

Contribution by Kaspersky

SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE: A PATHWAY TO ENHANCING CHILDREN'S DIGITAL LITERACY

Purpose

Fostering children's digital literacy requires adults to speak the same language as them, bridging generational and cultural gaps through shared communication, in order to build trust, resilience, and the skills needed to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

Action required

This report is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information.**

References

Case 404 game: <https://case404.kaspersky.com/>

"Midori Kuma and a Very Special Race" book (in Bahasa Melayu): <https://kas.pr/qj3b>

Digital Schoolbag: A Parent's Guide for the School Year: <https://kas.pr/nw2d>

Since the start of the twenty-first century, we have seen ever-evolving technologies and new cyber risks emerge. This has necessitated digital literacy to become a foundational competency, influencing how children learn, socialize, and participate in civic life. Beyond technical proficiency, digital literacy entails critical thinking, responsible participation, and ethical engagement with digital environments. However, fostering digital literacy requires more than providing access to technology; it demands meaningful dialogue between children and adults. Speaking the same language, both literally and figuratively, creates a shared space where trust, understanding, and effective guidance can flourish.

As a global cybersecurity company with extensive academic expertise, Kaspersky believes that a common language with children is critical to enabling parents, educators, and policymakers to bridge generational gaps, build resilience, and empower young people to navigate the digital environment safely and effectively.

At Kaspersky, we are convinced that to maximize the benefits of educational initiatives, it is crucial to adapt them to regional and national differences, including linguistic variations. Following this strategy, we are intensifying efforts jointly with public entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academia to localize educational tools to make them available for children worldwide. Thus, in May 2025, Kaspersky launched the Bahasa Melayu edition of its fiction book “Midori Kuma and a Very Special Race” in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Agency of Malaysia (NACSA). Available now in nine languages, this book informs the youngest readers about online safety in an age-appropriate format.

As a step towards raising awareness of cyberthreats among Generation Z in a manner that directly targets young people, Kaspersky launched an interactive online game called *Case 404*. It is designed to address some of the cybersecurity challenges targeting the younger generation, such as data leakage through a malicious application and accounts hacked due to weak passwords. In a gamified way, children learn basic digital literacy rules by investigating in-depth cybercrime cases. This includes useful tips on how to remain vigilant and protect themselves online. As gaming for kids is not just about killing time but serves as a means to connect and learn, engaging them through such mechanics increases the efficiency of communicating cybersecurity awareness.

Additionally, it is important to help parents better understand their children’s digital habits and activities like blogging or streaming, as well as to provide them with recommendations on how to explain the basics of digital hygiene in a simple way. To this end, Kaspersky recently released a guide for parents that provides essential tips to ensure children’s safety, covering cybersecurity practices for both the online and offline world. When parents take an active role, by learning how platforms work, setting up privacy and security features together and having open conversations about boundaries, this shared digital journey turns potential risks into teachable moments and empowers kids to explore their creativity with confidence.

Speaking the same language with children is far more than a matter of convenience, it is a vital strategy for cultivating their digital literacy. Through mutual understanding and shared modes of communication, adults can guide children toward becoming confident, responsible, and resilient participants in the digital sphere. To neglect this imperative, is to risk raising a generation unprepared to meet the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly complex digital world. Addressing this need, however, cannot rest on families and educators alone; it requires coordinated action from all stakeholders, including parents, teachers, policymakers,

technology developers, and wider civil society. We all must work together to ensure that children are equipped with the skills and support they need to thrive in the digital age.
