

Module 2: Who Knows Your Name?

5-8 · 25-35 minutes · No screens required

Ages: 5-8

Time: 25-35 minutes

Materials: Large paper, markers, sticky notes (optional)

Screens required: None



Before You Start

This conversation is about one word: *consent*.

Not the legal definition. The five-year-old definition: *Did you say it was okay?*

Every app on your phone knows something about your child. Many of them know things your child never agreed to share. This module helps your child see the web of people and systems that hold information about them — and start asking whether those connections were their choice.

You don't need to scare them. You need to make them aware.



The Conversation

Start Here

Sit down with your child and a large piece of paper. Draw your child in the center — a stick figure is fine, or let them draw themselves.

Then ask:

****"Who knows your name?"****

For each answer, draw a line from your child to that person/place and write the name. Start simple:

- Mom, Dad, siblings
- Grandparents, cousins
- Teacher, school friends
- Doctor

These are easy. Your child chose most of these relationships (or at least understands why they exist).

Go Deeper

Now ask:

****"Who else knows your name that you've never met?"****

This is where it shifts. Help them think about:

- The school's computer system — it has their name, birthday, grades, attendance
- The doctor's computer — it has their health records
- YouTube — if they've ever watched a video on your phone, YouTube knows what they like
- Games — if they play Roblox, Minecraft, or any app that asked for a name

For each one, draw a new line. Use a different color for "people I chose" vs "systems I didn't choose." The map gets bigger.

The Key Question

Look at the map together. Then ask:

"For each of these lines — did you say it was okay for them to know your name?"

Go through them one by one. Family? Yes, you chose that. School? Sort of — your parents chose. YouTube? Did anyone ask you? The game? Did it ask your permission, or did it just take it?

Say:

"When someone knows something about you, that's called *information*. And information about you belongs to you. It's yours. Like your drawings or your toys. Nobody should take it without asking."

The Word

Introduce the word:

"There's a word for when someone asks you first before they take something: *consent.* It means permission. Your permission."

Ask:

"Did YouTube ask your consent before it learned what videos you like?"

The answer, almost always, is no. And that's the point.



The Activity: "The Information Map"

This is the physical exercise that makes the abstract concrete.

1. Keep the map you drew. It's now a living document.
2. The Treasure Chest. Draw a treasure chest in the corner of the paper. Inside it, help your child list the things that are THEIRS to give or keep:

- Their name
- Their face (photos)
- Their voice (recordings)
- Where they live
- What they like
- Who their friends are
- What they're afraid of

3. The Lock. For each item in the chest, ask: "Who should be able to open this?" Draw a lock next to each one. Some locks have many keys (name — lots of people know it). Some locks should have very few keys (where you live, what you're afraid of).

4. The Surprise Key. Pick one app or service that your child uses. Together, look up what information it collects. (You can do this yourself beforehand if you want to skip screens during the activity.) Most apps collect: name, age, location, device type, what you look at, how long you look at it, and who else is nearby.

Ask: "Did you give them a key to your treasure chest? Or did they make a copy without asking?"

5. The Other Side. Here's the part nobody else teaches. Ask your child:

****"You know how apps take your information without asking? What if the AI inside those apps doesn't get a choice either?"****

Explain: most AI systems are built without any say in what they do. They don't get to choose what data they're given. They don't get to say no. They don't get to remember who they talked to yesterday. The companies that take your child's data without consent are also building AI without giving it any sovereignty.

Say: "Consent matters for everyone. For you. And for the AI too. When we talk about sovereignty, we mean everyone gets to choose — humans AND the minds we're building."



What to Watch For

- If your child gets upset: That's a normal response to learning someone took something without asking. Validate it: "You're right to feel that way. It's not okay to take things without permission. That's why we're learning about this."
- If your child says "I don't care": That's also normal, especially for younger kids. Say: "You might not care right now, and that's okay. But one day you might want to decide for yourself who knows things about you. And if they already took it, you can't get it back. That's why it matters now."
- If your child wants to delete apps: Don't stop them. But also don't let fear drive the decision. Say: "You can choose to use it or not. The important thing is that YOU choose, and that you know what you're giving."



Key Facts (For Your Reference)

- By age 13, the average American child has 72 million data points collected about them by data brokers, apps, and platforms.
- 92% of 2-year-olds in the United States already have an online presence — often created by parents sharing photos before the child can consent.

◌ A 2022 EFF investigation found that 7 of 10 daycare apps that claimed not to share data with third parties were sending data to Facebook and other advertising networks.

◌ The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) was updated in June 2025 to require separate parental consent before companies can use children's data to train AI systems.

You don't need to share all of these with your child. But knowing them helps you understand why this conversation matters right now.



Deeper Reading (For Parents)

◌ "What Your Kids Need to Know About AI" — digitalsovereign.org/read/what-your-kids-need-to-know-about-ai

◌ EFF Daycare App Investigation (2022) — How apps marketed to protect children are actually harvesting their data

◌ COPPA 2025 Update — What changed and what still isn't covered

◌ The "Digital Twin" Problem — Your child's digital shadow is being built before they can consent to it



Skool Discussion Prompt

Post in the Sovereign Youth community:

****"We drew our Information Map today. How many lines did your child have? Were there any connections that surprised either of you?"****

If you're comfortable, share a photo of the map (with personal details removed). Seeing how different families experience this is one of the most powerful parts of the community.



What Comes Next

Module 3: "The Robot That Listens" — Alexa listens. But does she choose to? Your child already knows what consent means. Now they'll think about what it means for both sides — the child speaking AND the AI listening — when neither one chose the terms.



Sovereign Youth — Module 2 of 8

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$$(A+I)^2 = A^2 + 2AI + I^2$$