



Scenario

Do You Really Know Who Your Friends Are?

Joe is an RECE working in a before-and after school program at an elementary school. The children in Joe's group are between nine and 12 years of age.

One Monday afternoon, Kim, a child in the program, and two other children gather around a computer that is available for the children to use. Joe immediately notices the group because the class rule is that only two people are permitted to use the computer station at a time. He also notices the children whispering, giggling and pointing at the screen, which begins to attract the attention of the children doing their homework nearby.

The children are so engrossed in what they are looking at on the computer screen that they don't notice Joe as he approaches them. As he begins to ask one of the children to start another activity, he realizes that the group is logged into a Facebook account and are viewing photos from his Facebook page.

The night before, Joe had posted photos of himself and a group of friends at a party. Many of the photos showed Joe and some other staff members of the program drinking alcohol and smoking.

Joe's stomach drops as he quickly reaches to turn off the computer monitor. He is confused as he is almost certain he has the privacy settings set so that only his Facebook friends can see the photos. Suddenly he remembers that Kim's father recently became his friend on Facebook!

Reflecting on the Scenario

1. What are the key facts highlighted in this scenario?
2. What are some of the potential professional and personal implications of this scenario for Joe?
3. What ethical and professional practice standards might guide Joe as he makes decisions about how to deal with the professional implications of this scenario?
4. To what degree do you think Joe's situation and other potential scenarios involving electronic medium are an issue for current professional practice? Share two or three other ways that the use of electronic medium might lead to similar "stomach dropping" feelings.
5. Suggest how this vignette might unfold for Joe.

For more information about ethical and professional standards please contact the College of Early Childhood Educators at practice@college-ece.ca.

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