

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Starts at Home

- ⇒ Child molesters are most often trusted family members, friends or caregivers.
- ⇒ Reduce alone time with adults and older children or drop-in unexpectedly.
- ⇒ Talk casually, frequently and openly with your children about their bodies, sex and boundaries. (Age 8 is time to talk about sex.)
- ⇒ Remind your child that seeing, touching or photographing anyone's private parts is not allowed. "It's against the rules."
- ⇒ Watch for sudden changes: bed wetting, tantrums about visiting specific people, drugs/ alcohol, rebellion, withdrawal or depression.
- ⇒ Believe your child if they tell you someone is breaking "the rules". STAY CALM. Ask open-ended questions, "What happened next?" Call **1-800-4-A-CHILD** for advice.
- ⇒ Watch for adults isolating a child or giving excessive attention or gifts. Step-in with clear limits.