



The current research into children's use of technology indicates some interesting facts and trends.

You might like to ask yourself these questions:

- Does what they found coincide with your thoughts about technology use in your family or with children you know?
- Are there any contradictions in these statements?
- What can be done to keep children e-safe?

### Smartphones

There has been a decline in the number of 5–15s owning a mobile phone.....(43% vs. 49% in 2012).

....but smartphone ownership has stayed the same. 8-11s (18%) and 12-15s (62%). (43% vs. 49% in 2012).

Older children's use of smartphones tends to focus around peer communication.

Smartphone users send an estimated 184 instant messages (IM) in a typical week and smartphones are the most popular device for accessing social networking sites among 12-15 year olds.



### Tablets

There is a sharp increase in the use of tablet computers at home, which has tripled among 5-15s since 2012.

Children use the multi-functionality of tablets especially when watching audio-visual content and playing games.

### Social Networking

There has been a decrease in the number of children with social networking profiles.

There has been an increase in the number of children who can potentially be contacted by people unknown to them via their social networking profiles.

### TV

TV content continues to be both popular and valued by children.

Children are accessing TV content in more ways now, including via tablets, mobile phones, YouTube and broadcasters' websites.

### Cyberbullying

Girls are more likely than boys to feel under pressure to appear popular or attractive online.

Girls aged 12-15 are more likely than boys to say they have experienced Cyberbullying through a mobile phone and online.

Ninety-five per cent of parents of 12-15 year old girls have talked to them about staying safe online.



### Confidence of young people

The vast majority of young people state that they are confident internet users and know how to stay safe online.

There has been an increase in children with a social networking site profile that may be visible to people not known to them.

### Confidence of parents

The majority of parents use a combination of strategies to help keep their children safe online.

Over four in ten parents have parental controls installed and nine in ten feel that their children are safer as a result.

Most parents of 5-15s say that they know enough to keep their child safe online, but around half of parents continue to feel that their child knows more about the internet than they do, as do 14% of parents of children aged 3-4.

Parental awareness of the minimum age requirement for Facebook has increased among parents whose child has a profile on this site.

Parents of 8-11s are less concerned about TV content.