by creating unique and memorable usernames. As they navigate the guidelines for safe and effective username creation, they develop problem-solving skills.

In addition to generating secure passwords, these skills can be used to create usernames

Skill transferability

Teaching kids how to create a username imparts skills that extend beyond school. It also influences various aspects of their personal and professional lives.

Security: Creating a secure username is a key skill for digital security. Kids can use this knowledge to navigate across all online platforms, including social media, banking, and e-commerce. To navigate the digital world safely, they need to understand and recognizing secure websites—it is essential for assessing what information is safe to share and risk assessment skills.

When kids become older, the ability to create a secure username will be crucial to establishing their online identity. These skills are built by understanding the importance of a respectful online identity. Kids learn to communicate respectfully, and enhances their communication skills.

Privacy and Etiquette: Creating safe and secure usernames contributes to a broader understanding of online communication, ethical behavior, and digital footprint. The importance of creating a positive digital footprint on job-related platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and personal online profiles.

By teaching kids how to create usernames, we equip them with the skills for safe and effective online participation. This has significant teaching implications, enhancing their ability to navigate digital spaces confidently and responsibly.

BACKGROUND ON TEACHING STUDENTS HOW TO GENERATE USERNAMES



Discussion Prompts

Use these prompts to get students thinking about names and usernames. The goal is to have them reflect and prepare so they can then create school-friendly usernames. These questions and prompts are written in the order that they should be used. They're scaffolded to deepen thinking throughout the collaborative activity.

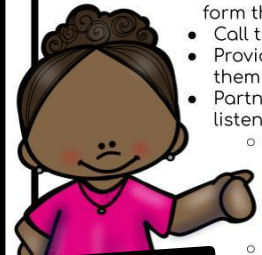
- ★ What is one thing you learned about names from the stories you read?
- ★ What is the most important thing to remember about someone's name?
- ★ How would it make you feel if someone's username was harmful, hurtful, or inappropriate?
- ★ Why should you not use your full name as a username online?
- ★ What personal information should you not include in a username?
- ★ What personal information could you include in a username to creatively share about yourself, while not giving away too much information?
- ★ If your first choice of a username is not school-friendly, what are some creative ways you could change it?



CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

This collaborative activity gets students up and moving, while you control the movement. It removes the pressure of finding a partner. This is helpful for students who struggle with independent movement or it's a group that is still working on including everyone.

- Students count off 1, 2
 - I like to have them put the number of fingers up, or on their lap, for the number they say. Example, a 1 will display 1 finger on their lap, and a 2 will display 2 fingers on their lap. This is so helpful with them remembering their numbers.
 - After everyone has gotten their number, I like to be playful and have them raise their hands with the number 1 call. I'll start slowly and then rapid fire call out a 1 or 2 to solidify their number. This also lightens the mood!
- Call the 1s to come make a circle. Once they've all gathered to form the circle, have them turn to face out
 - Call the 2s to come and stand across from a 1.
 - Provide students with a prompt. If needed, give them a moment to think.
 - Partner A shares their thinking, while partner B listens.
 - To determine who is partner A or B, you can assign it to one of the circles, whoever's name comes first in the alphabet, who's birthday comes first, or even who's house number.
 - Have partners talk for about 1 minute.



Maitre' D

This collaborative activity gets students up and moving, while you control the group size with each prompt. You'll want to vary the size of the group to see how many perspectives you think are possible for a rich dialogue. When students are ready for a group, have them use the hand up-down method of a Swap Meet.

Assign students that you will be their Maitre' D and putting them into tables or groups. Have them hear you say party and make a group to fill that table. They should hand up & down. When everyone is in a group, provide a prompt.



Potential Read-Alouds



Use any of these stories, or ones you're familiar with, to show the importance of a name. Read-alouds are a great way to talk about the importance of names and how they...

Student Generated Usernames

STANDARDS:
AASL: Developing new understandings through engagement in a learning group. Problem solving through cycles of design, implementation, and reflection.
ISTE: Students cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation, and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world. Students manage their personal data to maintain digital privacy and security, and are aware of data-collection technology used to track their navigation online.
CSTA: Discuss real-world cybersecurity problems and how personal information can be protected.

OBJECTIVE
 Students will generate school-friendly usernames.

OPENING ACTIVITY

- Think-pair-share prompt: What makes a name important?
- Optional Read-aloud (suggestions included)
- Collaborative Activity after read-aloud. Directions & prompts included. Choose 1:
 - Swap Meet
 - Concentric Circles
 - Maitre D

3 MINUTE LESSON

Names reflect who we are. They tell people something about us. Whether it's our full name, nickname, in-person, or online. The names we choose to use when online say something about us.

