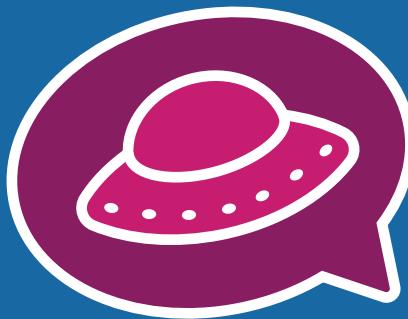


Plusnet proudly presents

PLAYS ON THE INTERNET

Never Trust An Alien



A trilogy of plays about online safety.

In partnership with Internet Matters

OVERVIEW



Plusnet Plays on the Internet is a trilogy of plays about online safety written by TV presenter and children's author Konnie Huq.

Growing up in a digital age brings so many opportunities for personal and collective growth but it also comes with areas to be cautious of.

Internet Matters offers families with the best advice and information available on tackling online safety issues. These plays have been created to use theatre as a fun way to engage parents and children in conversations about the internet in a way that isn't scary or daunting.

Chickenshed produced and staged Konnie's plays with the input and opinions of their young actors. This process means the plays have a voice that is both authentic and effective at communicating the messages behind the stories.

The three plays each address a theme of online safety tailored for specific age groups: online grooming, cyberbullying and online reputation.



WHAT IS ONLINE GROOMING?

Overview

As children continue to find new ways to connect with each other on a range of devices and platforms, it is increasingly important to help them make smarter and safer choices online. Thinking about who they talk to and what they share online, especially with an increase of groomers online.

Tips

- **Talk about it** – Although it can be a tricky subject to talk about with your child, it is important that you start a conversation with them
- **Tools to keep children safe** – Encourage them to make use of privacy settings on the social networks and platforms they use so they stay in control of who can see their content
- **Spotting the signs** – Recognising the signs of online grooming can be hard because it can happen at home and groomers often tell children not to talk to anyone about it
- **Steps to take if it happens** – If you are concerned that your child is being targeted by an online groomer here are a few actions you can take to protect your child:
 - Report it to the authorities
 - Reassure them it's not their fault
 - Seek support from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command for support
 - Contact Childline - 0800 1111 or the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000 for support
 - Report any sexual abuse images to the Internet Watch Foundation

For more information, visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/>





WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Overview

The following workshop tips include a range of activities, related to the ‘Never Trust an Alien’ play centred around the theme of online grooming, suitable for children aged between 8 – 11.

Each activity has been devised to last roughly 10 minutes, giving children time to engage with the tasks and understand the meaning and importance of the theme, whilst remaining relevant and age-appropriate. The activities have mainly been designed for small groups but can equally be carried out by as many children as you have to hand!

The activities have all been devised to be carried out in any order as you’d like, and there is no need to do them all, this pack is a ‘menu’ for you to pick from, based on what you think your children will enjoy and engage with the most.

WARM UPS

A. To get children thinking about the themes of communication and the potential of inaccurate or miscommunication, encourage them, in groups, to make up their own nonsense, gibberish language and some messages in that language – any type of nonsense gibberish will do.

- a.** Have each group write words from the language down and then communicate to other groups their messages in the alien language.
- b.** The other groups then try to guess the message from the ‘alien’. How easy or hard is it to guess the correct message? How close do groups get to the correct message?

B. How easy is it to have a conversation with someone when you don’t know who they are?

- a.** In small groups nominate one person to be the “sender” of a message and one person to be the “receiver”. Pair two groups together and ask each group to go to a different place nearby where they can’t see each other.
- b.** One person from each group writes a “Guess Who” type question: a question which only can have a “Yes” or “No” answer. E.g. “Is the person I am sending a message to a supporter of a football club?”.

- c. The question is then taken to the other group in their hidden place. The groups keep exchanging questions until one sender wants to guess who the sender in the other group is.
- d. Make the activity more difficult by saying each group will only have five questions each and two answers will be deliberately incorrect. This makes guessing more difficult and makes the point that some online communication may be untrue.

C. Play the yes/no game where one person is asking questions and the other has to avoid saying yes or no, by saying words such as “and, it, I don’t know, what” instead.

The game illustrates that sometimes people online can try to get children to say things or give information (such as an address, their name, age, friend's name). Children need to be aware when online there are parts of conversation that they should be guarded about.

