

Parents, Carers,  
Guardians as critical  
stakeholders in Child  
Online Protection  
Initiative.



**Fever, tension, shivering?  
It's not corona, it's due to  
overdose of corona news!**



# Afrikavi



## It takes a village

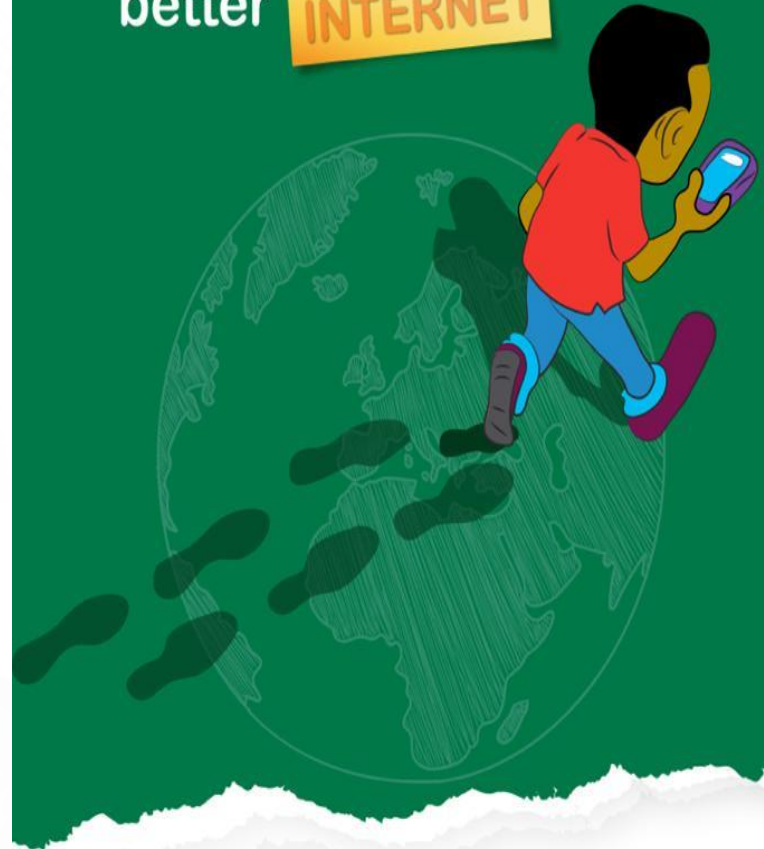
- ❖ Raising of successful, accomplished children is a task that requires the commitment and contributions of our entire society.
- ❖ The central role of parents in raising children all of us benefit when local communities support parents in this very important endeavor.

# When community evolve from farmland to Facebook

- Arguably there is a cause to be worried about this new community because:
- Technology can be such a welcome intrusion.
- Invasiveness comes in other forms, such as surveillance and personal information collection.
- Resocialization of children and us.
- Dehumanization should become the rallying point for what kind of world we want and how we as citizens what to shape it.

Together for a  
better

**INTERNET**



# GROUNDED



*which hurts worse?*

ChildOnline  
Africa

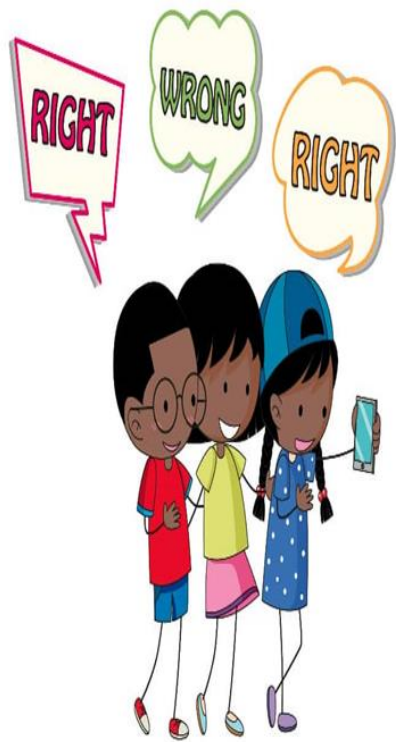
#LearningNeverStops

Facebook ChildOnlineAfrica Instagram Child\_OnlineAfrica Twitter COnlineAfrica

## Family device use strategy?

- Bearing in mind that iGen is passionately attached to its devices.
- The best approach is for parents and children to talk about what punishments are appropriate for misbehavior.
- An approach we need to uphold.
- The current necessity is that we unlearn our old way of upbringing.





