

OMG I <3 Txtin'



Girl Scout Cadette Activity Guide



The following activities are for girls who love their phone! Find out the newest lingo, compare applications on your phone, see who can complete the “text” race, and learn how to keep yourselves safe while txtng. Each girl will need a cell phone with the ability to text. Cya l8tr!



Activity I: What is texting? (5-10 minutes)

Materials:

- paper
- markers (or whiteboard/chalkboard)

Ask the girls the following questions, and write their answer on the paper/board:

- What do you think texting is?
- Who texts? Your parents text? Teachers? Friends?

Ask the girls

- Why they text?
- Do they do it at school? Why?
- Do you like to text?
- What are their favorite phrases?

Write their answers on the board.

Activity II: Different People, different texts (15-25 minutes)

Secretly assign each girl a persona (it could come from the people mentioned in the opening activity, or you can use the list below). Have girls break into pairs (make sure the 2 girls in a pair have 2 different personas!). Give each pair 2 minutes to have a conversation via text. After the 2 minutes ask the girls to guess what persona their partner had. Ask them to share some of their texts. Do they notice a difference in their language based upon their persona? Re-assign personas and partners and give them another 2 minutes. Ask them the same questions. If you have time, expand the group of two to five. Each one has a different persona. Give the group 3 minutes to have conversations with their group via text. Encourage them to write at least one message to each member of

their group. After ask them: What were some of the things you wrote? Was it difficult to balance writing with the 3 other people? And if you can, expand the group to encompass everyone. Give them 5 minutes to have conversations via text.

Persona:

- 8th grade female
- An over 50 male Doctor
- A female college student
- 35 year-old mother
- 35 year-old father
- Grandfather

Activity III: Text Lingo (5-10 minutes)

Materials:

- Mix and match Worksheet (at end of the downloadable)
- writing utensil

Give each girl a worksheet and have them complete it.

Answers:

a.6 b. 7. c. 1 d. 16 e. 13 f. 8 g. 9 h. 3 i. 4 j. 5 k. 2 l. 14 m. 15 n. 12 o. 11 p. 10

Go over the answers with the girls. Ask them to create their own list of favorite text lingo.

Activity IV: Speed texting (10-15 minutes)



Have the girls use the lingo in activity 3 during this speed text competition. Each girl works as an individual.

Each girl must write the following sentence as quickly as possible. When a girl is done writing she raises her hand and a volunteer will make sure that she has written the correct sentence. The goal is to be the first one to finish writing the sentence, therefore encourage the girls to use the “text language” that they have just finished talking about.

Sentence 1: “Because I definitely want more information.”

Sentence 2: “I will be right back in ten minutes!”

Sentence 3: “Hi friend. What is your estimated time of arrival? Later!”

Sentence 4: “You are my best friend. I can’t wait to hang out tomorrow!”

Sentence 5: “Oh my gosh tomorrow I am going camping with the girl scouts, I totally forgot!”

Sentence 6: “By the way, I got to go hang out with you because I have not seen you in forever.”

Activity V: What do you think? (15-20 minutes)

Materials:

- Two pieces of aisle paper
- markers

On one sheet write “appropriate” and on the other write “inappropriate”. Place the papers where girls can easily write on them. Give the girls 10 minutes to write what they think are appropriate and inappropriate things to do with their phone. Do they think it appropriate to text a friend a dirty joke? What about gossiping about someone else via text?

After the 10 minutes elect one volunteer to read each piece of paper. Encourage some discussion about why certain things are placed in a category.

Read allowed the definition of “sexting”: A combination of sex and texting, is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones. (definition from Wikipedia.org).

Encourage girls to discuss sexting. Is it something that is safe? What are some of the mental consequences? Legal? What would you say to a friend that is sexting?

Activity VI: Protect others and yourself (30 minutes)

Have the girls break up into groups of 3. Each group will role play a different scenario. Instruct girls to create a role play where everyone in their group of 3 is involved and they must act out a solution to each scenario.

Scenario 1 A 15 year-old girl sends an inappropriate picture to her boyfriend. The boyfriend forwards it along to his friends at school.

Scenario 2 You witness your 12 year-old daughter receiving sexual instant messages from her friends.

Scenario 3 Your friend tells you a secret and you tell a group of people by a mass text. She finds out.

Scenario 4 You receive sexual text messages from your friend but because they make you uncomfortable you delete them, but they continue to send them to you.

