

## **The Roles of Families in Media Usage**

The Internet, which covers the whole world and which can reach easily, has become more attractive today because it addresses a wide range of age groups. It is known that children use computer technology and internet more intensely than adults. With the use of heavily used social media networks, parents' concerns may be raised as to how to approach children.

Problems that children and young people may face on the internet are seen as technical, physical, social and psychological problems. Examples of technical problems are the loss of documents and photos by virus infection. Instead of communicating face-to-face with friends, overcoming excessive time while playing computer games, and having a long conversation with friends who are unknown to reality are also factors that negatively affect social development. At the same time, the increasing time spent on the screen may lead to the passive position of the child, leading to a reduction in learning ability, creativity, limitation of productivity and reduced time spent on studying. In a study conducted in 2014, the attacks on personal rights through internet have been examined and it is concluded that people who feel more comfortable in the real world than the real world attack the personal rights of others. For this reason, it is necessary to think that our children may be the people who always do this as well as those who have been attacked.

Increasing communication power with the development of online networks and technology creates a negative perception of security. Children can use the phrases they don't use in their daily lives or take risks they can't take. In this process, parents can be a negative role model for children. For example; from the moment they are born, parents can share the contents of their children and photos in social networks. When children grow up and come to adolescence, they learn about sharing photos without permission.

The most used defense of the parents is that their accounts are only open to familiar environments or they are the legal guardians of their children up to a certain age. But even in such a situation, they are sending their children's confidential information to an app which its database is probably in another country. In addition, since each shipment shared via the Internet creates a digital footprint, the decisions made by their families can begin to affect their lives when children reach adulthood; because it is possible that the children they share with their parents will not want to share in the future.

The world-wide approach to safe media use is family control.

### **Well, what can families do?**

Especially as parents and educators, we have responsibilities to inform and protect from negativities and dangers of virtual world.

- Just as in real life, we must set rules for the virtual environment. Clear these rules with a contract with your child. The views of both parties in these contracts and contractual consequences must be included if the contract is not followed. The aim should be to support children's conscious use of the Internet and protect them from potential dangers.
- Rules must be stretched in accordance with the age of the child; and should be tested.
- Current antivirus programs, filter and firewall programs should be used to protect children from possible internet hazards. These applications will allow parents to filter out harmful content and determine the time spent by the child on the Internet.
- One of the most important points is to give children the opportunity to share their problems. We should give children a message that they can come and tell easily in situations that will make them feel uncomfortable or threatened online. When we encounter such an event, we must remain calm. We should look for solutions together with the children.
- We must be able to talk about the virtual world and the games that our children play. We should be able to create a common language by playing some games together. In this way, it will be easier to reach the children / youths, who feel understood, and show the right way.
- One of the responsibilities as a family is to inform our children that they must comply with moral behavior in the virtual world as well as in the real world, and to prevent children from using the Internet as a harmful tool to others.

To sum up, we should teach children how to be able to safely use the Internet instead of taking the Internet away. By being a role model and directing them, children will gain the awareness of using the Internet safely and will have the advantage of using internet or social media. The important thing is to make them feel like we're on their side, so they can transfer your family values to real life.

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