# Friends and parents

- In today's hyper-socialized world, a child has all the friends (and more!) that they need what s/he can't find online easily find online is a parent or other trusted adult who can help with their development, their decision-making, and their maturation.
- As parents who have agreed set of rules for the children should also take into cognizance the maturation levels and revise the rules as they may outgrow the initial.

Most children have **no idea** what is **right** or **wrong** on the Internet. It is **important** we provide them with the needed **red flags** and **guidance**.

#SafeHands

[www.childonlineafrica.org](http://www.childonlineafrica.org)



# Which way should we go?

- It is painful and frustrating to have to discipline your child for an offence, especially when the disciplining options makes your own life at least temporarily more difficult.
- But in the long run, fulfilling your unique role as a parent in your child's friend-filled but not necessarily friendly world will be the best gift you can give to him.



“ COVID-19 has increased the incident of **Cyberbullying** among teenagers. The African Child will not suffer such if you and I make it a point to provide them with the needed guidance. ”



# Do as I say, not as I do.

- Your 8yo child may grumble if the brother of 14 has an extended use of device, however with a collaborative device use strategy at home, you can maneuver this narrow path as a parent.
- Age appropriate instructions will go a long to reforming their digital character.

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## Family strategy for parents of Pre-schoolers

culled from Cybertraps

- I/We will supervise our child when s/he is using any electronic device.
- I/We will make sure that I/we configure our devices to prevent unauthorized downloads and that all security software is installed correctly and updated.
- I/We will make sure that the device does not contain any age inappropriate content and that s/he cannot accidentally go online.
- I/We will prepare for each stage of our child(ren)'s development by educating ourselves about the devices and content that older children are using now.
- I/We will begin talking to other parents, daycare providers, and





# Family strategy for children

- ✓ I will ask permission from my parents (or trusted adult) before using a phone, a tablet computer, or any other electronic device.
- ✓ I will be careful with any device I use and will try not to drop it, kick it, or throw it at my siblings, or the wall, even if I am angry. If I'm getting frustrated, I will ask an adult for help or do something else.
- ✓ I will follow my parents' instructions and stop using a device when they tell me to do so. I understand that using a tablet, a phone, or a computer is a privilege and that I need to follow the rules to keep using it.
- ✓ I will not wander off with a device but will sit and use it where my parents (or trusted adult) can see me.
- ✓ If I see something that I don't understand or scares me, I will ask my parents (or trusted adult) for help.
- ✓ I will turn off and return each device to its owner when I have finished using it.

# Strategy for Parents/Carers/Guardians for 6-12yo

- I/We will supervise our child when he or she is using any electronic device.
- I/We will make sure that I/we configure our devices to prevent unauthorized downloads and that all security software is installed correctly and updated.
- I/We will make sure that the device does not contain any age inappropriate content and that he or she cannot accidentally go online.
- I/We will research and install appropriate child safety software before my/our child begins using the Internet, and I/we will tell my/our child that I/we have done so.
- I/We will regularly discuss the use of electronic devices and appropriate online behavior with my child.
- I/We will carefully explain to my/our child that he or she will not get a requested piece of electronics simply because “all of his/her friends have one.” We will, however, thoughtfully consider any request.
- I/We will continue talking to other parents, teachers, and trusted adults about rules for technology use.

# Cont'

- Before my/our child has a playdate in another house, I/we will discuss the appropriate rules for the use of electronic devices with the other parent(s) and with my/our child.
- I/We will not assist our child in violating the terms of service of social network sites by allowing him/her to join when he/she is too young. Eg:Facebook,WhatsApp,IG,YouTube
- I/We will educate myself/ourselves about the devices and online services my/our child uses so that I/we can adequately supervise my/our child and discuss what he or she is doing online.
- I/We will prepare for each stage of our child(ren)'s development by educating ourselves about the devices and content that older children are using now.



# Family level strategy for 6-12yo

- I will ask permission before using a phone, a tablet computer, or any other electronic device.
- I will not wander off with a device but will sit and use it where my parent or a trusted adult can see me.
- I will not take any electronic devices from the house without permission.
- I understand that using any electronic device is a privilege and not a right.
- I will be careful with any device I use and will try not to drop it, kick it, or throw it at my siblings, or the wall, even if I'm angry. If I'm getting frustrated, I will ask an adult for help or do something else.
- I will follow my parents' instructions and stop using a device when they tell me to do so. I understand that using a tablet, a phone, or a computer is a privilege and that I need to follow the rules to keep using it.
- I understand that my parents expect me to follow these rules even when I am visiting someone else's house unless they have permitted me to do something different ahead of time.



