



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## CHILD SAFETY AT HOME

The YMCA of the Suncoast takes the prevention of child abuse very seriously and understands that child abuse and inappropriate contact of children must be managed in a proactive manner.

We value the trust you have in our organization and are committed to creating a safe, caring environment for children to dream, learn, grow and work toward achieving their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body.

[www.ymcasuncoast.org/know-see-respond](http://www.ymcasuncoast.org/know-see-respond)



Our mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

## ESTABLISH GROUND RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

As children get older and begin to seek some independence it's important to set some ground rules, be proactive, and keep the lines of communication open with everyone in the family. Being clear about your family values around bodies and boundaries can go a long way toward protecting your kids from sexual abuse. It can help kids understand what acceptable and unacceptable behavior looks like, help them make informed decisions, and ultimately avoid dangerous situations. Expectations and ground rules around some of the following items should be discussed as a family.

- **Social Media and Online Games.** What sites and apps can be used, when, how often, and where. Online enticement happens across all platforms so ask questions, research, and be involved in your kid's online games and apps.
- **Video Chatting.** Talk about whether livestreaming or video chatting with friends is allowed. Pay attention to games and gaming systems, which often have online communication capabilities. Have rules around when and where this takes place.
- **Contact Information.** Discuss the importance of never giving out identifying information to anyone online or on social media such as name, address, neighborhood, and phone number.
- **Photos.** Establish rules around who is allowed to take photos of your children, where they are stored, and where they are allowed to be posted.
- **Sleepovers.** Establish if and at what age your child will be able to participate in sleepovers. Think about how well you know the family and what kind of adult supervision will be there. Talk as a family about sleeping arrangements and safety.