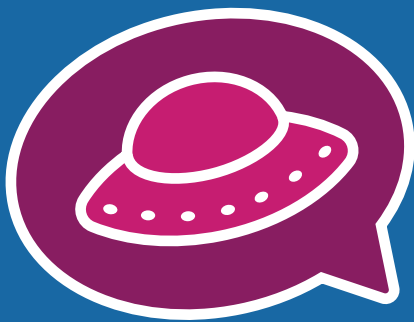


plusnet proudly presents

PLAYS ON THE INTERNET

Say What You Mean, and
Mean What You Say



A trilogy of plays about online safety.
In partnership with Internet Matters

internet
matters.org

OVERVIEW



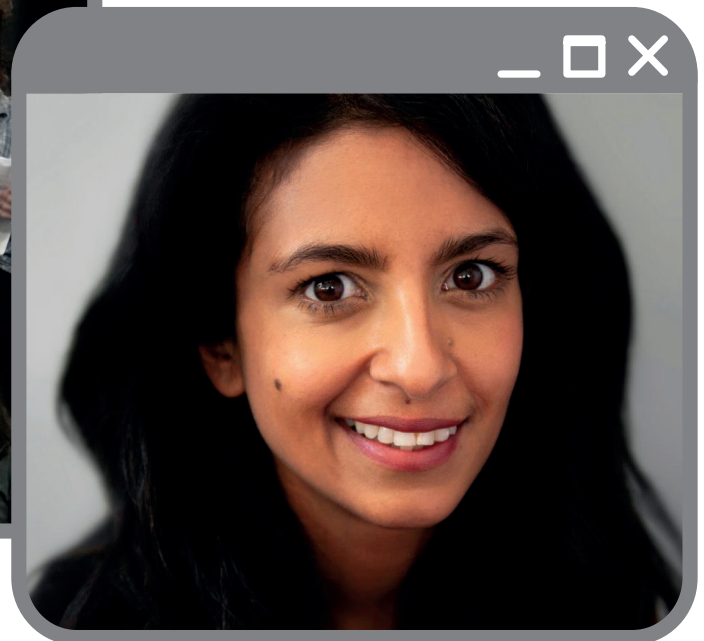
Plusnet Plays on the Internet is a trilogy of plays about online safety written by TV presenter and children's author Konnie Huq.

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 REPUTATION?

Overview

The internet keeps a record of everyone's online behaviour – the photos we upload, the comments other people make about us and the things we buy. This is our online reputation. It is important children understand how to manage their online reputation and the impact of having a negative online reputation.

Tips

- **Encourage them to keep it positive online** – Actions online can have a real-world consequences - share real stories to help them understand the power of being positive online
- **Make sure they know how to report abuse** – Together get familiar with the reporting and blocking settings available on the platforms they use to screen out any abuse that breaks a platform's community guidelines
- **Empower them to be themselves online** – Encourage children not to hide behind anonymity online and be tempted to say or do things they shouldn't. Use examples to highlight the power of being real online and developing their passions to create a positive digital footprint
- **Encourage them to do a search on their name** – Make sure they are aware of the information that future employers and teachers may see and take a call to remove anything that is unpleasant or incorrect
- **Make them aware that they can recover from mistakes made online** – Let them know that if they make a mistake by posting something they shouldn't there is always a way to deal with it and give them support to make smarter choices in the future
- **Highlight importance of choosing respect** – Talk to them about respecting other people's privacy and viewpoints even if you don't agree with them

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





WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Overview

The following workshop tips include a range of activities, related to the 'Say What You Mean, and Mean What You Say' play centred around the theme of online reputation, suitable for young people aged 14+

Each activity has been devised to last roughly 10 minutes, giving young people 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 young people 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.

ACTIVITY 1. MEMORIES

In small groups, discuss your memories of your first posts on social media. The group can research these on their phones. In groups, physically create a frozen picture of the following:

- A.** The memory on a social media post you are most proud of
- B.** The funniest memory
- C.** The most embarrassing memory

Present frozen pictures to the other groups, in order of the first memory you remember, the proudest memory and lastly the most embarrassing one.

ACTIVITY 2. SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTIVE MUSEUM

In groups, create interactive social media exhibits which could be in a 'Social Media Museum' or 'Social Media Theme Park', such as a 'Snapchat Selfie' exhibit.



