

Dear Parents,

Do you wonder what your kid thinks is safe and appropriate to look at on the Internet? Or wonder who your kid thinks is safe to talk to online? Your child will talk about these questions and more in a small group setting at HighPoint.

We'll discuss specific guidelines like only chatting with family and friends your child already knows in person and who you approve of. We'll encourage kids to let you have free access to the Web sites they visit and to their Web-browsing history.

Since we also want to help kids learn to follow God's leading and their conscience, your child will discover ways to know if her conscience is saying that she's looking at something wrong or that she is in danger.

In the small group, your child will be encouraged to enlist your help in knowing what is safe and unsafe on the Internet. To help get the conversation going, here are a few questions you may consider asking your child.

*What things do you think are good to explore on the Internet?
Have you ever felt uncomfortable by something you've seen on the Internet?*

What if a Web site doesn't feel fun anymore?

How do you know if something you're looking at isn't good for you?

Who do you chat with on the Internet?

What if someone you're chatting with online makes you feel afraid?

What if someone on the Internet wants you to keep a secret?

After talking with your child, you may also think about setting specific boundaries such as

- Not allowing your child access to a computer in a private place
- Telling your child you will periodically review the history of sites they visit
- Installing a filter that restricts access to certain sites

Remember that your presence and your oversight are the best safeguards you can give to your child's Internet usage. Keep your child talking to you about his or her Internet interests. Invite your kids to show you the sites they regularly visit and then keep the conversation going.