ACTIVITY 1. ONLINE STRANGER/GRANDMA'S FOOTSTEPS

This is a fun activity but can also throw up discussion as to what kind of lies are told by strangers on the internet and who can help in these situations (i.e. a trusted adult).

One person plays the role of the alien/stranger and stands at one end of the room. All the other children stand at the other end of the room. The children take turns to shout a question at the stranger who “lies” rather than answers truthfully.

E.g. a child says, “How old are you” and the “stranger” lies e.g. “the same age as you”.

After each question the children try to move up the space to “tell” a trusted adult. The child playing the stranger keeps looking back, similar to Grandma’s Footsteps, to the movement of the children.



ACTIVITY 2. WINK STRANGER

This activity has the same simple rules as “Wink Murder”. One person plays the trusted adult and stands outside the room. The remaining children nominate someone to be the stranger.



When the child playing the trusted adult comes back into the room they have to guess who the stranger is by trying to see who the stranger is winking at. When someone is winked at they have to turn around and sit down as if they have switched off their phone/laptop/computer.

Can the trusted person guess the stranger before they have all left the game?

ACTIVITY 3. NUMBERS AND ACTIONS

Ask the children what they should do if a stranger talks to them online and the risks that might come with this. Then ask them to work out dramatic movements for the actions, examples include:

1. Online stranger alert – switch off device
2. Tell a trusted adult
3. Do homework online safely
4. Talk safely to a friend online
5. A stranger asks for your address online
6. Win an exciting online game and do a celebration
7. Lose an online game and do an action

Once you have worked out easy actions for the children to do when they hear one of these actions, the children then walk around the space. Each time you shout a number the children have to do the action that goes with that number.

E.g. if you shout “1” the children have to do the action that shows them locating a stranger online and switching off the online device.

ACTIVITY 4. WHAT'S THE BEST ANSWER

In groups, try to think of the best answers to certain questions around talking to strangers.

E.g. If someone you don't know talks to you in an online game like the fictional game “Daynight” in the Alien play, what do you do? What don't you do?

If someone online says they have tickets to a football match or a concert you want to go to and says they will leave them in a place for you to pick up, what do you do? What don't you do?



ACTIVITY 5. PROS AND CONS

In groups, list the pros and cons of the internet:

- A.** What are the best things about the internet?
- B.** What are the negative things about the internet?
- C.** How can you make the negative things into positive things?

Make up a lesson for the rest of the group where you “teach” them about the ways to make all activity on the internet positive.

ACTIVITY 6. GUESS THE QUESTION

Research things that strangers (like the stranger in the Alien play) often say online when they are trying to groom and the questions they might ask.

Ask children in groups to write down what they think are the things that strangers are likely to say online and the questions they might ask.

When the children guess one of the things you have written down they get a point. They get two points if they think of a good example that you haven't thought of.

ACTIVITY 7. DRAW A STRANGER

Ask children to draw on large sheets of paper what they think an online stranger who might be trying to lie to children to meet them might look like.

Discuss the drawings to see if children have a traditional stereotypical view of what a stranger looks like. Emphasise that strangers, like the one in the Alien play, can look very ordinary.



ACTIVITY 8. MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT IN ‘NEVER TRUST AN ALIEN’

Ask children to create a physical frozen picture of the following moments in ‘Never Trust an Alien’ in groups:

- A.** Most important moment
- B.** Favourite moment
- C.** Most unsafe moment
- D.** Safest moment
- E.** Most exciting moment



NEVER TRUST AN ALIEN

A play about Online Grooming suitable for an audience aged 8 – 11



SYNOPSIS

It's the year 2090 and space travel is a new way of life, with many missions in progress to discover life away from Earth. While the minds of the population might be on other planets, the risks of talking to strangers online can be much closer to home than it seems.

CHARACTERS

- Narrator 1
- Narrator 2
- Izzy
- Axel
- Martha
- Keziah
- Jack
- Tom
- Newsagent (Mr. Kane)
- Stranger (voice of)
- Mum (voice of)
- Grandad (voice of)
- Global PM (voice of)
- Global Deputy PM (voice of)
- Head Teacher
- Mrs. Gribbin
- Mr. Eldon
- Mr. Salinsky

NB. Some of these characters can be played by the same children.

