DOES SCREEN TIME HAVE AN INFLUENCE OR IMPACT ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT?

HUMAN EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

School of Population and Public Health
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Research Question

Does screen time (e.g., use of technology, media/computer/tv/dvd/tablet exposure) influence or have an impact on children’s development? If so, what are the impacts/influences, specifically for those aged 0-5?

Search Details

Please see Appendix 1

Literature Search Results

What evidence is available? What does the evidence say?1

Table of Contents: Publications (Citations)

Socio-emotional, Cognitive Development, Cognition, Self-regulation, Executive Control
Physical Development (cardiovascular, activity/inactivity/sedentary/obesity)
Physical Development (sleep)
Language Development
Learning, Memory
Articles related to aspects of parenting, parental/environmental influences and screen time/media use
Articles related to media use in general
Articles related to reducing screen time (guidelines, interventions)
Appendix 1

1 An initial scoping review was conducted; listed publications provide an overview of research on this topic; critical appraisal has not been completed and evidence has not been summarized.
Socio-emotional, Cognitive Development, Cognition, Self-regulation, Executive Control


Physical Development (cardiovascular, activity/inactivity/sedentary/obesity)


**Physical Development (sleep)**


Language Development


Learning, Memory


Articles related to aspects of parenting, parental/environmental influences and screen time/media use


**Articles related to media use in general**


**Articles related to reducing screen time (guidelines, interventions)**


APPENDIX 1

Research Question:
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Details:
Date: April 28, 2015 (received); April 29, 2014 (lit search results provided)
Goal: To provide a select listing of literature on the topic of interest
Team: HELP (Michele Wiens)
Tasks: Rapid literature search (PDF retrieval on request)

Search Context:
Literature scan to determine whether children’s screen time has any negative impact, in particular. The focus is on pre-school children (ages 0-5).

Literature search objective:
To conduct a rapid literature search for articles related to children’s screen time/media use and any potential impact on them, focusing on evidence-based literature. Articles were identified using several databases hosted through Ebsco (UBC Library). Emphasis was placed on scientific literature. Google was searched for additional articles and grey literature of interest.
Date parameter: 2011-2015, although select, earlier studies were included.

PDFS:
PDFs will be sent if requested.

Search Terms:
Key search terms with Boolean operators:
(computer OR laptop OR iPad OR “screen time”) AND use AND (child* OR boy OR girl OR infant OR toddler) ("screen time" OR “media use”) AND "early child* development" filetype:pdf

Limitations:
Challenges lay in separating papers in relation to: duration of exposure; media content; media use.
Age ranges overlapped in some papers so some findings relate to age groups 3-10, for example. This serves as an overview of research on this topic; critical appraisal has not been completed and evidence has not been summarized.
Next Steps:
This search may be refined to capture more literature related to this topic. If additional specific information is of interest, further scientific and grey literature searching may be scoped using various databases. Bibliographies can be reviewed (snowballing).
An annotated bibliography of the citations listed will be provided if requested.