# Con't

- I will not go on the Internet without telling a parent (or a trusted adult) that I am doing so. I will honestly answer any questions about what I'm doing or the sites that I have visited.
- I will not fill out any forms or put any information on a Web site or social network without my parents' consent.
- I will not download anything from the Internet without the permission of my parent (or trusted adult).
- If I see something that I don't understand or that embarrasses or scares me, I will ask my parent (or a trusted adult) for help.
- I understand that my parents do not want me to watch things that contain violence, use bad language, promote bad habits (smoking, drinking, drug use), or sexually provocative/ explicit content. I agree not to watch those types of movies or shows, or visit those types of Web sites, either in my own home or at someone else's home.
- If someone is using an electronic device in a way that violates this agreement with my parents, or in any way that makes me feel uncomfortable, I will let a parent or other trusted adult know and ask for their help.
- I will turn off and return each device to its owner when I have finished using it.





# Digital Parent: Be deliberate about it.

- Give your child responsibility one step at a time, as they are ready and mature enough.
- Mentoring your child with your eyes wide open to the issues and dangers they will face and TALK about them.
- Your efforts might not be perfect but they are important for the safety of your child! ASK YOUR PROVIDERS.
- Agreeing to answers to questions like these:





# Questions:

- Is the phone OFF when we are together at meals at home or at restaurants?
- Do we allow face-to-face conversations with people to be interrupted by a phone call or text?
- How much screen time should we spend each day?
- Do I need to ask before I download apps or games?
- When we visit friends or family, when can we use our devices?





# What If

1. EMERGENCIES Does your child need a phone to stay connected with you or for emergency situations?

If your child had a true emergency, wouldn't there be an adult or teen nearby with a phone who could help? Would a basic "dumb" phone work just as well?

2. COMPLIANCE Does your child already respect your rules when it comes to time and usage limits for other activities like video games and digital entertainment?

If your child doesn't adhere to your current rules, are they really ready for more responsibility?

3. PORNOGRAPHY Have you talked with your child about the dangers of pornography? There are resources to use to educate which will not result in scaring yourself nor the child but will help with choices. It will get them excited to install their own internal filter.





# What If

4. INFORMATION Does your child know what types of information is safe to share online?

5. FILTERING Do you have a filtering/accountability system to protect devices in your home?

6. APP MANAGEMENT Do you have a rule for managing which apps can be downloaded? Do you understand that most apps lead to the internet and inappropriate content cannot yet be blocked from apps?

7. MENTORING PLAN Considering both the benefits and the drawbacks of social media: Do you have a plan for mentoring your child in using social media and helping them avoid the dangers?



# CHECK YOUR CHILD'S DQ<sup>®</sup> SCORE



WWW.DQWORLD.NET



## IS YOUR CHILD **READY** TO OWN A MOBILE PHONE?



# What If you are a guidebook?

8. **SEXTING** Does your child understand the long-term implications of sexting or re-sending nude photos?

9. **RULES** Have you developed a list of rules with your child which includes calling, texting, downloading apps, taking and sharing photos, posting to social media, GPS location settings, and when the phone needs to be OFF?

10. **OWNERSHIP** Does your child get to "own" the device or simply have access to it? There is a different psychology behind owning a device and having access to one. If it's your device, they get to use it if they follow your rules.



# The New Guidelines for Parents, Carers and Guardians.

Takes into consideration the evolving nature of the space and has made available some practical resources which countries can adapt for their specific audience: Eg: Digiworld curriculum

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Common Sense Media—Privacy and Internet Safety

ConnectSafely.org

Family Online Safety Institute

FrederickLane.com / Cybertraps.com

Google Safety Center: For Families

Among a host of others we shall be updating the ITU site with as we travel along because there are cultural sensitivities in them.



# Scenario

A parent installed #FamilyLink on the daughter's phone as a way of managing her access to the internet and screen. There was a protest but soon you got over it with her. She comes back later to tell you the #App has very bad rating.

What can you do?

# Parental guidelines in practice

- Your child's school wants your 9 year old to have an email account but you do not agree. What will be your response to the school?
- Your 7yo child's birthday wish list contains ONLY digital devices. What can you do?
- What will make you discourage your teenage child from watching a television series?
- What would you do if your children are fighting over remote controls?
- What is the best cartoon series you have found for your child under 7?
- What new App have you discovered?

- Your teen has been bullied on Snapchat and you would like to report it. What can you do?
- Your child's grandmother post a photo of your child online without your consent. What can you do?
- How often do you check your child's history on the computer?
- What name should we call the COP Initiative Mascot?

You can  
**WIN**  
if you  
**WANT**

Thanks for your  
Attention

