

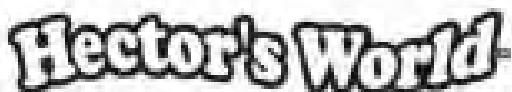
**LESSON PLAN 66: MAKE A STRONG PASSWORD**

**Objective:** Learn about cybersafety using resources on Hector's World

**Age range:** 6-12

**WHAT IS A PASSWORD?**

This is a secret word or string of characters that is used to prove your identity when using a computer. Using a strong password and keeping it secret is one of the first steps a young person can learn in taking an active role in their own cybersafety. This classroom activity from Hector's World is a great opportunity to introduce the concept that passwords protect files and information that are important, and will help young people learn how to create and remember a strong password.



**MEET HECTOR'S WORLD**

Provided by NetSafe, this is a free online learning resource for children aged 2 to 9 years. In a series of animated stories and activities, Hector and his friends learn about serious and complex topics, like online privacy and cybersafety.

**YOU WILL NEED**

Hector's World Password Activity Sheet (available for download from [fizurl.com/passwords](http://fizurl.com/passwords)).

**DEVELOPING SKILLS**

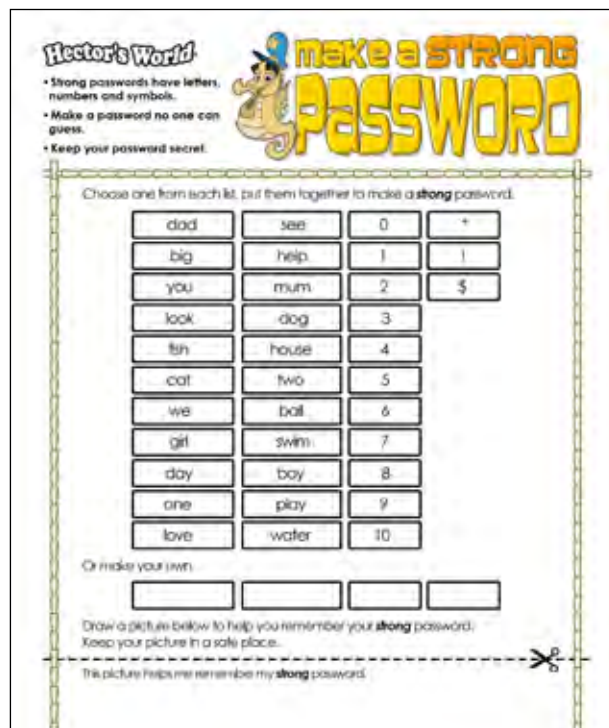
Computer security, internet safety, literacy, using language, symbols, text, computer skills.

**METHOD**

1. Begin with a guided discussion to determine students' current knowledge about passwords and their purpose:
  - What is a password, who uses them and why?
  - Why do people keep their passwords secret?
  - What happens when someone guesses a password?
  - What is a weak password/what is a strong password?
2. Young children often consider using the name of a pet, a birthday or a number sequence as a password. This information can be known by friends and may be easily guessed. Students may know the teacher's favourite colour or favourite animal – like red or cat – and this can be used as an example of a password that can be easily guessed.
3. Using the teacher's favourite colour, animal and a number show how words that on their own may be known, when combined can make a strong password, such as 'redcat12'.
4. Drawing a picture can be a way to help remember a password and still keep it secret. Ask the class to draw a picture that would help their teacher remember the password 'redcat12'.



5. Distribute the Hector's World Password Activity Sheet to students. The activity sheet encourages them to choose words, numbers or symbols from each column and combine them to make a strong password. Students then draw a picture that will help them remember their password.



6. For older students, there are resources for developing and using strong passwords on NetSafe's myLGP site ([mylgp.org.nz](http://mylgp.org.nz)).



**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES**

To help your students learn more about online safety, check out "Oops", Hector's World Episode 7 on Computer Security ([fizurl.com/oops](http://fizurl.com/oops)). This animated episode also includes other class activities and lesson plans ([fizurl.com/oopsmore](http://fizurl.com/oopsmore)).



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