SETTING

2090 – Earth.

Playground

Classroom

Newsagent

Bedroom

OPENS WITH SONG: 'ALIEN LIFE'

Alien Life Alien Life

Don't know if there's Alien Life

Planet Plonkernooya who are you

Don't know if you are true (Repeat)

Planets here and Planets there

Anyone listening Anyone there

Planet Kakamoomoo say yoohoo

No Daynight stickers here for you



PLAYGROUND AT MORNING BREAK

NARRATOR 1

It's the year 2090 on Earth, we now live in an era in which space travel and exploration is pretty advanced. Finding life forms on another planet has become a united global aim and there are many space missions attempting to do this. We are in a futuristic society where global harmony prevails

NARRATOR 2

The biggest threat to humans is unkindness from nasty isolated fellow human beings acting alone, but as education and awareness increases about the positive benefits of treating your fellow man kindly, the numbers of these bad guys is now thankfully dwindling

JACK IS IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND CHATTING TO HIS FRIENDS BEFORE GOING IN TO MORNING REGISTRATION

IZZY

Hey Axel!

Axel walks over to his group of class mates chatting and talking

AXEL

Ok guys! I made it in on time! Was so certain I was gonna be late

IZZY

How come?

AXEL

Had to fly in from Australia this morning as I was staying at my aunt's place in Sydney last night. Sky traffic was just awful

MARTHA

I'm going to the doctor's in Morocco at lunch time, hope it clears up by then

AXEL

I doubt it. It's because of the Global Prime Minister's upcoming visit to the UK this afternoon

IZZY

Oh yeah, they say there's going to be a big speech about...



GLOBAL PRIME MINISTER'S VOICE ON STAGE

We should all be aware of the potential risks of befriending other planetary life forms in case we do make contact with another planet

GLOBAL DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S VOICE ON STAGE

But there are so many positives too!

JACK

They said on the news the other day that they reckon...

GLOBAL PM

The planet Plonkernooya may have life on it

GLOBAL DEPUTY PM

But then again it might not

AXEL

WICKED!!

IZZY ROLLING HER EYES

They're always saying that. Mum says...

MUM

Even when I was young they actually thought there might be life on Mars!

KEZIAH

Yeah, but that was the olden days, they knew nothing back then. Grandad says that



GRANDAD'S VOICE COMES IN

We used to need things called passports to travel to other countries, and there even used to be fighting between them

IZZY LAUGHING

Weird!! Imagine people trying to hurt and fight with each other. We're so lucky to live in these times of global peace.

JACK

Yeah, totally. I think there maybe life on planet Plonkernooya though. The man on the news said...

NEWS READER VOICE COMES IN

Plonkernooya had conditions very similar to Earth, so life forms there could be a very strong possibility

AXEL

That would be amazing!! Our solar system is boring, I mean REALLY BORING!! I wish we had alien neighbours nearby

THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS

MARTHA

Come on you lot, the Head Teacher's taking assembly today, we'd better not be late. Come on, last one in has to sit next to Miss

THE OTHERS LAUGH AS THEY WALK INTO THE SCHOOL BUILDING

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

NARRATOR 1

The children are sat cross legged on the floor and the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher are addressing them

NARRATOR 2

But is everyone listening? Let's see...

**HEAD TEACHER**

Good morning everyone. Now I know we are all very excited about the news from the global space mission that their space capsule will land on the planet Plonkernooya in another 36 hours

DEPUTY HEAD

So, in honour of the mission, today Year 5 are doing a very special assembly about space travel and the possibility of life elsewhere. But before we begin, we have a few announcements. First our favourite librarian, Mrs Gribbin

MRS GRIBBIN

All unpaid library fines will double to £6 in UK currency or 20 global currency coins if unpaid by the end of the week

HEAD TEACHER

Thank you Mrs Gribbin. Now Mr Eldon, The Head of ICT and Captain of Computers

MR ELDON

Thank you. I have been asked to flag up that, what with global group chat platforms and the internet use on the increase, we would like to remind all students to be extra careful when using the internet, and report anything suspicious to their parents or someone they trust

HEAD TEACHER

Thank you Mr. Eldon and finally teaching assistant, Mr. Salinsky

JACK (WHISPERING TO HIS FRIENDS)

Wish they'd just get on with the assembly

KEZIAH (WHISPERING)

Just tell us more about the Plonkernooya space mission will you? I can't stay awake

NARRATOR 1

Jack needs to keep his concentration – or he'll doze off and miss all the information.

