Internet & Tech Safety FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Basic Guidelines

MODEL THE BEHAVIOR YOU WANT CHILDREN TO PRACTICE.
Behavior includes everything from device and content use to online etiquette.

GROUND RULES CAN PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR EVERYONE.
Is phone use allowed at meal time? What time does the computer need to be turned off at night? What photos are okay to post? How do you deal with a stranger requesting personal information? Have a family discussion where you consider these and other questions, and then decide on the rules together. Make sure everyone understands the consequences of disobeying the ground rules. Consequences need to apply to everyone, and be enforced consistently.

HELP KIDS UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION IS IMPORTANT.
Remind kids not to say anything online that they wouldn't say on live national TV, and that things they say and do online now can affect their future.

UNDERSTAND THE TECHNOLOGY YOURSELF.
Although it can be intimidating, learning about and using the devices and websites your kids are using is part of your parental responsibility. If you use filtering software, remember the old adage that the best filter is the one between a kid's ears.

KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN.
If your child encounters a person or situation that they need help with, make sure they feel comfortable talking to you about it.

Resources For Learning More

http://www.connectsafely.org/

http://www.fosi.org/resources/internet-safety-resources-for-parents.html

http://www.facebook.com/safety

http://support.twitter.com/