

Charity warns against uploading photos of children

6th August, 2017



A child protection charity in the UK is urging parents to ask their children for permission before uploading photos and videos of them on social media. This follows a study by Ofcom, a

communications watchdog, revealing that parents are divided on whether it is right to post photos of their children online. The practice of parents uploading photos and videos of their kids is termed "sharenting". This is a combination of the words "share" and "parenting". Ofcom said the biggest reason for parents not sharing photos of their kids is to protect the privacy of under-18s. The NSPCC said: "Each time a photo or video is uploaded, it creates a digital footprint of a child which can follow them into adult life."

The website theatlantic.com highlighted how prevalent sharenting is in the USA. It said: "In the United States, the vast majority of 2-year-olds...already have an online presence. More than 80 per cent of babies younger than that are already on social media." The website said there is a conflict between a parent's pride in their children and his or her desire to share photos of them, and the potential dangers of sharing photos of their kids. Parents often include personal information about their children along with the photos they upload. This could put kids at risk of identity theft and digital kidnapping. There is also the danger of parents publishing real-time information about their children's whereabouts.

Sources: birminghammail.co.uk / theguardian.com / theatlantic.com

Writing

Parents should not post photos of their children on social media. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

child / protection / permission / social media / watchdog / parenting / share / privacy / website / online / conflict / pride / personal information / identity theft / kidnapping

True / False

- a) A charity said parents should ask children's permission to post photos. T / F
- b) The article says parents are split on the idea of posting kids' photos. T / F
- c) "Sharenting" comes from the words "shark" and "resenting". T / F
- d) Digital footprints can follow children into their adult life. T / F
- e) Most 2-year-olds in the USA have an online presence. T / F
- f) Fewer than 80% of US babies are already on social media. T / F
- g) The article says parents never include personal details about children. T / F
- h) Posting the real-time whereabouts of kids is not dangerous. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. urging | a. split |
| 2. permission | b. possible |
| 3. divided | c. mix |
| 4. termed | d. widespread |
| 5. combination | e. consent |
| 6. prevalent | f. location |
| 7. vast | g. called |
| 8. conflict | h. encouraging |
| 9. potential | i. clash |
| 10. whereabouts | j. huge |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you be happy if you found photos of you as a kid online?
- c) Why might children be angry with parents when they grow up?
- d) What do you know about staying safe online?
- e) How important is social media for you?
- f) What happens in cases of identity theft?
- g) How dangerous is uploading a child's whereabouts?
- h) What questions would you like to ask 'sharenting' parents?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. ask their children for | a. is termed "sharenting" |
| 2. a communications | b. sharing photos |
| 3. uploading photos and videos of their kids | c. footprint |
| 4. protect the privacy | d. theft |
| 5. a digital | e. watchdog |
| 6. the vast majority of | f. whereabouts |
| 7. have an | g. permission |
| 8. the potential dangers of | h. online presence |
| 9. put kids at risk of identity | i. 2-year-olds |
| 10. information about their children's | j. of under-18s |

Discussion – Student B

- Why do parents upload so many photos of their children?
- Is it wrong to upload photos of babies on social media?
- What are the dangers of parents posting photos of their children?
- Do you get fed up with photos of small children on social media?
- What do you think of the term 'sharenting'?
- Are parents who post photos of their children violating their privacy?
- How is your digital footprint?
- How much stuff do you upload on social media?

Spelling

- A child protection crayiht in the UK
- ask their children for isrmsienpo
- riaegnvel that parents are divided
- a anboinctoim of the words
- protect the cvryiap of under-18s
- it creates a gaidlit footprint
- highlighted how rtp eenvla sharenting is
- the vast moaijyrt of 2-year-olds
- have an online eenpersc
- the etltaopin dangers of sharing photos
- put kids at risk of itynteid theft
- their children's ewohrbetaus

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. g	5. c
6. d	7. j	8. i	9. b	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Lack of Exercise

You think lack of exercise is the biggest online danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): identity theft, cyber-bullying or phishing.

Role B – Identity Theft

You think identity theft is the biggest online danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): lack of exercise, cyber-bullying or phishing.

Role C – Cyber-Bullying

You think cyber-bullying is the biggest online danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): identity theft, lack of exercise or phishing.

Role D – Phishing

You think phishing is the biggest online danger. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least dangerous of these (and why): identity theft, cyber-bullying or lack of exercise.

Speaking – Online dangers

Rank these online dangers with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| • phishing | • lack of exercise |
| • sexting | • identity theft |
| • grooming | • digital kidnapping |
| • bad eyesight | • cyber-bullying |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.