FROM STREET-SMART TO WEB-WISE ®

A SAFETY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

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Madeline Parisi & Associates LLC, (MPA) a Women Business Entity, has developed a team of Subject Matter Experts (SME) to combine our mutual and complimentary experience in the areas of Education, Safety, Information Technology, Cyber Security, and Instructional Design, to design an online interactive program focused on students K-8 and beyond. Through various media outlets, we are aware that children are a vulnerable target for safety and other issues that arise due to existing and emerging cyber threats. In the last several decades, school safety is now added to the list of concerns by administrators, parents and students. Students are now often provided with internet-enabled devises without any training on use from a safety perspective.

The goal for From Street-smart to Web-wise® is to develop a safety training program applicable to schools and child-serving agencies. Scenario-based training is the methodology to be used to provide value, and to capture the attention of this age group.

The scenarios will take an objective-based approach that is adaptive to a wide range of education and maturity levels. Although there are several training solutions on the market, we are unable to locate interactive age and interest-appropriate training. The proposed scenarios can work as standalone or asynchronous self-paced computer-based modules.

The baseline program modules include covering age-appropriate scenarios for:
"Stranger-danger" in today's world.
Cyber threats and securing personal information
Active shooter in a school scenario

Training Scenarios begin as early as Kindergarten through Second Grade where children will be introduced, as an example using the cyber safety module, to topics concerning privacy and digital footprints through the use of character animations and whimsical content. Grades three and four will be introduced to topics such as pass phrases and a more mature level of Personal Identifiable Information (PII). Grades five through eight will develop into topics that deal with social media, app selection, cyber stalking, cyber bullying, and cyber grooming, as deemed age-appropriate.

High School level students may be involved in the program development as many now have structured incubator business development programs as part of the curricula. Curriculum may be designed and

developed for these grades, concluding in a very mature game environment consisting of PII to include informational learning on what would be expected of them as they enter the workforce and are using company assets.

Facilitator's guides as well as information sheets are provided to parents, group leaders, or teachers to assist in the learning process. This construct allows for product marketing at any level from individual users, child-serving organizations, school systems, and many more. All scenarios for each age group will have formative assessments through embedded activities.

Optional assessments that self-grade the user as well as cumulative assessments at the end of the modules that can generate reward systems or certificates to show accomplishment. Intelligent tutoring will be embedded in the scenarios to bring learners back for remediation on objectives that were not successfully completed. Our feedback system uses orchestrated branching events that lead the learner to the appropriate learning spirals within the scenario.

With the Internet of Things, common knowledge is no longer sufficient to protect our business or personal interests. Safety on the street and in the ever evolving digital landscape requires constant vigilance

The goal of this program is to help mitigate safety threats through the use of engaging and interactive safety scenarios designed to make our customers Safety-smart and Web-wise.

Overview: The From Street Smart to Web Wise® project will create awareness and educate in life-skills training, through an interactive learning program, presented via a gender-equitable education platform, to take responsibility in an effective and proactive manner for the safeguarding of their personal safety and their privacy and personally identifiable information (PII).

Educating children, who tend to be more trusting and vulnerable than adults, to be aware of "stranger-danger" and that they must safeguard and not disclose any personal information about themselves or their family members, is an essential life-skill. The interactive training program to be developed through this project will provide participants with life-skill challenges that address physical safety and privacy concerns/issues via age-specific problem solving activities.

Parents have desired to do everything within their power to protect and safeguard their children. The proposed interactive learning program will provide educators and parents with the tools necessary to prepare children destined to live in today's world. Today parents want to raise street-wise AND web-wise children. Stranger-danger is now in-person and online.

Intellectual Merit: The interactive learning program developed through this project will lead to effective models and pedagogic approaches to teaching students, thereby increasing their personal privacy protection level and awareness as they advance and mature. This program may be integrated by teachers and teacher aides into a broader curriculum that may include in other educational activities, and used by additional organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Boys and Girls Clubs of America, local or municipal after-school-programs, child-serving agencies, and programs such as Head Start.

Technology and enhanced education delivery programs such as this safety training program creates a primer-level awareness for earlier grade levels, to provide awareness and to empower children and organizations, giving them a stronger connection, realization and ability to comprehend and fortify themselves against the challenges they face daily. At higher grade levels the awareness and activities become more complex and may also engage the learner in development in various incubator programs.

Broader Impact: In today's globally connected world, training and awareness in the proactive protection of one's private data, is necessary as well as essential. We are also becoming aware that this training is needed at an increasingly younger age, and a program or curriculum that is focused on creating awareness and teaching young children about online, Internet-focused privacy is necessary. COVID has introduced a new twist to the discussion as libraries are now loaning out laptops and hotspots for use. This provides in-home access to those who may have never had this opportunity.

Learning is becoming more blended with less paper-based instruction. As children progress to upper grades, the application of technology becomes greater, leading to eventual workplace requirements, which may become entirely digitally based.

There is also a socioeconomic divide – those with and without technology exposure in the home. When economic situations do not allow for internet, laptops and tablets, there is also no opportunity to develop an awareness of basic online privacy concerns. This program, offered in schools and other child-serving environments, will prepare children for the eventual exposure and for their future development.

Contact Madeline Parisi to talk more about partnering on this much needed program for your school district or child-serving program.
madeline@madelinparisi.com
+1-312-550-3476