GUIDED WORK

- Share criteria for generating a school-friendly username.
- Generate a list of personal, but not private information they can use in their username.
- Model for students how you would use this to create a username.
- Give them 3-7 minutes to do the same.
- Then show them how they can extend the creativity by incorporating LEET into their username.
- Give them time to do the same.
- Have students share their usernames with a partner, receive feedback based on the criteria, and make any necessary changes.

SWAP MEET

This activity can be quick and simple or more complex. This is a good learning experience for students who have lots of practice with it. I like to use the structure of a Swap Meet. It goes like this: Partner A shares their hand up & down. Partner B shares their hand up & down. Partner C shares their hand up & down. Partner D shares their hand up & down.

Partner A shares their hand up & down. Partner B shares their hand up & down. Partner C shares their hand up & down. Partner D shares their hand up & down. Partner E shares their hand up & down. Partner F shares their hand up & down. Partner G shares their hand up & down. Partner H shares their hand up & down. Partner I shares their hand up & down. Partner J shares their hand up & down.



STANDARDS-BASED LESSON WITH DIRECTIONS TO FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

LEET numbers and symbols in place of letters



About LEET

LEET is the practice of using numbers and symbols in place of letters and words. This makes usernames, and passwords, more unique and secure. Teaching children how to use these substitutions, helps students create fun, memorable, and safe usernames that are also creative.

How to use the LEET posters:

- ❑ Print out the poster in color or black and white, depending on your printing needs. You can make it into a wall poster, or a handout!
- ❑ Show students how you use LEET to create a username.
- ❑ Give them a copy so they can create their own username that includes LEET.
- ❑ Turn LEET into a station where students either decode words that use LEET or create a word with LEET.



FIVE USERNAMES

keys to create a safe & friendly username



1 PRIVACY

Don't use your real name or any personal information: birthday, age, address, school.



3 RESPECTFUL

Choose kind words, and follow the game's or website's rules,



FUN & UNIQUE

Include some of your favorite things — animals, colors, hobbies, characters. Use numbers and symbols in place of letters or words.

MEMORABLE

Keep it simple and short, easy to remember, something that is meaningful to you.



SECURE

Want a username that makes it hard for your classmates and teachers to guess it's you, but also protects your personal information from strangers.



CREATE A USERNAME

YOUR FAVORITES

List down some of your favorite things. They could include:
color
animal
game you play or watch
movie, or game character
sport
hobby

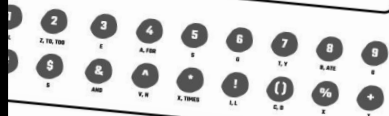
CREATE A NAME

Use your favorite things to create a username. Make a list of 3-5, or more.
Remember to keep it:
short
simple
respectful
memorable

Circle your favorite one. Star the runner-up.

LEET IT UP

Take your favorite username and make it more unique and fun. Replace letters and the matching numbers or symbols!



INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO THE TERM LEET & WATCH THEM
HAVE A BLAST USING IT!

LEET numbers and symbols in place of letters



0

O



1

I, L



2

Z, TO, TOO



3

E



4

A, FOR



5

S



6

G



7

T, Y



8

B, ATE



9

G



@

A



#

H



\$

S



&

AND



^

V, N



*

X, TIMES



!

I, L



()

C, D



%

X



+

T



Cut out the usernames below. Paste the safe usernames in the SAFE column. Paste the unsafe usernames into the UNSAFE column.

SAFE

UNSAFE

SAFE OR UNSAFE

Look at the usernames below.
Then check if they are SAFE or UNSAFE

SAFE

COOLCAT123

EMMAJONES2008

SOCCERSTAR7

PUPPYLOVER

SUPERNINJA45

JOHN_DOE_LONDON

RAINBOWUNICORN

Optional Activities

Use any of the following activities before or after students create their own usernames.

You'll use them before if students need some practice identifying safe vs unsafe usernames, need support with username brainstorms, or need a bit more scaffolding.

You'll use them after if students are more proficient with username generation, you've taught this before and just want to review in a fun way.



Here's what's included:

- Safe or Unsafe Checklist: students identify which usernames are safe. You can have them check and explain their thinking with a partner or in a collaborative strategy after.
- Safe or Unsafe Sort: Students cut out the usernames and paste them into the safe or unsafe column.
- LEET Decoding: Students decode the words using the LEET key.
- Username Match: Students read the username and draw a line to its matching profile.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT SAFE USERNAMES BY ANALYZING USERNAMES FOR SAFETY. ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED!

