



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">SAVE OUR CHILDREN 14 October 2016AD / 13 Muharram 1438H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، بَعْدَ مَا كَانَ وَيَكُونُ مِنَ النِّعَمِ، مِنْ لَدُنِ الْكَرِيمِ الْحَلِيمِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ، وَهُوَ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَرَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا فُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, I call upon myself and the congregation, let us fulfil our conviction in Allah SWT in earnest and live a life guided by the <i>Syariat</i>. Perform all that Allah SWT has commanded and avoid what He has forbade. Indeed, only with conviction and faith will we achieve happiness in this world and prosperity in the afterlife.</p>



8	The title of today's sermon is: " Save Our Children ".
9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>In this age of advanced and sophisticated technologies, parents are faced with major challenges in their role of educating and developing the mental and physical needs of their children. One of the major challenges for parents is an addiction to gadgets among children. Most parents introduce and expose their children to gadgets so that they are seen as fulfilling or following the current trend.</p>
10	<p>However, do we realize that our actions actually expose our children to harm if used the gadgets are used without control? This means that many parents are negligent in fulfilling the trust and responsibility of educating their children.</p>
11	<p>Remember, Allah SWT reminded us of this negligence and irresponsibility in Surah Al-Munafiqun verse 9:</p> <p>يٰٓاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا لَا تُلْهِكُمْ اَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا اَوْلَادُكُمْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذٰلِكَ فَاُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ الْخٰسِرُوْنَ ﴿٩﴾</p>
12	<p>Which means: "O, you who believe! Let not your riches or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. If any act thus, the loss is their own."</p>
13	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>There are benefits in using gadgets. However, if it is used beyond the recommended time and without control, it can invite many serious disadvantages. Among the adverse effects are:</p>
14	<p>First: Effects on Health and Physical Growth</p> <p>Children or adolescents who are too engrossed with games on these gadgets become indifferent with their surroundings. They will become inactive and lethargic, which can affect their health. All these would lead to problems affecting their bodies which is still in its growing stages.</p>



15	This is a total opposite of the philosophy of educating a child in Islam, which highly encourages its followers to be brave and strong. How is it possible for a generation addicted to gadgets to grow up and achieve such goal?
16	<p>Second: Suppresses Mental Development and Personal Skills</p> <p>Using gadgets without control and limits also hinders brain development of the child, which should be developed in stages according to their age. Not only that, it may also restrict the development of their skills.</p>
17	When the little ones use only one or two fingers to touch the screen of the tablet to play and navigate, it is actually hindering the skill development of all their fingers. As a result, there are some children who are unable to hold a pencil properly when they enter kindergarten. In addition, it will also delay their ability to speak.
18	If you look at the reality right now, there are some children aged two and a half years who is still unable to utter a single word due to being too active with games on gadgets. Not only children, adolescents who are too engrossed with gadgets also develop problems in relation to their attitude, having lost interest and focus in their education and learning.
19	<p>Third: Negative Impact On Emotions and Soul</p> <p>Games on gadgets have been known to produce negative attitudes in children and adolescents. It can also stimulate rude attitudes, aggressive and impatient behaviour, especially when they want something. The reason for such behaviour is because those gadgets provide satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment without having to expend much effort, which in turn becomes an addiction that is difficult to eliminate.</p>
20	<p>When they are addicted, their emotions are unstable and will easily rebel and run amok. In addition, it also develops an attitude of indifference towards the society and environment, thus creating an introverted individual who prefers to be alone.</p> <p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>As parents, we are responsible for ensuring they are able to develop in a healthy environment and according to the Islamic way of life. Allah SWT</p>



	reminded us of tests and challenges in educating children.
21	<p>through His words in Surah At-Nur verse 15:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>Which means: “Your riches and your children may be but a trial: but in the presence of Allah, is the highest reward.”</p>
22	If we still want to provide some time for children to play with gadgets in accordance with current requirements and trends, we must ensure the following guideline is followed:
23	If we still want to provide some time for children to play with gadgets in accordance with current requirements and trends, we must ensure the following guideline is followed:
24	<p>Second: Use gadgets for children’s learning</p> <p>Introduce them to educational programs and software. It is good for the development of their mind and soul. If you want to download a game, select one that can help encourage children to learn.</p>
25	Occasionally, provide interactive games to encourage children to think creatively and create successful outcomes. Avoid games that are violent or games that violate the norms of Islamic culture.
26	<p>Third: Control and limit the use</p> <p>Schedule time for them to play and learn. In addition to that, we must also provide a guide on how to properly use the gadgets to children. Set some rules that must be complied with and always implement good examples, such as stopping the use of gadgets while eating and when speaking to others.</p>
27	. Check the children’s’ gadgets occasionally to ensure they are not involved with any negative elements that could harm them. Alternate their use of gadgets with studying and reading the al-Quran. Make sure they perform their daily prayers when the time comes, and teach them to obey the <i>Syariat</i> or Islamic law from a young age.



28	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Let us together educate and guide the next generation of the heirs of our religion, and of our nation, from an early age. At this age, children should have their personal characters developed and formed because, as they become teenagers and later, adults, educating them would be more difficult and filled with problems. The Malay saying rings true; <i>“Melentur buluh biarlah dari rebungnya”</i> or <i>“To shape a bamboo, start when it is still a shoot.”</i></p>
29	<p>Another thing we need to remember is that when educating our children, we have to use love, and not use force or aggression. Encourage and guide them to do well with warm hugs and kisses of encouragement. Children will feel loved and appreciated which in turn will make them more obedient and do things cheerfully and voluntarily. This is the Sunnah of Rasulullah SAW in educating children.</p>
30	<p>Look at what was once told in a hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari and narrated by A'isyah RA:</p> <p>جَاءَ أَعْرَابِيٌّ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ: تُقْبَلُونَ الصِّبْيَانَ؟ فَمَا نَقْبِلُهُمْ، فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: وَأَمْلِكُ لَكَ أَنْ نَزَعَ اللَّهُ مِنْ قَلْبِكَ الرَّحْمَةَ.</p>
31	<p>Which means: <i>“A man came to Rasulullah SAW and asked:” Do you kiss children? We never kiss them.” To which Rasulullah SAW said:” What else can I do if Allah has deprived affection from your heart.”</i></p>
32	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Among the conclusions which can be derived from the sermon today are:</p> <p>First: The use of gadgets among children should be supervised, controlled and guided well by parents and guardians.</p>



	<p>Second: Prove our love to children through proper education. Allowing them to play with gadgets without any control or limitations has been proven to invite more harm than benefits.</p> <p>Third: Children are a trust from Allah SWT and at the same time a test for us. Educate children with guidance, interweaved with love and affection, to guarantee happiness on this earth and in the hereafter for us.</p>
33	<p>Reflect upon the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Hashr verse 3:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">لَنْ تَنْفَعَكُمْ أَرْحَامُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَفْصَلُ بَيْنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ ﴿٣﴾</p>
34	<p>Which means: “Of no profit to you will be your relatives and your children on the Day of Judgment: He will judge between you: for Allah sees well all that you do.”</p>
35	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِجَمِيعِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ النَّاسِينَ.</p>