NARRATOR 2

Advice is no good if you fall asleep hearing it!

MR SALINSKY

Please can all children also be cautious and aware of talking to strangers, a man has been hanging around giving gaming stickers to students including rare ones. If anyone spots him please report it immediately.

And given what Mr Eldon has said this morning this goes for online too, we know it's common to speak to people over the internet nowadays, but we should all be really careful, and never meet up with someone you have only ever met online

HEAD TEACHER

Thanks everyone. And now over to Year 5 for their fantastic assembly

SCHOOL HAS FINISHED AND WE ARE AT THE EXTERIOR OF LOCAL SHOPS

NARRATOR 1

Later that day after school Jack is walking home past the shops with his brother, Tom and Keziah

NARRATOR 2

They walked passed the food shop

NARRATOR 1

The petrol station

NARRATOR 2

Clothes shop

NARRATOR 1

The toy shop

NARRATOR 2

The gym

NARRATOR 1

The local furniture shop

NARRATOR 2

The trampoline centre

NARRATOR 1

The games arcade

NARRATOR 2

The police station

TOM

Hey! Mum said to pick up some milk on the way home from the newsagents

JACK

Oh yeah, well remembered!

KEZIAH

I really want some new game stickers; I've been dying for them since the Head spoke about that stupid stranger in assembly

THEY ENTER THE NEWSAGENTS

TOM

Hi, can I have some milk please? For my Mum

MR KANE, THE NEWSAGENT (HANDING MILK OVER)

There you go Tom. How are your parents?

JACK (LAUGHING)

So bossy and nosy

MR KANE

That's what parents are for, to keep you out of trouble. You can't be too careful these days!

JACK

We can handle ourselves

KEZIAH

Yeah, we're not babies. We know what we're doing

MR KANE

Well, keep it that way. What can I get you Izzy?

IZZY

A pack of gaming stickers please. No doubles!

MR KANE

We're clean out; a man came in and bought the lot and all our sticker books too

JACK

No way, that could be the guy from assembly. At school they warned us about a strange man we should watch out for, he is collecting lots of game stickers apparently. The stranger – what did he look like?

MR KANE

Looked quite normal. In a suit.

KEZIAH

If you see him again, maybe report it. In case it is him.... You know, the stranger

MR KANE

Will do.

TOM AND JACK

Okay Mr. Kane, laters

MR KANE

See you soon!

EXTERIOR OF NEWSAGENTS

KEZIAH

Right guys, I'm going this way

IZZY

Shall we game online later? We can do duos

JACK

Yeah, good plan. I'll message you both after dinner.

INTERIOR JACK'S BEDROOM

NARRATOR

Jack is in his bedroom at his computer after dinner

MUM CALLING FROM DOWNSTAIRS

Jack, there's dessert if you want it

JACK

No thanks mum, stick a fork in me, I'm done!

MUM

Ok, just shout if you want anything

JACK

Thanks, Mum, I'm just online

JACK TYPING

Hey Keziah... are you there? Who's in the game?

BLIP - MESSAGE NOISE

STRANGER

Who's this?

JACK

Jack, who's this? You're not Keziah, who are you?

STRANGER

If I said you wouldn't believe me

JACK

Try me

STRANGER

No, you'll think I'm lying!

JACK

I won't

STRANGER

Ok, I'm from a distant place

JACK

Australia? That's not that far these days sky traffic is so fast!

STRANGER

Nope, further...

JACK

No way!!! Where?

STRANGER

Yes, way... Errrrr DUDE sorry bruv...I'm from outer space

JACK

Serious? Where?

STRANGER

You won't have heard of it, a place called Plonkernooya

JACK

Isn't that in the 351st solar system

STRANGER

Very good. What school do you go to?

JACK

Err, Daxington High School, Year 7

STRANGER

Oh I've heard of that one. I have to go now; I need to eat my dinner

JACK

Don't go! I've never spoken to an alien before...

STRANGER

Well shall we speak again tomorrow when you're back from school? Same time, same game, same server!

JACK

Yeah, sure safe!!!

