DIGITAL PRIVACY AT HOME

When everything from toys to baby monitors can be connected to the internet, it can be challenging to maintain children's privacy.

Privacy priorities for the home

Voice-Assisted Speakers

When smart speakers are on, they are listening! While providing on-demand content, smart speakers often record everything from children's play, to their tantrums, to sensitive conversations between parents about their child. It is also helpful to maximize privacy settings (like allowing the device to listen only when you press a button) or to consider changing to a smart speaker without recording capacity.[1]

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet Connected Toys

Playthings that feature new technologies often appear novel and fun. Unfortunately, many of these products are not regulated for child safety or privacy creating new avenues for profiting and collecting data off of children such as tracking their location, listening to their conversations and play, and promoting brand or character-centered relationships. A number of toys (such as Mattel's Hello Barbie) have been discontinued due to privacy and security violations. Until privacy regulations are established, parents and caregivers are left with the burden of researching and monitoring the security and safety of AI and internet connected playthings causing many to choose to opt out of them all together.[1]

Apps and Online Games

To help keep children safe, apps and games should have strong, easy-to-read privacy statements and be specifically designed for their developmental age. Apps and online games should not allow children to share personal information, interact with strangers, or include pop-up ads, images, or videos that encourage or allow them to click to other content.[1]

Social Media and YouTube

Privacy experts advise to "share with care." Every parent has the right to choose whether images of, or details about, their child are posted by others including friends, family, caregivers, and teachers! Researchers have found that children often resent their parents posting pictures of them on social media without their permission. Once posted, it is not possible to control what happens to images and videos that are online.[3,4]

Scan or **click** for full Screen Aware Kit!

Scan or **click** for research references and recommended reading!

An Early Childhood Work Group Project
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screen time action network *at fairplay*

DIGITAL PRIVACY AT HOME

A few simple habits like talking through your own privacy decisions and reading picture books can go a long way in developing digital privacy awareness!

Modeling strong digital privacy practices

Young children learn best through adult modeling. Sharing your thinking and privacy practices out loud teaches children how to protect their privacy more effectively than just telling them to do so. For example:

☑ When receiving a request for personal information, you can say "I just got an email from a stranger asking me where I live. I don't give out my private information to strangers!"

☑ When downloading an app (especially if it's for your child), talk through how you determine it is safe and what permissions (location, push notifications, etc.) you do/don't allow and why. If you decide not to download it, explain why.

Managing connected toys and voice assistants

Internet connected toys and voice assistants come with privacy concerns and the potential for children to form unhealthy relationships with electronic devices. If you choose to use these technologies, minimize risks by:

☑ Finding and using parental controls.

☑ Disabling "always on" options and limiting data sharing.

☑ Setting and communicating limits for where and how they can be used.

☑ Keeping them out of bedrooms and putting them away when not in use.

Questions to ask before sharing pictures of young children

1 Why am I posting it?

2 Is this open to the public or only viewable by friends and family I trust?

3 Does this platform or app collect data related to my child?

4 Is there a geolocation tag (location sharing) on my photo that could allow others to know where my child is? Is there other sensitive information displayed in this photo?

5 Could my child be embarrassed or upset about it now or later in life?

Resource and book recommendations

☑ *Buzzy's Adventure in Online Privacy* by Bilal Soylu

☑ *The Internet Sleuths* by A. M. Marcus

☑ *Safe, Secure and Smart App Checklist & Privacy Guide* by Fairplay

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