



BIZ KID\$

Episode 407:

“Scam-a-Rama (Protecting Yourself From Being Scammed)”

Episode 407 Synopsis:

It’s a complicated world, and there are many ways you can be taken advantage of or cheated. Learn how to recognize a scam, and how to protect yourself from identity theft, pyramid schemes, and more.

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Biz Kid\$ Curriculum Package #407



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Biz Terms

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. add-ons | 19. FTC –Fed Trade Comm. |
| 2. auditions | 20. guarantee |
| 3. bamboozled | 21. hoax |
| 4. BBB (Better Business Bureau) | 22. hood-wink |
| 5. bogus | 23. hustle |
| 6. chicanery | 24. identity theft |
| 7. consumer | 25. limited-time-offer |
| 8. contract | 26. money transfer |
| 9. criminal | 27. personal information |
| 10. door-to-door | 28. privacy settings |
| 11. double-dealing | 29. pyramid scheme |
| 12. extended warranty | 30. research |
| 13. faux | 31. roll-over-minutes |
| 14. feed-back | 32. scam |
| 15. fine print | 33. swindle |
| 16. fleeced | 34. tactics |
| 17. flim-flam | 35. termination fee |
| 18. fraud | 36. trickery |



Suggestions for using Biz Terms include:

- Have students research and write dictionary definitions.
- Discuss the use of these terms in the episode of "Biz Kid\$".
- Have students construct sentences, write personal financial goals, create a financial journal entry, or a math word problem.
- Have students write paragraphs, stories, dialogs, "raps", or lyrics.



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Equipment/Materials/Prep needed:

Day One and Day Two:

- TV or projection system
- DVD player
- DVD of Episode 407
- Student name tags (optional)

Day Two only:

- Student copies of the “Family Activity Sheet”.
- Student copies of the “Biz Terms” Sheet.
- Paper, pens, pencils, color markers, and highlighters for students making ads and posters.
- Computers for students to explore web sites listed.
- Guest speaker to be greeted and directed to the correct location for the session.

Preparation:

- Check to be sure needed equipment is available and operational prior to the sessions.
- Gather listed materials.
- Make an appropriate number of copies of the “Biz Terms” Sheet and the “Family Activity Sheet”.
- Invite guest speaker from the local community regarding fraud and how to prevent being scammed.



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Day One

Previewing Questions:

- Would you like to make some easy money???
- Does this sound familiar? "If you call **right now**, we'll double your offer for this limited-time product...operators are standing by!!!"
- Did you ever receive an email from a stranger and open it to find you were trying to be scammed?

Every year, thousands of people are scammed. Today's episode of "**Biz Kid\$**", "**Scam-a-Rama (Protecting Yourself From Being Scammed)**", will show you what can happen.

It's a complicated world, and there are many ways you can be taken advantage of or cheated. Learn how to recognize a scam, and how to protect yourself from identity theft, pyramid schemes, and more. Let's watch the episode together now.

Show Episode 407: "Scam-a-Rama (Protecting Yourself From Being Scammed)".

Discussion suggestions:

- Have any of you experienced a scam? If so, tell us what happened.
- What are you going to do differently going forward to protect yourself from being scammed?



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Day Two

Review and Connect with the Previous Session

Every year, thousands of people are the victims of scams which cause them to lose time and money. In this episode of “**Biz Kid\$**”, you heard some of the stories and learned ways to protect yourself from being scammed.

Do you remember how **Danny**, the fleeced filmmaker, got scammed? (The escrow company was not a legitimate business.) What valuable lesson did he learn and share with you? (Always do research before buying on line, and check with the Better Business Bureau web site for information about a company and how they treat their customers. Make sure everything checks out.)

Some scams are actually **legal**, such as pushing customers to buy unnecessary extended warranties; fast-talking and insisting that you need fancy add-ons for phones and computers; and by making a purchase emotional for the buyer.

Many scams are **illegal or fraudulent**. If someone is asking for money “**up front**” it is a red flag of warning!

Biz Kids **Lauren and Tiara** were both scammed, along with their parents, by people who claimed to offer auditions and classes for aspiring models and actors. Once the scammers got the money, they disappeared. Do you recall if the parents recovered any of their money? (Both did get some money back, but only because they used credit cards and could report the **fraud**.)



Should you ever wire money to someone, especially in a foreign country, to collect lottery winnings, rescue a “friend”, or for any other reason that doesn’t make sense? **No!**

What are some of the things you should never tell strangers online, on the phone, or in any transaction you don’t initiate?

- Birth date
- Social Security number
- Bank account number
- Passwords
- Credit card numbers

What is the smart thing to do with an email, especially one that has an attachment, from someone you don’t know? (Delete it!)

Biz Kids Ryan and Ashton were trying to buy laptops from a supplier in Romania over the Internet. What happened to them? (They never got the computers and lost over \$20,000 in the deal.) How are they preventing that from happening to them again? (They installed Internet security and special screening features on their business computers.)

Identity theft is a huge problem that takes years to resolve. **Heather**, the bamboozled ballerina, was a victim of identity theft when she tossed unopened mail into the trash. What was in that envelope? (A credit card)

How long did it take her to get her credit and identity issue settled? (5 years.)

Amanda, the cat owner, was even scammed by an emergency room vet who ordered tests and procedures that weren’t necessary. What had **Amanda** kept that helped her regular vet file a claim against the ER vet? (Good records.)



How did “**Fine Print Man**” save the day? (He kept someone from signing a contract that would have cost them a lot of money and would not have provided the features they wanted.)

Activities:

1. If at all possible, arrange for a member of the local community who works in the fraud division to meet with the students and answer their questions.

Let students know ahead of time to create a list of questions they’d like to have answered. Remind them this is not the time to tell their stories, but to ask questions.

2. Allow students to share their stories of being scammed, and tell what actions they’ve taken to prevent it from recurring.
3. Have students create ads or posters that are attempts to scam people. They should include some “red flags” like:
 - Operators are standing by!
 - This is a limited-time-offer!
 - Quantities are limited so hurry and place your order!
 - But wait, there’s more! If you call in the next five minutes...
 - Only pay \$10 now and the rest next year!
 - Just get ten of your friends to pay \$10 and have them get ten of their friends to send \$10...
 - Cash my check for \$600 and just give me \$100 in change...

Have a time to share the ads or posters with the entire class, and have students tell how to spot the fraud, or some of the “red flags”, and what to do instead.



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Family Activity Sheet

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Family Activity Suggestions:

Every year thousands of people are the victims of scams which cause them to lose time and money. Your student has learned some of the warning signs and what to do to keep from being scammed. Ask them to share their new knowledge with you. Discuss as a family the ways in which you protect your security on the computer, etc...

Identity theft is a terrible crime that takes years to untangle and from which to recover. Reinforce the rules about what NOT to divulge to strangers, in person or online, unless you initiate the transaction:

- Birth date
- Social Security Number
- Bank account number
- Passwords
- Credit card numbers

Remember the adage: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" Research purchases ahead of time, as well as the company or supplier. Use such tools as the Better Business Bureau web site, and check sources such as Consumer Reports.



Explore web site together such as:

www.bizkids.com

www.FTC.gov

www.BBB.org