ACTIVITY 3. IDEAL AGE AND OTHER HOUSE OF COMMONS STYLE DEBATES

In the 'Online Reputation' play the two characters get angry with their parents for delaying the age when they can get a new phone. In groups, prepare either the pros or cons of having a smartphone when in primary school. Some groups prepare the pros and some the cons. Groups may well have to represent an opinion they don't agree with so that a debate atmosphere can be created.

Once the pros and cons arguments have been prepared, create a House of Commons style debate about whether to ban phones in primary school.

Similar debates can be prepared and presented in House of Commons style for the following issues:

- A.** Whether all social media posts should be automatically deleted after five years unless requested.
- B.** Whether organisations should be banned from looking at potential employees past online reputation when interviewing for a job online reputation searches should only go back three years when organisations are interviewing future employees.

ACTIVITY 4. POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

'Online Reputation' involves the character Sairen creating a very positive online profile for himself. In groups, pick a celebrity or figure in the news and create a very positive imaginary profile for them.

List the past events that would go on the profile and then physically create the images and content that form the profile as a scene.

ACTIVITY 5. INTERVIEW PANEL

In groups, create a scene where an interview panel is asking an interviewee difficult questions about their negative online reputation profile.

Present these scenes back to the wider group and create other scenes showing celebrities going for certain projects or roles and having their online reputation questioned.



ACTIVITY 6. AGONY AUNT/PROBLEM PAGE

In the Online Reputation play Sarah reforms her character and becomes a social media problem solver. Create a scene in groups where two young people are the “Social Media Advisory Experts” and the rest of the group bring them social media “problems”.

Ask the other group to judge the advice of the expert and suggest any advice to add.

The young people can also refer to the Internet Matters website or one-pagers for more guidance.



SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, AND MEAN WHAT YOU SAY

A play about Online Reputation suitable for an audience aged 14+



SYNOPSIS

A pair of lifelong friends both receive their first mobile phones together on their 15th birthday. With their lives fully documented online, how will their digital decisions affect their future, and will they use the internet for good?

CHARACTERS

Lead

- Sairen – various ages
- Sarah – various ages

Narrator

- 2x people

Support:

- Ensemble cast

SETTING

Current day, city location.

OPENS WITH A PHYSICAL THEATRE / MIME PIECE SHOWING GROWING UP, HIGHLIGHTING THAT THE CHARACTERS – ONE GIRL AND ONE BOY – LOVE EXACTLY THE SAME THINGS: BOOKS, FOOTBALL, TV SHOWS ETC....

NARRATOR ONE

This is Sarah

NARRATOR TWO

And this is Sairen

NARRATOR ONE

They've known each other since they were two

NARRATOR TWO

You always get it wrong...it's three you doughnut!

NARRATOR ONE

Anyway as I was saying, they have been inseparable since childhood

NARRATOR TWO

They have the same hobbies

NARRATOR ONE

The same likes

NARRATOR TWO

Read the same books

NARRATOR ONE

And watch the same shows

NARRATOR TWO

They even dream the same dreams!

NARRATOR ONE

Ssshh you're telling them too much

NARRATOR TWO

Are you being serious right now? You started this

NARRATOR ONE LOOKS IMPATIENTLY AT NARRATOR TWO AND CLICKS TH

SAIREN

Sorry go on

SARAH

We're going to be the editors of Fashion Followers Online!

SAIREN

Team us, killing it, setting trends for the millions

SARAH

Trend Setters extraordinaire!

SPLIT SCENE - PARENTS OF BOTH CHARACTERS ENTER FROM EACH SIDE OF THE STAGE. SARAH IS SITTING IN THE LIVING ROOM WITH HER PARENTS ANNOYED AT THE FACT THAT SHE CAN'T HAVE A NEW PHONE. SAIREN IS STANDING IN THE KITCHEN WITH HIS PARENTS ALSO ANNOYED THAT HE CAN'T HAVE A NEW PHONE





NARRATOR ONE

Woah, woah, woah! What's wrong with them two?

NARRATOR TWO

Don't worry about other people, worry about yourself

NARRATOR ONE

What? We have an audience!! Look!

NARRATOR TWO

Right, do you remember when you were a kid and you really badly wanted that special something?

NARRATOR ONE

That special something that apparently everyone in your class had, and your parents just said "no you can't have it", cos they just didn't get it

NARRATOR TWO

Well it was one of those days!

