

## Cybersecurity Basics Badge

**Purpose:** Know how computers work and how to stay safe online.

### Step 1: Find out how computers work

Find out about the parts of a computer and how they help you connect to the internet, watch videos, send messages, and much more! The first computers were so big that just one would fill up a whole room—now, you can hold a computer in your hand. A smartphone is a pocket-sized computer. Ask an adult to show you computers at your house that are various shapes and sizes. You may have some of these at your house: smartphone, video game player, tablet, laptop, or desktop. Ask an adult what appliances or other tools might be in your house that operate with the help of a computer.

Ask an adult to help you locate and learn what the different parts of a computer do. You may have some of these at your house or can find them in a picture: monitor, webcam, speakers, CPU, keyboard, mouse, or printer.

### Step 2: Find out how to protect something valuable

When you protect something, you keep it safe. Locking your front door protects your house. Putting on sunscreen protects your skin. It's the same with your computer. Find out how you can protect your computer so you and your computer are safe by creating layers of safety.

Imagine that you have been given a magical pebble. It can give you anything you wish for. Only you and your parents know about the pebble. But someone you don't know may find out about the pebble and want to take it away from you. So you can protect the pebble by putting layers of protection around it. You can put the pebble in a box and lock it, then you can hide the box under your bed. When you use the computer, you do the same thing. You create layers of protection to keep it safe. Ask an adult to help you wrap a small object in layers and hide it in your house.

Ask an adult to help you learn these important words about computer safety: protect (to keep from getting hurt or lost), safety (to be free from danger or harm), identity (who a person is), communicate (to share something with another person or a group of people).

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**Step 3: Discover how you are connected, just like computers**

You are connected as you spend time with and talk to your family and friends every day. Computers are connected, too. A group of computers that are all connected is called a network. People can send messages to other people over networks.

Communicate is what you do when you share something with another person or with a group of people. For example, you communicate when you talk to someone on a phone, send a text, or act out an emotion you feel.

Connect means to join objects together. For example, a railroad's train tracks are connected to each other.

A message is information shared by writing, talking, or sending signals. Talk with an adult about how computers connect people all around the world. An adult can show you examples of communicating on a phone. You can speak to someone, send a message by texting, email a message, and post a picture or a message online.

**Congratulations! You have earned the Cybersecurity Basics badge!**

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