

ECE 210-053W

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Advocacy Project-Say No to Teaching Young Children in The Age of Media

**Abstract**

My paper focuses on the problems of technology/social media on how to harm the development of children. Technology/social media has an impact on the children and family for many years; If young children get addicted to playing social media devices, their development will be delayed because they do not have enough time to play and miss opportunities of kinds of play activities to develop their bodies. Furthermore, the visual abilities will be lower because the usage of technology/ social media damages children' eyes. Meanwhile, it changes their daily behaviors, lowering their academic performances. Besides, it affects their interpersonal relationships. Therefore, the children cannot get enough emotional support from their peers, family and others as a result, their development of cognitive, emotional, social/emotional, and physical will slower than the children whose not play all time with technology/social media. Additionally, I noticed that children who focus on technology/social media lack inspiration, motivation and thrive in school. So I write this paper for all society, government, and early childhood educators to be aware of this big issue in our life and take some action to help the children and their family. Moreover, I hope the parents and children can understand how to use technology/social media in a positive way, and the early childhood educators can realize they can impact the children and family in a powerful way, and do not give up. So that, when all of us realize the impact of the usage of technology/social media on children, we have to take action to change this bad situation and help more children,

so every child can succeed later in life.

### **Statement of the problem**

Nowadays, technology/social media are related to our lives every single day. Unlike our ancients, technology/ social medias revolve around people's current living environment, and people are increasingly relying on it. There is no doubt that, Technology/social media makes people's lives convenient and easier. However, it does cause negative effects to them. Especially for young children because the greatest problem is Children's developing sensory, motor, and attachment systems have biologically not evolved to accommodate this sedentary, yet frenzied and chaotic nature of today's technology. Therefore, even though it does bring benefits that convenient people's daily lives, it's harmful over the long beneficial impacts. So, Technology/social media is the specific problem/ concern for people at this time.

Moreover, whether for family or educators, people all need to intervene as soon as possible because this issue affects all of their children from now til future. Meanwhile, this issue will cause irreparable harm to them. Such as: the usage of technology/ social medias damage children' eyes, change their daily behaviors, lower their academic performances and affect their interpersonal relationships. Thus, it is very important to start intervention as soon as possible that can avoid or reduce negative consequences in children later in their lives. The actions by parents and care providers are the most important intervention that work together for children, sharing

information for easily the lead children to realize how to use technology/social media in a positive way.

In conclusion, the actions of children's family members and educators can change this issue, because they are always accompanied along with children while they are growing up. Besides, the interventions they get involved in order to prevent the negative effects should be starting to pay attention to this issue before it happens. So that parents participating and involving can be more helpful to resolve this issue.

### **Researches**

The research shows us how technology/social media impacts the different domain's development of young children. Such as damages children's eyes, reduces children's motor skills, and causes humpback etc. Furthermore, it also states the difficulties teaching online correctly. Therefore, parents and educators should pay more attention to manage the usage time and lead children to use technology/social media in the right track.

#### Article 1

According to the article, "The State of Educational Technology in a Post Pandemic World"(11/12/2020, Ed Tech Focus on K-12), Micah Castelo describes the change of teaching method by technology/media during the pandemic. In this article, Castelo explores what technology use looks like in today's K-12 schools and how it will impact learning for future students. Furthermore, Castelo mentions how people and children rely on the technology to get involved in the world, keep going to catch

up their learning, and get in touch with their peers. However, the digital divide is the top challenge school districts are facing, according to the report and more than thirty-one percent of survey respondents said it's their biggest barrier to maximizing student success this school year, followed by the impact of the summer slide (26 percent), lack of technology training for teachers (13 percent) and lack of district-level technology resources (6 percent) (1). Therefore, even though technology/media brings convenience to children to keep going through their learning processes, parents and educators should still be careful of harm for children.

Whether you agree or not, there is no doubt that the convenience it offers and the lack of skill at the same time impacts children's development. As Cateslo writes, "Roadblocks like lack of technologies, students without access to at-home internet connectivity and teachers desperately needing more professional training are widening the digital divide. Administrators have been hard-pressed to provide both short-term solutions and forward-thinking guidance" (1). In other words, technology/social media prefers offers to adults rather than children. And the usage ways are better required for adults' needs.

In conclusion, from this article, I learned how important it is to make sure educators have training and the importance of the skillful use of technology/ social use that can really affect the interests of children's learning. The educators should continue to embrace innovation in the ways they're going to teach for children. Thus, reducing the harm to children. Meanwhile, this article informed me that as an educator, we should be working with parents together to manage the usage of technology/media

before it is too late for young children.

## Article 2

According to the article, "Why education technology can't save remote learning" (10/19/2020, Axios) by Ashley Gold, technology/ social media is for business rather than education. In the article, Gold indicates how teaching online causes troubles in children's lives and their performance. Moreover, the data in the article also notes the rate of children involved in the class are wealthy more than the children who come from poverty families. Because access to technology is not equity, some poverty families cannot afford their children to study by using technology/ social media and themselves do not even know how to use the technology.

There is no doubt that online teaching cannot replace the class in person. As Sara Kloek said, "Ed tech is playing a role, and ed tech can help... but no one planned for students learning at home," she said. "One child might need a laptop and they're good to go. Another kid may need more tools. It's not one size fits all" (1).

Technology/social media cause negative effects to children's developments, such as sitting in front of the computer for a long time cause obesity, seeing the computer for a while might lower their vision and make them put on the glasses later in life.