SARAH

Mum please can I have a new phone, it's so unfair, why do I have to wait? SAIREN's already got the latest one...

SARAH'S MUM

Errr stop right there young lady, I've already spoken to his parents and we have all agreed that it's best that you're both given your new phones on your 14th birthday!

SARAH

But everyone at school has the latest one, mine's not even going to be cool by then and the phone I really want is on discount right now!

SWITCHES TO SAIREN'S HOUSE

SAIREN

What the hell mum, that's so unfair! Forget it I don't even want...

SAIREN'S MUM

If you carry on with this whining, you won't get anything... Is that what you want?

SAIREN

Yeah but SARAH's going to get a new one first cos her birthday's in September

SAIREN'S MUM

Don't worry sweetheart, that means you can play on her one!

SARAH AND SAIREN

Ahhh forget it!

SARAH AND SAIREN STORM OUT, AND GO TO THEIR ROOMS TO READ THE SAME BOOK

NARRATOR ONE

So eventually they both stopped whining when they realised that they weren't going to get their own way

NARRATOR TWO

But on their 14th birthday as promised, they both received their beloved new phones

NARRATOR ONE

They went absolutely wild for them, talking to new people...



NARRATOR TWO

Liking hundreds of photos...

NARRATOR ONE

Everything became a post or a picture to put online

NARRATOR TWO

Just so they could get more followers!

BOTH OF THE TEENAGERS HAVE NOW TURNED 14, YOU SEE THEM BOTH UNWRAP THEIR NEW PHONES AT THE SAME TIME AS THEY SIT BACK TO BACK TAKING SELFIES, GRADUALLY MORE AND MORE FRIENDS JOIN THEM TO TAKE SELFIES

EVERYONE

Hashtag!

PERSON ONE

#On holiday getting my tan on!

PERSON TWO

#Gym goals, getting hench on the chest bench!

PERSON THREE

#Eating with the bae, couple goals!

PERSON FOUR

#Stroking a tiger in Thailand!

PERSON FIVE

#Keeping it real out here!

CAST CREATE ADDITIONAL HASHTAGS AND EVENTUALLY GO BACK INTO MIME

SARAH AND SAIREN LEAVE THE GROUP AND WALK TO THE FRONT OF THE STAGE, AS THE GROUP CONTINUE TO TAKE SELFIES AND TYPE

SAIREN

Look, look! 30,000 followers

SARAH

Step your game up SAIREN, I've got 30,327

SAIREN

Ha ha, I'm only 300 off! Anyway you've been doing that follow for follow stuff

SARAH

Well if you want to be famous, the whole world needs to know who you are

SAIREN

I guess it's just not that important to me...

SARAH JOKINGLY

Yeah yeah yeah, you're just saying that because you know you can't beat me!

SAIREN

I didn't know we were in competition!

SARAH

We're not I suppose, our things are just different. My online rep is natural. Besides the editor of Fashion Followers Online said that "The image that you portray to your public, reflects the individual behind the screen" and my screen is popping right now. I could @ you in my next post if you like?

SAIREN

Do you know what it's on, by this time next month I'll triple the amount of followers I have. This will be fun, just a bit of friendly banter!

SARAH LAUGHS

You wish! If you say so, Sounds good! Game on!

SARAH PUTS OUT HER HAND AND THEY BOTH SMILE AT EACH OTHER

LIKE ME SONG

Like me, follow me

Like me, won't you follow me

Like me, follow me

Like me, won't you follow me

500 Likes on the gram

One bag of retweets on my last post

Just plugged Fashion Followers Online on my social lens

Filter was popping, everybody jacked dat.

Like me, comment me

1000 pokes on my channel

Lots of make up, they're loving how my face looks

Like me, DM

Like me, follow me

Like me, comment me

Like me, like me



PHYSICAL THEATRE / MIME PHOTO BATTLE. THE CAST SURROUND EACH OF THEM ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE STAGE, COLLECTING DIFFERENT PROPS TO ENHANCE THEIR PICTURES ON SOCIAL MEDIA – SUNGLASSES, HATS, DRINKS, MEDALS FROM SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS ETC

SAIREN VOICEOVER

This is amazing, I didn't know I could make this many connections with so many people in such little time. I'm collecting every moment, every adventure. I'll save all the stories, so we never forget how much fun we have together, and I'll try to make sure I keep all this as a great record. I'm sure it will help me and Sarah. We can use all this to help our future.

