PASSWORD SAFETY
Top 10 Tips For Kids

1. Never, ever give out your password
Never give your password to anything to others, including your cell phone unlock code. Friendships sometimes don't last, and passwords and PINs can be used against you.

2. Remember your secret answer
When you create an online account and it asks you to provide an accurate answer to a question you should know, don't treat it lightly or as a joke. Make sure it's something you will remember months and years from now in case you have a problem.

3. Do not use passwords based on personal information
Do not use information such as your birthdate, address, phone number, pet's name, etc. as a password. These are easily identifiable and could make you vulnerable to hacking.

4. Set a secure password
The most secure passwords include a mixture of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and non-alphabetic characters (i.e., symbols).

5. Change your password often
It takes time and is a bit of a chore, but do t anyway. It takes more time and is more of a chore to try to recover from a hacked account or from identity fraud.

6. Never provide your password over email
One of the most successful scams on the internet is when hackers send emails disguised as a legitimate source and ask people to provide their password as a verification. Never, ever trust a source that asks you to email your password.

7. Make your own acronym
Create a phrase that means something to you, and group together the first letter of each word. Use numbers and symbols when you can. Make sure the acronym you create has at least 7 characters. For example:
- "Last week I fell down thirty stairs" (Lw1fd30$)
- It's 3am, I must be lonely (I3amimlL)

8. Do not leave written copies of your password lying around
Lot's of people put a note with their password on their monitor, desk, or under their keyboard. If you can, commit them to memory. If that's not possible, find a secure place to write them down.

9. Do not type passwords on computers you don't own, control, or trust
Computers in internet cafés, libraries, computer labs, airports or other public places should only be used for anonymous web browsing, not for logging into your online accounts. A savvy user can easily discover your password after you walk away from the computer, even if you've logged off.

10. Don't use the same password for multiple accounts
Try using different passwords for different sites, so that one hacked account doesn't lead to other accounts being hacked.