STRANGER

Ok, bye err bruv...

BLIP – HANGING UP NOISE

BLIP – MESSAGE NOISE

KEZIAH

Hi, I'm here, its Keziah...you in the game still?

JACK

Yes!! You'll never guess who I just spoke to...

KEZIAH

Who?

SONG: 'ONLINE MAGIC'

Online Magic – Online Stuff

Online Easy – Online tough

Online Safe Space wait and see

Online questions set them free

Are they real or are they fake?

Ask somebody No mistake

Are they saying things not true?

Are they trying to trick you?

The Internet matters can't you see

Internet matters obviously

Internet safety makes it fine

Makes it fine to go online

EXTERIOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND NEXT MORNING

NARRATOR 2

Next morning in the playground Keziah, Jack, Martha and Axel are chatting

KEZIAH

Jack reckons he spoke to an alien last night on the Internet

IZZY

Yeah, yeah, whatever

JACK

No, seriously

IZZY

Well, did you see him?

JACK

No, he had to go. He had to have his dinner. I'm gonna speak to him again tonight

AXEL

Well get him to put the camera on so you can see him

ALL

Don't do that, it's dodgy

IZZY

Well see if you can switch on the mic at least then you can hear if he has an alien voice!

AXEL

Oi but, imagine if it was real, that'd be epic. Can we all speak with him?

JACK

I'll ask him tonight

AXEL

If it is for real, you'll go down in history before the global space mission discovers anything!! That would sick!!!

MARTHA

Just be careful the Global Prime Minister's speech yesterday was really clear...

GLOBAL PM'S VOICE

Be careful, aliens could be good for the world, or they could also be bad. If you don't know them you must be careful. Do not approach any of them until we know more

GLOBAL DEPUTY PM'S VOICE

Until we know more – an alien is a stranger – and a stranger may be a possible danger

INTERIOR JACK'S BEDROOM

NARRATOR 1

Later that night Jack makes contact with the alien again. They begin typing messages to each other and Jack is excited to be having another exchange with a real life alien, or so he thinks

JACK

Hi, me again

STRANGER

Hello

JACK

Soo! Is your planet a SICK place?

STRANGER

Well, actually funny enough we have very similar conditions to earth here

JACK

Oh yeah, the man on the news did say that. Are you really an alien? I mean really?

STRANGER

Yes, we can turn the cameras on if you don't believe me. You can see what I look like; I'd like to see what you look like too

JACK

Errr...

NARRATOR 2

Jack remembered his friends' warning him not to turn on the webcam even though he was dying to see what the alien looked like

FUN FLASHBACK SCENE...

AXEL

Well get him to put the camera on so you can see him

ALL

Don't do that, it's dodgy

NARRATOR 1

He knew he couldn't risk it, and what if the alien could zap him through the webcam, definitely too risky

JACK

Errrrr, the camera, it's broken. How about the mic? Can I hear your voice?

STRANGER

Ok, I'll turn it on, hang on a sec...

BLIP MIC TURNS ON

STRANGER

Hi

JACK

You do sound like an alien

STRANGER

I look like one too. Tell you what, do you want to meet me in the local park after school?

JACK

Your planet doesn't want to start a war with us do they?

STRANGER

No, we are really very friendly. If you like, when we meet I can show you gaming stickers from my planet

JACK

Wow really? But I've been told not to speak to strangers

STRANGER

I'm not a stranger now am I? You know me. But don't tell any grown-ups because we want to keep my planet a secret for now. So shall we definitely meet?

JACK

I guess that would be ok? It is a public place I suppose

STRANGER

DEFINITELY!!!! SWEAR!!!??

JACK

I don't know. Maybe...

STRANGER

But we'll have to be careful. I don't want any grown-ups to see me. Maybe I can give you a ride in my spaceship? And we can swap gaming stickers

JACK

Wow!!! Can I bring my friends?

STRANGER

Well... ok, only one though, as long as they can keep a secret from grown-ups

JACK

Really!? But...I don't know, why can't I say anything to my parents?

STRANGER

They don't understand. Meet me by the band stand tomorrow after school, I'll bring the gaming stickers, I'm looking forward to it...err....bruv

NARRATOR 1

It was at that moment the penny dropped

NARRATOR 2

This was no alien this was the stranger they were warned about

STRANGER LEAVES THE GAME – JACK SIGNS OFF AND SHOUTS

JACK

Mum, Dad, I need to talk to you

MUM

Are you still playing that game?

