

Abstract

Background: These high-speed modern times are moving forward rapidly. Modern technology is getting into the hands of everyone whether we want it or not, unfortunately even our youngest. We all learn from those around us and imitate the behavior of others from a young age, especially from our parents.

Aims: The main aim of this research is to map the patterns of parental behaviour regarding the use of social networking sites and the access to electronic devices of their children who are actively attending nursery school.

Methods: Data were collected using an anonymous questionnaire survey. There were 136 responses in total, which were filled in, either in writing or online. The hand written questionnaires were carefully transcribed into excel spreadsheets and then analysed.

Results: Children are definitely influenced by their parents in terms of screen use and what activities they seek out most on screens. Parents are most in favor of restrictive mediation. The next most represented is active mediation. Parents with a high school diploma or college education are the most likely to lend their electronic device (cell phone, computer or laptop). 6 year old children spend the most time on social media. The most time spent on social media was one hour per day. Preschoolers are not at all influenced by their siblings in spending time on electronic devices. Children spend the most time on electronics to ward off boredom, while traveling, during meals, and at restaurants. Parents spend the most time on their devices on the playground, when putting the children to bed, during meals, when transporting their children to after-school activities and when playing with their children.

Conclusion and recommendation: In this topic, it is important to continue to focus on prevention programs in kindergartens, both for children and parents, due to the fast time that is fast forward in the use of social networks

Key words: parents, education, preschool age, social networks, viewership