UNTIL SARAH'S SIDE BEGINS TO WARP WITH A NEGATIVE TURN.... SHE BEGINS TO GET DRAGGED ACROSS THE FLOOR AND THE CAST HOLD A MIRROR IN FRONT OF HER AS SHE SMEARS LIPSTICK ACROSS HER FACE... AND POUTS AND BEGINS TO MAKE HER POSTS DIFFERENT. SAIREN IS WATCHING SARAH FROM A DISTANCE AND CAN SEE THAT HIS FRIEND IS CREATING A DIFFERENT DIGITAL PERSONA TO HER PERSONALITY

SARAH VOICEOVER

Will they like me if I pose like this using #Hot? Showing my body has to get me more followers, it feels weird but I'll do it, it's not real, it's only online. I'm getting so many comments! Keep taking pictures Sarah.. Never stop! Sairen, you should do this. You can get more followers like me this way.

SAIREN GOES HOME TO SPEAK TO HIS PARENTS ABOUT HIS CONCERNS

SAIREN

I'm really worried about Sarah, I think she's getting herself into trouble. She's been commenting things and doing things that are so unlike her – even taking really revealing pictures online and she's giving herself the wrong reputation. People have started trolling her, and she's not the same person online, I think Sarah might end up doing something that she'll regret

SAIREN'S DAD

These kids these days, they've forgotten what real life is, what it's like to not have to take a picture every five seconds... I mean you even take your phone to the toilet... disgusting! Who does that?

SAIREN

Everyone does dad!Mum look at this

SAIREN SHOWS HIS MUM A PICTURE OF SARAH

SAIREN'S MUM

Oh no, oh that's not the Sarah we know! I'm going to call Angela right this second. Her mum can help her see things the right way

SAIREN

Ahh no!!!

THE CAST COME BACK ONTO STAGE AND YOU SEE THE PHONE CALL HAPPEN IN MIME. SARAH'S MUM TURNS AROUND AND SEES THE IMAGE OF HER DAUGHTER AND LOOKS AT IT IN SHOCK

SARAH'S MUM

Sarah, Sairen told me all about this. You are being so different online. We know who you are and what you're like but online you seem so different and not your usual fun self

NARRATOR ONE

Sarah was upset with Sairen.

SARAH STANDS AT THE FRONT OF STAGE WITH SAIREN THE CAST SITTING BEHIND HER

SARAH

Does he not understand? It's only online, it doesn't matter – I was just having fun and enjoying the attention!

He's a little snitch! #Snake #BadFriend #Don'tTrustTheseHaters

THE CAST SURROUND SAIREN AND SHE BEGINS TO MESSAGE HIM

PERSON ONE

I can't believe you went to go and tell your mum, snitch!

PERSON FOUR

These boys aint loyal

PERSON TWO

And you can't rap, your barz are dead!

PERSON THREE

I'm too good for you

SARAH

In fact – I'm going to unfollow you and I hope everyone does too!



SAIREN

But Sarah, you won't do that. You're better than that

SARAH

Why not? You told mum about me because you were jealous. I am more successful

SAIREN

I was worried about you, that's all. You're the friend I know when we talk but online you seem fake – unnatural – a different person

SARAH

But you're online a lot too

SAIREN

But I'm myself. I try to be real. When you're online I want you to be just like you are in real life

SARAH

I am the same person

SAIREN

Look, use this link. It's called 'Searching Me' – You can see your own Social Media profiles and how you appear online. Look at the 'Online Sarah' then tell me what you think

SAIREN RAPS ABOUT HIS FEELINGS ABOUT SARAH, AS THIS IS HAPPENING AN INTERVIEW PANEL IS SET UP BEHIND HIM

SAIREN RAP

SEE SARAH WITH CONTORTED / RISKY BODY IMAGE

SARAH

Sairen is wrong about me. Yes, I get excited by likes and everyone knowing me but it's not out of control. Is it? I mean, I still look like the same me online

SARAH SEES THE DIFFERENT IMAGES OF HER ONLINE SELF FORMING AROUND HER AS SHE LOOKS AT HER 'SEARCHING ME' PROFILE ON HER PHONE

SARAH

Who's that? That's not how I meant that picture to look! Who said that? Oh...it's me...And that's me as well! And that! And I should have never liked that comment! Oh no...that as well! And I'm being trolled in the comments! They're saying things and they don't even know me! I didn't realise how I was coming across, I just didn't realise...

