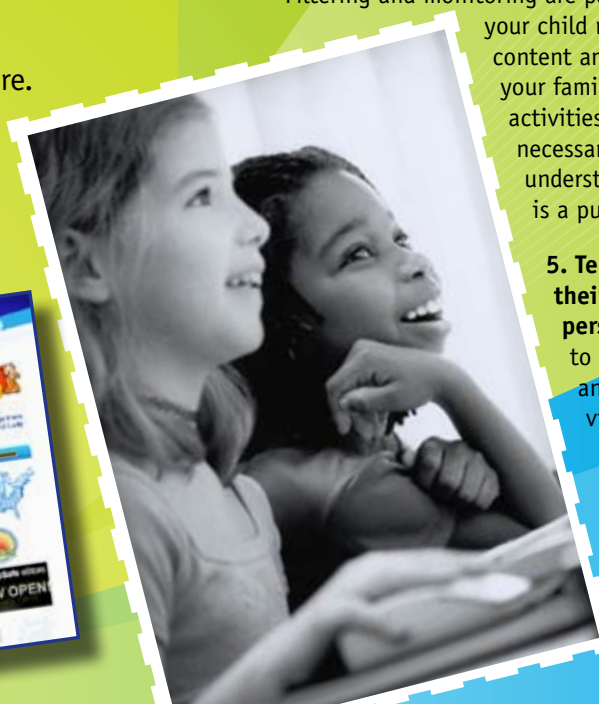# 3 KEEPs® for Parents

◆ **Keep Current**
with the technology your child uses. You don't have to be an expert, but a little understanding goes a long way towards keeping children safe online. Get basic technical training and learn about new products as they're released.

◆ **Keep Communicating**
with your child about everything they experience on the Internet. Know their lingo, and ask when you don't understand something. Work to keep communication lines open.

◆ **Keep Checking**
your child's Internet activity. Use filters and monitoring software. Let them know that you'll keep checking because you want them to understand that the Internet is a public forum and never truly private.

Top 10 tips for parents:
Keeping Children Safe Online

1. **Know where your child goes online.** Ask questions. Have them show you their favorite sites and teach you something new.

2. **Understand social networking and set up your own profile.** Be on the sites your child uses and add them to your "friends" list. Teach them to use the privacy settings and to keep identifying information off blogs.

3. **Help them protect their digital reputation.** Teach kids to create a digital reputation that is an asset rather than a liability. Details they post now can affect future academic and employment opportunities.

4. **Establish rules and set time limits.** Install filtering/monitoring software. See the parent tutorial at www.ikeepsafe.org/filters for detailed instructions. Filtering and monitoring are parenting tools that help your child recognize acceptable content and communication in your family. Monitoring their activities helps you intervene if necessary and helps your child understand that the Internet is a public forum.

5. **Tell children to protect their identity and personal information** to avoid identity theft and other online victimization.

6. **Teach children cyber-ethics.** If it's negative, don't post it, don't text it, and don't pass it on. The rules of acceptable behavior in the real world are the same in the virtual world.

7. **Teach kids to report cyber-bullying.** See the Cyber-bullying Tutorial for parents here: www.ikeepsafe.org/cyberbully.

8. **Protect passwords and create generic user names.** Make sure kids don't use screen names or aliases that reveal their personal information, including their full name, age, gender, etc.

9. **Secure your computer and wireless network.** Make yourself the "Administrator" and children, "Limited Access" users. Install and update security software (anti-virus, anti-spyware and a firewall). See the Security Tutorial for parents at www.ikeepsafe.org/security.

10. **Encourage your child to tell you if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable.**

For K-6 youths, iKeepSafe® has partnered with WoogiWorld® to teach children safe, healthy and ethical Internet use. WoogiWorld® is a safe, virtual world full of games for children and resources that reinforce:

1. **Proper, positive character traits and skills that include:**
   › Internet behavior and safety
   › Leadership
   › Service to others
   › Proper health and nutrition

2. **Balance between time on and off the Internet**

3. **The value and benefit of actively participating in the community**

GEICO Educational Foundation
geico.com

Internet Keep Safe Coalition
www.iKeepSafe.org
Toll Free: 1-866-794-7233

GEF-1 2/09

Peace of mind for families online™

Top 10 tips for parents