



# Christian Voices for Life *Wednesday Word*

Education

Prayer

Action

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## Protecting Children from Sexual Harm

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**Education:** About one in ten children will be sexually abused by the time they reach 18. They are often too confused, scared or embarrassed to report it right away, so it often continues. The perpetrators are not usually strangers to the children, but someone they trusted.(1) Child abusers “groom” their victims over a period of time, gaining trust and getting private time with them. (2)

11% of boys and 8% of girls have seen pornography before they were 10 years old. 22% of children ages 9 -16 said their top online concern was being exposed to pornography. Pornography can disrupt normal childhood development and warp a child’s attitude toward sex. Chemicals are released in the brain that cause a desire for more, so ALL children are biologically wired to be interested and affected by nudity and sex. (3) Sexually active teens and young adults are at higher risk for acquiring sexually transmitted infections (STIs), due to a combination of behavioral, biological, and cultural factors. Though they make up 25% of the sexually active population, they account for nearly half of new STI cases. (4) The U. S. continues to have among the highest teen pregnancy, birth, and abortion rates in the developed world. (4)

So how can you protect your children from abuse, pornography, and early sex? There are several resources that can help parents to teach their children about private body parts, boundaries, pornography, and reasons to delay sexual activity. Christian Voices for Life has developed a [Parent Resource Guide](#) to inform parents of these important and very helpful resources.

1. <https://cachouston.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-Child-Abuse-Prevention-Guide-FINAL.pdf>
2. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-from-sexual-abuse/202204/how-sexual-abusers-try-to-groom-children>
3. “How to Talk to Kids About Pornography” from <http://www.protectyoungminds.com>
4. “Teen Sexual Activity and STDs/STIs” from [www.sexualintegrityinitiative.com/resources/fact-sheets/](http://www.sexualintegrityinitiative.com/resources/fact-sheets/) (2015)



**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, please help all parents to be aware of the dangers that their children may be exposed to at school, at the homes of friends, or online. Help them to be aware of the resources available to them to protect their children from these dangers. Give them the courage and the confidence to refuse to allow any feelings of awkwardness to prevent them from acting to protect their children and to teach them the value of chastity. Help them to use these many resources to regularly speak to their children about all kinds of important issues and develop relationships of trust and open communication in the family.



**Action:** Download the [Parent Resource Guide](#) and tell all the parents you know about this resource. Please also ask your pediatrician and/or family practice doctor to share this information with parents with children in the home. Any doctor who treats girls and women of child-bearing age also needs to be fully aware of the dangers of hormonal contraception and the option of fertility awareness-based methods of family planning. To make sure he is informed and allowing his patients informed consent, download “[7 Things Every Family Doctor Should Know](#)” and “[Contraception vs FABMs](#)” and bring them to your doctor.