

Kids and their relationship with social media

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Introduction

Do policies need to be put in place to protect children in their use of social media?

Finding the effects of social media on the well-being of children and engaging in open dialogue on the purpose and use of social media are important societal steps that need to be taken to ensure the safety and security of kids and their futures.

Objectives

- Understand why kids are using social media.
- Discover how social media impacts children.
- Determine the relationship between social media and children's well-being.
- Understand the role parents play in their children's use of social media.

Findings

- Benefits from children's use of social media: **community engagement, enhancement of creativity, growth of ideas, and expansion of online connections.** [1]
- Gratification has been linked to **internet adictions** and **psychological issues** overtime. [2]
- **Targeted advertisements** of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana on social media lead to illegal use of those substances. [3]
- **Active parent involvement** is related to positive social media use for children. [4]
- Adolescents with low quality friendships who spend more time on the Internet for **non-communication purposes** develop more internalizing problems. [5]

Missing Research

There has been very little research done into the modern use of specific social media platforms by children and its effects. We hypothesize that the research linking increased internet usage with depression could be extrapolated to today's use of social media.

Conclusion

Researching the digital well-being of children is important to ensure the safety and security of kids and their futures. Most research claims that there are a lot of benefits of social media platforms for communication and accessibility, but they are overshadowed by increased depression and social isolation. However, technology has changed faster than the research on its impact, especially in relation to children and social media, which calls for more research in this field.

Works Cited

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