

Down the Tube?

Their Tube

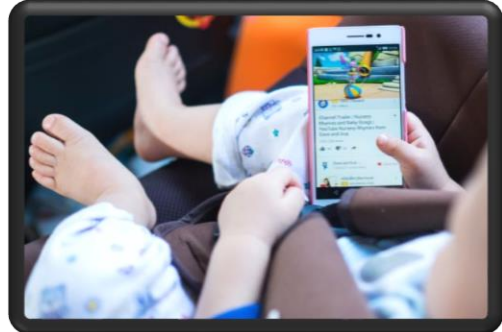
60 minutes

Individual work and partner work

Introduction

Chamath Palihapitiya, one of Facebook's original executives, has been very vocal about how he believes technology is devolving society. 'My children get no screen time whatsoever,' he once said in a TV interview with CNBC. Microsoft's Bill Gates and Apple's Steve Jobs also famously went against their children's wishes by raising them with little to no screen time.

When kids are exposed to the wide range of content on YouTube, it's concerning, because the content might not be age-appropriate, which can lead them to seeing something they're not mature enough to handle. Paediatricians agree that there are a lot of scary YouTube videos out there that, if seen, can affect a child's judgement, as well as lead to increased stress, anxiety or even feelings of depression. Should parents and educators just stand by and watch?



Exploration

A

1. Individually, brainstorm or look up a few popular kids' YouTube channels or videos, and divide them into two categories: those you deem safe for kids and those you think could damage kids.
2. If you had to come up with different categories of damaging YouTube channels or videos, what would they be? Think by content.
3. Do a cursory read of the following article: <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/youtube-for-kids-videos-problems-algorithm-recommend>. Look at your answers to 1 and 2. Anything you can change or add?
4. Can you list a few absolutely safe YouTube for Kids channels or videos?

B

1. Common Sense Media helps parents and educators choose age-appropriate content. Check the various lists and recommendations on their site: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/youtube-alternatives>.
2. Comment on the profitability factor of the products you see. Could there be a difference between for-profit and not-for-profit media for kids in terms of potential developmental harm?

Final task

SafeYouTube was a place for parents and teachers to minimise the risk of their children and students being developmentally or psychologically harmed by inappropriate, damaging video content. That platform is now VideoLink (<https://video.link>). For a media class project, you and your partner have been asked to compile video playlists for English primary-age school

children (5–12 years old). The videos must meet the VideoLink requirements in order to be placed on its platform.

1. Browse the VideoLink website to learn more about it.
2. For each grade level (starting with Kindergarten; ending with 7th grade), find an age-appropriate YouTube video for each of the following subjects:
 - English: Reading and/or Writing
 - Math
 - Science(That's 24 videos in total.)
3. Give a brief description of each video. List the appropriate age and give it an educational quality rating on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best). Also, list the URL for each video.

Safe browsing!