2. SUPER SPREAD

7+

30 mins

OUTCOME:
Explore how fast information spreads online

MATERIALS:
Small pieces of paper and pencils, enough for all participants

BE PREPARED:
Differentiate one of the papers from all the others by marking it with a symbol on the back — eg. a flower.

WHAT HAPPENS:

1. Give each participant a small piece of paper and a pencil.

2. Ask all the participants to pretend that the pieces of paper are their smartphones. Although they are connected to the internet, they still have no contacts on them.

3. They should now go around and get 2 other participants to write their names on their 'smartphone', making sure that they have written their own name on at least 1 other 'smartphone'. When finished, each participant should have 2 names on their 'smartphone'.

4. Once they are again seated, ask participants to turn over their 'smartphones'. The person that has the flower on the back has decided to send a snapshot, a photo or an article to the two contacts on their 'device'. Feel free to make the content more specific depending on what you think is more appropriate for the members of your group. The participant reads their names and they stand up to show they have received the snapshot. .

5. Then they have to send it to their two contacts, so those people should stand up. After all, someone you know sends it to you, so it must be OK to forward!

6. Continue the process until almost everyone in the group is standing up. If the names are repeated, it just goes to show how content can be sent more than once.

2. SUPER SPREAD (CONTINUED)

DISCUSS:

- What are some ways and digital platforms you can spread information with?

- Messages, images and any type of information can spread very quickly online. Do you think this is a good thing or can it have a negative impact?

- How can you be sure that what you share is true? And if it is not, are there any negative consequences?

- Is there anything wrong with having images or photos public for everyone online to see? What if someone didn't like what you posted?

- Is it possible to spot the person responsible for starting a rumor or sending a message online?

- Are there ways to stop the spread of inappropriate, fake or misleading content?

Information, messages, photos and any type of digital content can spread very quickly online.

That can mean that important content can reach almost every part of the globe fast.

But misleading content can spread in the same way giving false information to people.

If your own content is available for everyone to see, anyone can take it and share it online, just as it is or altered.

You can help stop the spread by not sharing inappropriate, fake or misleading content and by reporting it as such. Any reaction, comment or share, boosts the spread of the content.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Learn more about fake news and how to stop spreading it, through the activity **'Real or Fake'** from section **Respect... your digital rights and footprint.**