In conclusion, the reason why I selected this article as the research source is because it informed readers that technology/social media teaching cannot replace learning in person for children. Additionally, I learned from this source, as an educator,

we should be pointing out the negative effects might occur at children if we do not say no to teaching children at the age of media.

### Article 3

According to the article, “U.K. Doctors Call for Caution in Children’s Use of Screens and Social Media” (02/07/2019, New York Times), Palko Karasz describes how the use of social media is related to mental health problems. In the article, Britain’s Chief indicates technology is wonderful for the whole society, but for the long term, sitting down and using electronic devices for a long time can get in the way of important, healthy activities, as a result, cause negative problems to people’s lives. Meanwhile, the lengthy social media use could have a negative effect on sleep patterns, self-esteem and body image, and expose young people to online harassment. So that, he urges parents to keep their children away from screens and to restrict the time young children spend using media.

Nowadays, based on the resource, many people cannot live without technology/ media. They use the technology more than ever. However, the usage of technology/ social media causes more negative troubles in their mind. As Karasz states:

“ Compared with 1–3 h of daily use: 3 to < 5 h 26% increase in scores vs 21%; ≥ 5 h 50% vs 35% for girls and boys respectively. Greater social media use related to online harassment, poor sleep, low self-esteem and poor body image; in turn these related to higher depressive symptom scores. Multiple potential intervening pathways were apparent, for example: greater hours social media use related to body weight

dissatisfaction ( $\geq 5$  h 31% more likely to be dissatisfied), which in turn linked to depressive symptom scores directly (body dissatisfaction 15% higher depressive symptom scores) and indirectly via self-esteem”(2). On the other hand, depending on the data in the paper, some girls and boys were experiencing online bullying. That also affected their immature mind which affected their cognitive and social and emotional developments.

Moreover, from this article, I learned that limited technology/ social media use is very important. And this article highlights the potential pitfalls of lengthy social media use for young people's mental health. Findings are highly relevant for the development of guidelines for the safe use of social media and calls on industry to more tightly regulate hours of social media use. Thus, as an educator, we should be really focused on it, and work with parents together for children's all domains developments.

***Small Advocacy Action:***

My major is Early Childhood Education, and the reason why I chose this major is because I love the children, so I hope I can do my best to support their development in different domains while they grow, as a result, I will advocate and inform parents, educators, and government take actions on this issue. First of all, as an educator, I will provide a safe and fun environment to students. Then, I will keep in touch with the parents to let them know their children's progress in school. Third, I will connect with my colleagues, workmates and leaders to discuss this issue, find out a good way to



help the children access this issue and get permission to connect with my students' parents and families. Fourth, I provide more information for parents, let them know they are not alone. When they need help, how they can seek more resources from our school, community, society, and the government. Therefore, I choose to be a positive, kind, caring adult in young children's lives and accompany them on their growth path. Furthermore, I chose to volunteer to be a mentor, classroom aid, a CASA for foster young children, work at an after school club, and volunteer in my community child abuse prevention program, mental health and first aid training programs.

***Large Advocacy Action:***

First of all, I will donate money or time to print flyers to our community to help more people get to know about the benefits and harm technology/social media. If I have the ability, I will donate to an organization that serves children get rid of addiction in technology/social media life or sign up to volunteer at an event. Also, I can help people by spreading awareness of the impacts of getting addicted in technology/ social media on children, so I will talk to my friends, family, government representatives, school officials, and community members about the harmful effects and influences of growing in technology/social media. I hope I can advocate for the community and neighborhood, let them be aware of this situation, and take action to help more children. Finally, I will connect with the newspaper because I hope they can advocate the impact of technology/social media on young children, let more

people realize how serious the situation is, and appeal to the whole society to help the children how to be appropriate on the technology/social media use.

Additionally, I will connect with the local government to provide enough funding for creating the after school and early education center, so these programs can benefit children and their family. The children can get more opportunities to learn to communicate with more people. Also, I will advocate for the government to set up more playgrounds, child centers for children to play in because children learn from playing, through kinds of activities, games to explore the world, extend their knowledge and get involved in the real society. Meanwhile, I will appeal to the government to help the parents. Such as supports the parents to continue to study at programs to improve their knowledge of how to foster their kids. When parents are educated, they can identified the benefits and harm of technology/social media, as a result, they will not continue to give an ipad to their kid when they feel children are noisy. Moreover, becoming more professional and concerns on children' s development, better for children's developments because parents are children's first teacher. Let's take an action for children' healthy future.

#### Commentary

In conclusion, I choose this topic to advocate for because I have seen a lot of children living in technology/social media, have lack of attention from their parents and others to assist them while they grow, so technology/social media cause much more harm to them. They vision is decreased when they still very young, their speeds

of learning is slower than their peers who were not addict to technology/social media, their cognitive development is hard to extend, even their interpersonal intelligence are not developing in positive way because they grow with an technology/social media environment instead of get along with their peers and others, therefore, they social and emotional development are hard to develop as well as others. Furthermore, in American, technology/ social media is everywhere and it is really connect to our lives closely, so that not only adults get along with technology/ social media all day but a lot of children are also did the same thing as well as adults( sitting for a long time and focus on technology rather than playing naturally), thus, this topic is very important and necessary to advocacy. Besides, After I do research about the topic, I insist my mind again. I think that as an educator, our responsibility is not only to teach children knowledge and improve their development but also to care about their live environment and what people think because the parents and other adults in the community are the first teacher to them and as the basis of their all domains developments. Meanwhile, as an educator, I would like to lead my young students, parents and others people in the community to understand technology/social media is a good stuff that convenience our lives but they should play attention to how they gonna use it in the right track, especially focus on the ways young children how to use it.

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