

Kids and IT

There is an opinion, that kids should be kept away from the gadgets and internet¹ in general until they reach a certain age, at which they are capable of critical thinking.

Although this might sound like a valid point at the surface, I cannot agree with it. Firstly, I believe, that critical thinking is a very practical skill, thus it cannot be developed without real-world practice. Internet² can provide plenty of practice for a child in that matter. Secondly, I am convinced, that it is impossible and pointless to keep children away from IT in today's world. I can ensure you: they will always find a way to access it, regardless of the effort put into preventing them from doing it.

As far as I can tell from my own experience with my younger brother, children can be just fine on their own on the internet. They don't really need any help or supervision when using the technology. From what I have seen, this approach allowed my brother to become more independent and rational in his decisions.

I think, that children neither need to be kept away from IT, nor supervised when using the internet. In my opinion, kids need trust and attention from their parents to develop in a normal, healthy manner. An adult should be a teacher, a mentor to a child, rather than a supervisor. We should teach children to think and analyse instead of keeping them in a "walled garden" before releasing them into the wild of real world, that will blow them away.

1 The internet

2 The internet