

Relationships Between Digital Media Usage and Face-to-Face Interaction Within Families

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Digital media usage (DMU) is an area of increasing interest due to the potential effects it has on both face-to-face interaction (FFI) and the resulting effect on children's psychosocial development and interpersonal relationship development. It is known that increasing levels of digital media usage in various contexts have an effect on the face-to-face interactions in which a child participates in. So, there are still many unknowns regarding the generalized relationship between DMU and FFI. Parental influences play a large role in the behavioral development of a child, but there are not many studies pertaining to the actual relationships between levels of DMU and FFI in a parent versus their child, especially the effects that one might have on the other. This study aimed to elucidate the relationships between children and their parent's DMU and FFI, with hopes to guide future research into behavioral transmission with respect to DMU. This was done through the use of a survey consisting of Likert scaled questions which then determined an individual's score for DMU and FFI. It was found that for $n = 79$ pairings of parents and children, there was a negative association between FFI and DMU in children, while parents had a positive relationship. Parents had significantly lower levels of DMU than their children, while also maintaining significantly higher levels of reported FFI. Future studies can be designed to simulate scores for DMU and FFI in larger socially interactive systems outside of the home, including educational and occupational settings.

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