WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INTERNET
Family Rules – Monitoring and Enforcement
By Susan Vogt

1. Fools rush in: Plan and discern the use of the Internet in the family
   - Location and set-up of the computer (high traffic/visibility area)
   - Use with a purpose
   - Provide healthy resources
   - Plan as a family

2. Trust is a two-way street. Make a conscious effort to build relationships and to communicate trust.
   - Everyone has rules (children and parents)
   - Use the internet together as a family
   - Define clearly what is appropriate and inappropriate.
   - Have a balanced lifestyle in respect to technology (Don't neglect outdoors, exercise, reading, etc.)
   - Have an open-door policy

3. Knowledge is power: Educate yourself about your children **and** new advances in technology.
   - Teach children how to look with a discerning eye.
   - Support each other as parents.
   - Keep educated about the web and other technologies.

4. Exercise responsible control: Don't give up your role as parent.
   - Computers and the Internet can be addictive. Have limits regarding their use.
   - Keep a written log of Internet use.
   - Protect the privacy of the family. (Never give full names, addresses, or SS#)
   - Don't give up your position as parents to the computer
   - Advise children, "If you find something suspicious, stop, and leave."
   - Confront and discipline misuse.
   - Be careful of unethical behavior that could harm family relationships.

5. From the child's perspective, a few things to keep in mind.
   - Family decisions should include the whole family, including the children.
   - Be up front with computer regulations (discuss plans to monitor or use a filter.)
   - Don't jump to conclusions

Scriptural Support: 1John 4:1-3
                                   1Thessalonians 5:21-22
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