Making the webcam cover is a fun activity and can open a valuable discussion about what the device is, how it works and how the cover can be used.  The cover can stay in place until a child, at home or at school, asks if it's okay to 'be on show'.

Here are some discussion suggestions:

- The webcam is a camera like others the child may have used, but is either part of a computer (laptop lid) or connected to a computer with a wire (desktop).  How you explain the issue of the computer then being connected to the internet will depend on the age of the child.  A basic start is that your computer is linked to other computers outside school or home through the internet.  Sometimes those other computers can be very far away; the internet connects them together.  What the webcam sees when it is turned on and uncovered can then go out to other people via the internet.

- Asking before taking the cover off is a way to make sure these images only go to trusted people.  Children can better understand trust by using examples about people known to the child  and talking about who is a trusted adult or a trusted friend.  This is an important part of the webcam equation: do you trust the person enough to share your image with them?

- The term 'special information' is really about what makes us unique: name, address, school, phone number.  Something very special is our own image.  You can help a child understand this by putting photos of family and friends on a table and asking the child to pick out Uncle Georgio or Aunty Kiri.  The child is selecting the right photos because the images are familiar.  You can point out how photos may be displayed at home or school to represent particular people.  This helps them understand that their image is part of their special information online and people of all ages need to be careful how that is shared.

- Knowing when you're on show' is a privacy issue as well as a safety one.  In Silicon Deep's Episode Theatre you can watch the five HW episodes in the series "Your Personal Information Online" with your child or with students in a classroom.  The episodes explore a range of issues: from being careful who you share information with online, to knowing what information is 'special' and needs to be kept private.  The characters learn that once information is on the internet, it can

be there forever. That's one reason why trusting who you share special information with is so important.

- Help the child understand that the webcam sends images of what its lens can see. You can play a game with the child to figure out what the camera sees – naming the things visible, including the background.

- Many young children use a service like Skype to talk with distant family. Those family members can help. Grandmother overseas can show the child how she has a webcam cover, and she can support the child's learning by talking about the topic and making the cover a routine part of interaction.

- Demonstrating what is seen through a webcam is also easily done through Skype. When connected show the child the smaller image of themselves. The person on the other end of the session can help by talking about what they are seeing on their computer (child's clothing choice, chocolate on the child's face etc.) Then the child can lower the cover over the camera and watch as the cover blocks the image. This is a good time to reinforce that someone like Grandmother is a trusted person, but how the child wouldn't want someone they didn't know to see them or their home.

- Older siblings can help mentor a younger child by making sure the  cover stays on the camera as the default position Even if they remove it for their own online sessions, they can put the cover back in place when they're done. It is important for older child to think before they take the webcam cover off too.  It's ideal for  a young  child to hear the privacy messages from the family as a whole.

If you have any questions or comments about the covers you are welcome to contact us at feedback@hectorsworld.co.nz.

You can download the webcam covers at www.hectorsworld.com from:

- The Workshop in Silicon Deep (http://www.hectorsworld.com/island/main/workshop_interior_01/index.html#WORKSHOPa ), or

- The Teachers (http://hectorsworld.netsafe.org.nz/teachers/lesson-plans-and-resources/webcam-covers/ ) or

- The Parents (http://hectorsworld.netsafe.org.nz/parents/hectors-world-resources-activities/webcam-covers/ ) section of Info Island.