DAD

Let him speak – it sounds important!

JACK

A bloke got into our online game, he wasn't a kid, he said he was an alien, he said we should meet in the park tomorrow, he told me not to tell you

MUM

Ohhh!!! did he now? Good boy for telling us Jack

EXT SCHOOL PLAYGROUND NEXT MORNING

NARRATOR 1

In the playground the next day, Jack filled everyone in on his discovery

JACK

Guys you'll never guess what?

IZZY

You spoke to the alien again?

JACK

Kind of... And he wanted to meet us all in the park after school?!

KEZIAH

You're kidding right?

MARTHA

What d'you mean?

IZZY

Yeah, come on spit it out!

JACK

Well the alien is actually the man buying all those gaming stickers from Mr Kane the newsagent

IZZY

What?!

NARRATOR 2

Jack went on to explain everything to the others

AXELA

He must think you're thick or something. Did he really believe you wouldn't tell someone or guess who he was?

MARTHA

What are you going to do?

JACK

I told Mum and Dad last night, and they are going to tell the teachers today

AXEL AND MARTHA

Yeah, they will help catch him

INT SCHOOL. WE SEE CHILDREN, MUM, DAD AND TEACHERS CHATTING

NARRATOR 1

Jack's mum and dad told his teachers everything

NARRATOR 1

They told the teachers about Mr. Kane the newsagent who first alerted them to the signs of the stranger buying all the gaming stickers

NARRATOR 2

And the fact that a stranger was speaking to Jack online asking him strange things like asking to meet him in the local park after school

JACK ACTS OUT THE STORY FOR EVERYONE

NARRATOR 1

And then how the stranger was collecting gaming stickers, and the penny dropping about them being the same person they got warned about at school, and not being an alien at all

BOTH NARRATORS

He told them EVERYTHING

NARRATOR

And then everyone clapped and praised him in Assembly and the Head Teacher said

HEAD TEACHER

Great work and quick thinking. We can work with your parents to hand this over to the police now, and we'll be able to prevent him from doing it again. Well done Jack Khan!

ENDS WITH SONG: 'ONLINE MAGIC'

Online Magic – Online Stuff

Online Easy – Online tough

Online Safe Space wait and see

Online questions set them free

Are they real or are they fake?

Ask somebody No mistake

Are they saying things not true?

Are they trying to trick you?

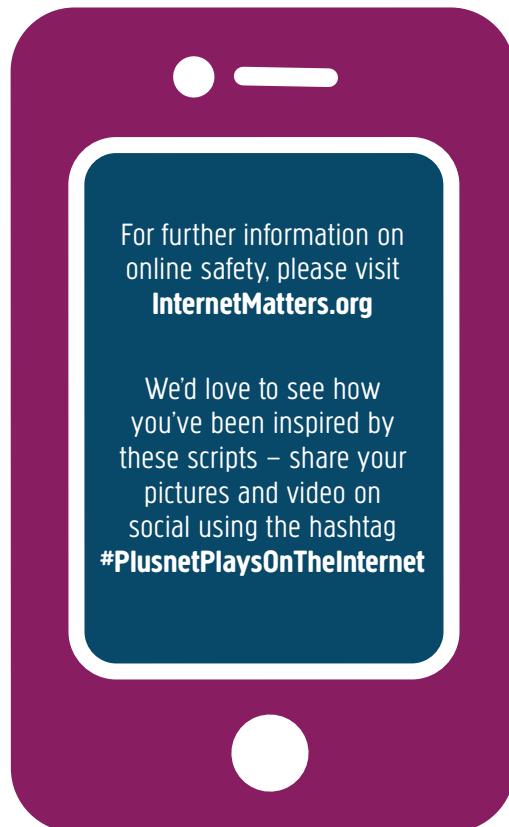
The Internet matters can't you see

Internet matters obviously

Internet safety makes it fine

Makes it fine to go online

ENDS



For further information on
online safety, please visit
InternetMatters.org

We'd love to see how
you've been inspired by
these scripts – share your
pictures and video on
social using the hashtag
#PlusnetPlaysOnTheInternet