Scenario 5 One of you best friends is accused of distributing child pornography because they have an inappropriate picture on their phone. They are taken to court. Do you support or not support them through this?

Mix and Match

Match “txt” version to non-text version.

Text	Non-Text Version
a. 4eve	1. one to one
b. bc	2. to
c.121	3. be right back
d.2moro	4. information
e. <3	5. definitely
f. cto	6. forever
g.2u2	7. because
h. brb	8. check this out
i. 411	9. to you too
j. def	10. estimated time of arrival
k. 2	11. got to go
l. jk	12. best friends forever
m. ic	13. heart
n. bff	14. just kidding
o. gtg	15. I see
p. eta	16. tomorrow

More 411

Below are interesting articles for both parents and girls about how to keep each other safe while texting and IMing. Many more resources can be found online.

OMG, It's an IM Lingo Guide for Parents

by Judy Dahl

<http://hffo.cuna.org/19633/article/2048/html>

Introduction

Ten-year-old Grace Palmer, of Minneapolis, loves to exchange online instant messages (IMs) with her friends. The free IM service she uses automatically opens her account when she logs on to the Internet, and she can type and send messages to friends whose screen names she's included in her "buddy list." The messages pop up on their screens immediately, and they can text back just as quickly. Palmer often IMs and plays computer games or even (gasp) does homework simultaneously. She can block "buddies" she no longer wants to hear from.

Palmer often uses "IM lingo," abbreviations made up of numerals and letters that make her messages incomprehensible to the prying eyes of little brothers—and parents. Many kids even use the lingo in spoken conversation ... have you seen Cingular's ad, "[bff Jill](#)," in which a young girl has an entire conversation with her mother in IM lingo?

Common in ordinary conversation

Instant messaging has been a crucial part of teen and tween (ages eight to 12) communication for several years now, indicates Anna D'Agrosa of market research firm the Zandl Group in New York. She's editor of its youth and young adult trends report, the *Hot Sheet*. "They're definitely IMing nonstop," she says.

Sending text messages via cell phone, or texting, also has become basic. "In a recent interview, one teen girl told us that 'talking is so inconvenient' when she can text instead," D'Agrosa says.

As a result, IM or text lingo has become common in everyday language, and the Zandl Group doesn't anticipate it falling out of favor in the near future. "Our annual *Hot Sheet* consumer panel of 2,000-plus tweens and teens reports on the newest slang they're using,

and in recent months we've seen an increase in mentions of 'text talk,' as one panelist put it," D'Agrosa explains.

LOL (laugh out loud) and OMG (oh my gosh) are by far the most popular terms with the Zandl Group's panel. "POS (parent over shoulder) is also common," D'Agrosa notes. "Although teens were the first to use it, tweens are now peppering their speech with abbreviations at the same rate."

Most of the abbreviations are harmless, like BRB for "be right back," or CUL8R for "see you later," but some kids use the lingo to secretly discuss things like sex and drugs via IM or text message. If you're a parent, you'll probably want to talk to your tween or teen about how they're using IM and texting, and lay down some ground rules. You may want to brush up on your IM lingo too, KWIM (know what I mean)?

Teen and "tweens" often use "IM Lingo," abbreviations made up of numerals and letters that make messages incomprehensible to the prying eyes of little brothers—and parents.

New abbreviations are invented and become popular all the time, so it's hard to keep up with the latest ones—BCNU (be seein' you) is, like, so yesterday—but you can find a pretty comprehensive list at Techdictionary.com. [Teen Chat Decoder](#) lets you type in an abbreviation and translates it for you.

Federal judge blocks teen "sexting" charges

<http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2009/03/judge-blocks-teen-sexting-charges.ars>

A federal judge has issued a temporary restraining order that prevents an overzealous prosecutor from charging three teens as child pornographers. The girls were found scantily-clad in photos circulated by "sexting" students.

By [Julian Sanchez](#) | Last updated March 31, 2009 10:29 AM CT

Last week, we [reported](#) on the case of three Pennsylvania teens threatened with prosecution as child pornographers after school officials discovered cell-phone photos of the scantily-clad girls being traded by male students. Monday, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order, finding that the girls (and their mothers) were likely to prevail in a civil rights lawsuit against Wyoming County District Attorney George Skumanick, and enjoining Skumanick from making good on his threat to file felony charges against the girls unless they agreed to participate in a five-week "educational" program.

