

Parents' (un)preparedness for their eldest children's future media lives

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Is there any evidence that the parents of very young children have a sense of progressive digital socialisation that stretches into the future – i.e. that perhaps they should be doing something with younger children to prepare them for their unfolding digital lives. This presentation looks at parents' and children's preparations for digital citizenship within a children's rights context, and the value or otherwise of using restrictive solutions and filtered media to 'keep children safe online'. It also addresses children's risks from digital engagement and the benefits of skills development and social connectedness. What can the parents of very young children do to help their child enjoy a positive relationship with the digital world? What are parents' own media habits communicating to their children?

This paper considers data from an ARC research project that examines the digital lives of children aged 0-5 and extrapolates parents' strategies and preparedness for the media-related parenting challenges ahead.