SHE TURNS OFF THE PHONE

SAIREN

OK, do you see what I'm saying?

SARAH

Yes...you must hate me for kicking off

SAIREN

Mate, of course I don't. I just want everyone online to see the Sarah I do offline.



SARAH AWARENESS SONG

I lost a lot time
Messing around online
I gotta lotta likes
Living a life of lies
They don't know me
The way the way they think they do
They don't know me
Not everything is true that you see online, that you see online
Focused on my career, like I should have been doing for years
They don't know me
The way the way they think they do
They don't know me
Not everything is true that you see online

NARRATOR ONE

So Sairen used his social media to help his career, sharing things he liked and being inspired by the hottest styles from around the world.

And Sarah used hers to understand everything about social media itself - she deleted all the posts that didn't reflect who she truly was, she started managing her profiles and to really think before sharing. If anyone had a problem about social media they went to Sarah.

We flash forward and sometimes people just grow apart, new friendships, different colleges, different universities and they ended up going their separate ways to follow their futures...

NARRATOR TWO

Well, you know, they wanted the same things out of life – different futures but the same goal. They were going to succeed in different places.

NARRATOR ONE

Or were they? Look at where we are now

INTERVIEW ROOM

INTERVIEWER ONE

We have two potential candidates for this job, they both have a lot of experience within the media industry and their references are superb

INTERVIEWER TWO SCANS THE REFERENCES

This is exactly what we need for Fashion Followers Online

INTERVIEWER THREE

Yes, they're both the sort of people we need, fresh pairs of eyes with fresh opinions

SARAH WALKS ACROSS THE STAGE WITH A BRIEFCASE READY FOR HER INTERVIEW, AND BUMPS INTO SAIREN. THE REST OF THE CAST ARE IN OFFICE POSITIONS

SARAH

Sairen?! Oh my gosh you look great...how are you?

SAIREN

So do you, I'm good... how's your mum and everyone?





SARAH

Yeah great, I can't believe it, what are you doing here?

SAIREN

I've got an interview for a role at Fashion Followers Online

SARAH

No way! So have I!

SARAH

IT DAWNS ON HER, THROUGH A SMILE SHE SAYS

Well we're in competition now.. May the best person win

SAIREN

Ha! Someone hasn't changed, do you remember when we used to fight over who could play football better?

SARAH

Or eat their food the fastest?

SAIREN

Or finish a book first?

SARAH

Or who could write the best posts online?

Good luck mate

SAIREN

You too. Let's catch up properly after.

SARAH AND SAIREN BOTH ENTER SEPARATE SPACES ON STAGE AND THERE IS A PHYSICAL MOVEMENT PIECE REPRESENTING THEM BOTH HAVING AN INTERVIEW

CAST WILL ASK OVERLAPPING QUESTIONS - SOUND MONTAGE

INTERVIEW PANEL ALONE

INTERVIEWER 1

So who shall we employ?

INTERVIEWER 2

I think we should hire Sarah, she has great charisma, exactly what we need for this company and she already has a solid online following. She has been helping her friends sort out social media problems for years

INTERVIEWER 3

But that Sairen guy knows what he's talking about. He's great

INTERVIEWER 4

Yes, Sairen has thousands of followers and all of his posts show positive encounters throughout his recent years. I can see that he is motivated, dedicated, and he shows commitment, he has a passion for life

INTERVIEWER 5

We also need people like Sarah, who are popular in the right way. She sees the positives about social media and is clever enough to avoid the negatives and stick to the positives

INTERVIEWER 2

So then what do we do?

INTERVIEWER 1 (LONG PAUSE)

We could employ both of them?

INTERVIEWER 5

One as Editor and one in the Social Media Editor position we have opening up?

INTERVIEWER 1

Yes, exactly – they're both very talented...we wouldn't want to lose out on one of them

INTERVIEWER 2

Let's do it!

TURN TO BOTH SARAH AND SAIREN SITTING AT THE FRONT

ALL INTERVIEWERS

The job's yours!

SLOW MOTION CELEBRATION

ENDS