Marissa Miller, Grace Kelly, and "Nancy Doe"—who were represented in the civil rights suit by their parents and the American Civil Liberties Union—were among a larger group of teen girls whose candid photos were found by Tunkhannock School District officials on the phones of male students last year. In February, Skumanick used the threat of felony prosecution under state child pornography law to force the boys and girls alike into a pair of gender-segregated educational programs, where they would “gain an

understanding of how their actions were wrong,” “gain an understanding of what it means to be a girl in today’s society, both advantages and disadvantages,” and “identify nontraditional societal and job roles.” But the three girls' parents argued that their photos couldn't possibly be considered child porn: Miller and Kelly were shown in opaque white bras, one talking on the phone, the other flashing a peace sign. Nancy Doe was pictured (apparently) fresh from the shower, with a towel wrapped around her just below the breasts.

Filing suit under a federal statute and alleging violation of their civil rights, the teens' ACLU attorneys offered three central claims. First, because the photos so obviously did not qualify as child porn under state law—and because it would be perverse in any event to consider the girls culpable for photographs circulated by others without their consent—Skumanick's threat amounted to retaliation for engaging in speech protected by the First Amendment. Second, the use of that frivolous threat to attempt to bully the teens into an education program—a threat that was effective in compelling the participation of the other boys and girls Skumanick targeted—encroached upon the constitutionally protected rights of parents to direct their children's upbringing. Finally, the requirement within that program that the girls write an essay explaining “what you did” and “why it was wrong” amounted to compelled speech, again a First Amendment violation.

Final resolution of those claims will have to wait—an initial hearing is scheduled for June. But Judge James M. Munley ruled that the plaintiffs had a sufficiently good chance of succeeding in their suit and that he was prepared to take the rare step of issuing a temporary restraining order that preemptively blocks Skumanick from filing charges against them. "Plaintiffs make a reasonable argument that the images presented to the court do not appear to qualify in any way as depictions of prohibited sexual acts," Munley wrote.

In any event, the judge noted, Skumanick "does not appear to feel immediate prosecution is necessary to protect the public from the crimes that the girls here allegedly committed." Indeed, while Skumanick has painted his restraint thus far as an act of generosity, it does bear asking: if he *really* believed that the teens were guilty of felony child pornography, wouldn't it be grossly inappropriate to let them off with the equivalent of a few hours' detention and a homework assignment?

Skumanick himself has voluntarily agreed to provide the photographs at issue in the case to the teens' lawyers. He had previously refused to hand them over on the grounds that he would himself be guilty of distributing child porn if he did so.

Sexting: New, Dangerous Teen Trend

<http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0508/520195.html>

posted 8:49 pm Thu May 15, 2008 -

A new, dangerous trend is growing among teenagers: text messaging explicit photos of themselves, also known as sexting. Students as young as 12 are exchanging salacious

pictures and messages through their cellphones.

"A picture got out of somebody else's older sister and that kinda spread like wildfire through our school," said a tenth grader.

The phenomenon is raging as wildly as their hormones. It's known as sexting or sex texting, sending lewd messages and pictures through a cellphone. "Nude body pictures, topless, bottomless, poses, inappropriate," said one tenth grader.

Its invaded middle schools as well. A seventh grader said, "It's not usually strangers. It's just somebody you've been talking to lately and they want to see more of you... literally."

Half of the 12 year old's ABC 7/NewsChannel 8's Julie Parker talked to had heard of this happening in their school. All the students talked to for the story said while they knew about it, they hadn't done it themselves. Both genders agree the boys are the instigators, but some girls play along.

"I think the girls, they just want to get their attention and usually it works," said an eighth grader. Another student in the same grade said, "Sometimes they'll say, 'Send me a picture of your boobs' or 'Send me a picture of your butt.'"

The risque game has very real consequences. "The phones these days are like very good so they can just like send it to the Internet and they can put it on MySpace and other people can save it so it's like all over the place," said a seventh grader.

John Shehan from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children said, "Once it's out there, while they might think it's just their classmates looking at these images, well, it's also the dirty old men. It's the pedophiles. It's those that want to sexually prey on children who take these images, who collect them and spread them worldwide."

It's a very real fear for parents. "It's alarming. They're not protected." "It's really disappointing! It's hard to be a parent today."

The kids said very often it starts as a girlfriend sending a boyfriend a picture, but then they break up, he shows a friend and it quickly gets forwarded around. It's a felony for children under 18 to not only receive one of these pictures on their phone, but taking a photo and sending it could lead to pornography production and distribution charges.