

Youth, Privacy and Parenting in the Internet Age

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Ballantyne, N., Duncalf, Z and Daly,
E. (2010)

‘Corporate parenting in the Network
Society.’

Journal of Technology in Human
Services.

Outline

- Parenting in the internet age
- Young people and the internet
- Young people in care - context
- What we know about young people in care and the internet
- Challenging practice - moving forward
- Pilot research

Parenting in the Internet age

- Often a disjunction between parents and their children wants, needs and views
- Internet regulation is a source of family conflict
- Parental regulation of the Internet
- Technical solutions: filtering & monitoring
- Social solutions: evaluative guidance & restrictive guidance
- Children, young people & privacy
- Privacy
 - as a citizenship right - informational privacy
 - as a social practice - privacy, the self & intimacy
- Privacy is usually actively negotiated (and re-negotiated) between parents & young people

Youth, Privacy and Growth

- Internet in the modern age - privacy and growth
- Includes negotiating sense of self
- Finding out information away from parents about health, sexuality etc
- Sharing more safely online rather than offline
- Most young people have access to the internet in their home if not in their bedroom
- Networked spaces - difficulty of face-to-face interaction

		CONTENT child as recipient	CONTACT child as participant	CONDUCT child as actor
OPPORTUNITIES	Education, learning & digital literacy	Educational resources	Contact with others who share one's interests	Self-initiated or collaborative learning
	Participation & civic engagement	Global information	Exchange amongst interest groups	Concrete forms of civic engagement
	Creativity & self-expression	Diversity of resources	Being invited, inspired to create or participate	User-generated content creation
	Identity & social connection	Advice: personal, health, sexual etc.	Social networking, shared experiences with others	Expression of identity

Livingstone & Hadden (2009)

Young people in Care: Introduction

- Care in context
- Privacy - no bedroom, most surveilled and surveyed group of people in the UK
- Child protection
- Access to information and education - social, emotionally and educationally isolated
- Connected care - linking up with other young people in care
- Documenting their own lives

Practice - what we already know

- Corporate Parenting: Definition
- View of young people in care as vulnerable
- The recording of young people's information
- Care and protection as control and restraint
- Training for staff

These are our bairns

“...it is an important part of growing up for children and young people to learn how to take risks, how to take responsibility for themselves and their behaviour and we must be careful not to deny them that opportunity through risk-averse behaviours.

Professionals working with children, and particularly senior managers must strike a balance between protection and preventing young people developing essential life skills.” (p.75)

Scottish Government (2008). These are our Bairns: a guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

Looking forward - Empowering practice

- Negotiating young people's access to the internet
- Freedom of expression
- As a practice tool (i.e. case reviews)

Pilot Research

Residential child care staff & Who Cares?

- Positive personal use of SNS
- Risk
- Blame
- Bebo - intimidation of victims / witnesses of crime, gang activities, webcams
- Educational use - “Mountains”
- Cutting of contact - Resilience and attachment
- Contact with family

Care leavers & in transition of leaving care

- Streetwise & protective of privacy - personal safeguards
- ‘Friends’ on SNS are also ‘real life’ friends - no strangers.
- SNS could support care leavers
- Good for those with low self esteem & low self confidence
- Insights into how to protect young children online

connectedpractice

Researching Social Services in the Network Society

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