USERNAME MATCH

Draw a line to match the username to the profile it represents.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| NatureNinja ● | ● Plays soccer ev
of becoming a |
| SoccerStar9 ● | ● Fascinated by
conducting sc |
| BookWorm123 ● | ● Loves explor
learning abou |
| ArtWizard ● | ● Dreams of be
loves learnin |
| ScienceWhiz ● | ● Loves playin
up for a gar |
| MusicMaestro ● | ● Spends ho
visiting the |
| GamerGal7 ● | ● Passionat |

LEET numbers and symbols in place of letters

0	1	2	3
0	I, L	Z, TO, TOO	E
4	5	6	7
A, FOR	S	G	T, Y
8	9	@	#
B, ATE	G	A	H
\$	&	^	*
S	AND	V, N	X, TIMES
!	()	%	+
I, L	C, D	X	T

LEET Decodi

Use the LEET key to decode the words



KEY

0	@
1	#
2	\$
3	&
4	A
5	S
6	!
7	()
8	%
9	+

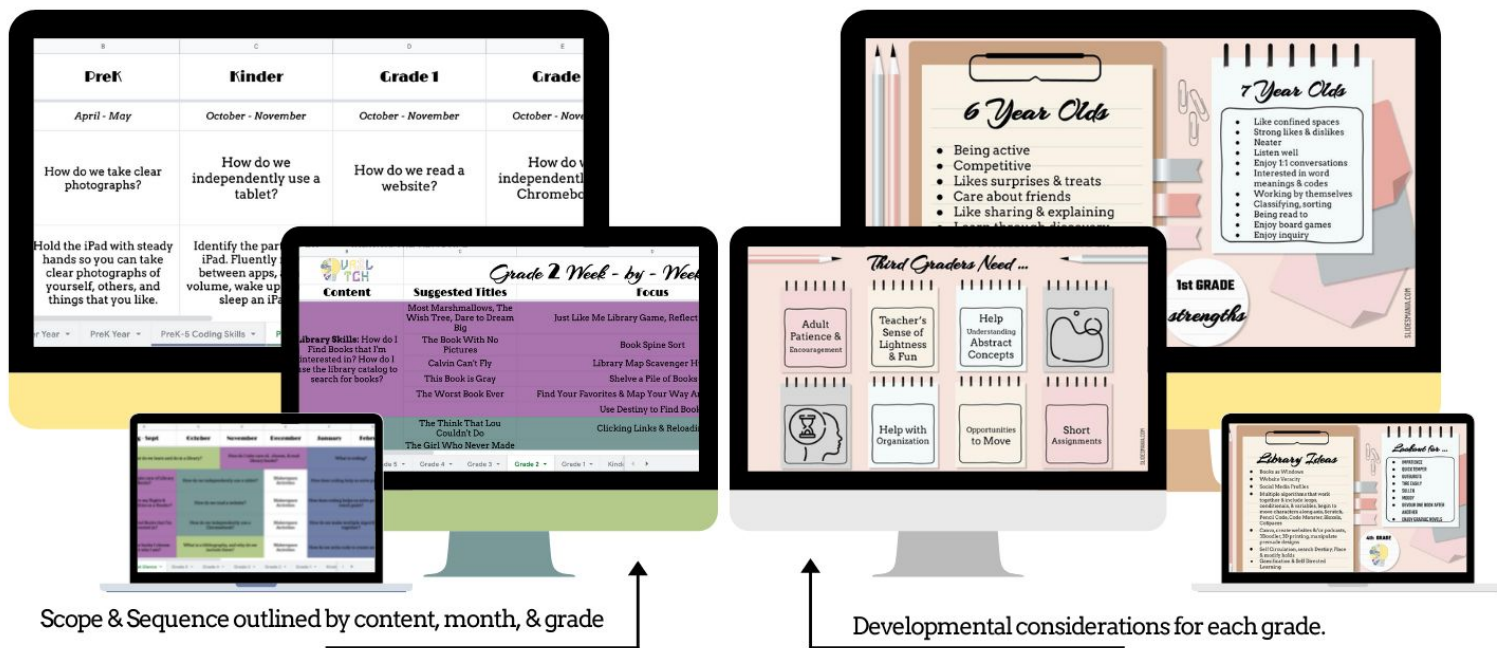
- P4ND4 _____
- \$UP3R _____
- KITT3N _____
- F1Z2 _____
- 8U88L3 _____
- J3!!Y _____
- C4NDY _____
- 5T4R _____
- DR@9ON _____
- P1ZZ4 _____

STUDENTS DECODE USERNAMES TO DETERMINE THEIR MEANING AND EXPLORE CREATIVITY. ANSWER KEYS INCLUDED!

COMPLETE

YEAR

PreK - 6



Scope & Sequence outlined by content, month, & grade

Developmental considerations for each grade.

Scope LIBRARY Sequence

An outline of what to teach PreK - Grade 6 students.
 Laid out by content area, month, and grade level.
 Developmental Considerations for each grade; includes app & content suggestions.

PURCHASE NOW