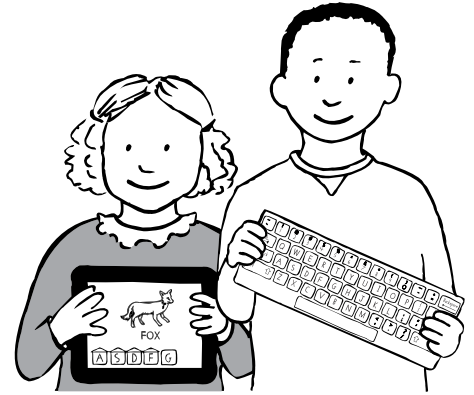


## Digital Citizenship Explained

Being a good digital citizen is important. Digital citizenship is the understanding that we can teach individuals how to use technology properly in the digital world. Just as we raise our children to be productive members of society, we also need to extend our teachings into the virtual world. Digital citizenship includes teaching not only children, but families (and even educators) what technology users must do in order to use technologies appropriately (Ribble 2011).



Digital citizenship lessons begin in kindergarten. At this young age, many children are not yet experienced with all the ins and outs of the online world. However, it's important to educate children about technology and give them exposure to the things they will experience. In the later grades, the technology demands on children increase. It is essential that students are learning how to handle technology appropriately.

Digital citizenship consists of nine elements: access, commerce, communication, literacy, etiquette, law, rights and responsibilities, health and wellness, and security (Ribble 2011). Your child is learning four topics that encompass lessons to support the nine elements of digital citizenship:

- Information
- Protection
- Consideration
- Communication

Your child will be learning several lessons that rotate throughout the topics to give them exposure to all simultaneously. As always, modeling digital citizenship at home for your child will allow them to learn expectations in a consistent manner.

Ribble, Mike. 2011. *Digital Citizenship in Schools*, 2nd ed. Washington, DC: International Society for Technology of Education.