

Keeping Children and Youth Safe

Tips for Keeping Children Safe Online for Parents

- Know and visit the sites your children are visiting.
- **Keep** the computer in a central location, and agree to store handheld devices at night.
- **Stay calm** if you discover your child has been viewing inappropriate content. Explain your concerns. It is most likely that it is nothing more than natural curiosity.
- Explain to your child the potential danger of giving out personal information like her name, address, phone numbers, age, where she lives, school, and even gender. Help them to set privacy settings on their social network accounts.
- **Do not assume** people are who they say they are. Talk to your children about the risks of online predators.
- **Do** install security software that has parental control features, but remember that this is not a substitute for parental involvement.
- Remember that your child may know more about the Internet than you do.
- **Do** take immediate action if you think your child might be the victim of a predator.
- Remember that technology is a tool, and if used wisely it may enhance your child's learning.
- **Communicate** with your child in an open and non-judgmental way.
- **Talk to the youth or children's minister** at your church about resources available through the Annual Conference or GBOD on Internet Safety and Cyber-Bullying.

