International Advocacy
ONLINE WORKSHOP
1-3 September 2021

PARENTING EDUCATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Without a doubt digital technologies have revolutionized family life in a very short amount of time.

On one hand...

- Greater convenience & efficiencies ('tele-everything', "smart' devices, AI boom)

- Opportunities for personal expression, creativity, connectivity, learning & development potential

- Work & education as more flexible, less bounded by time or place
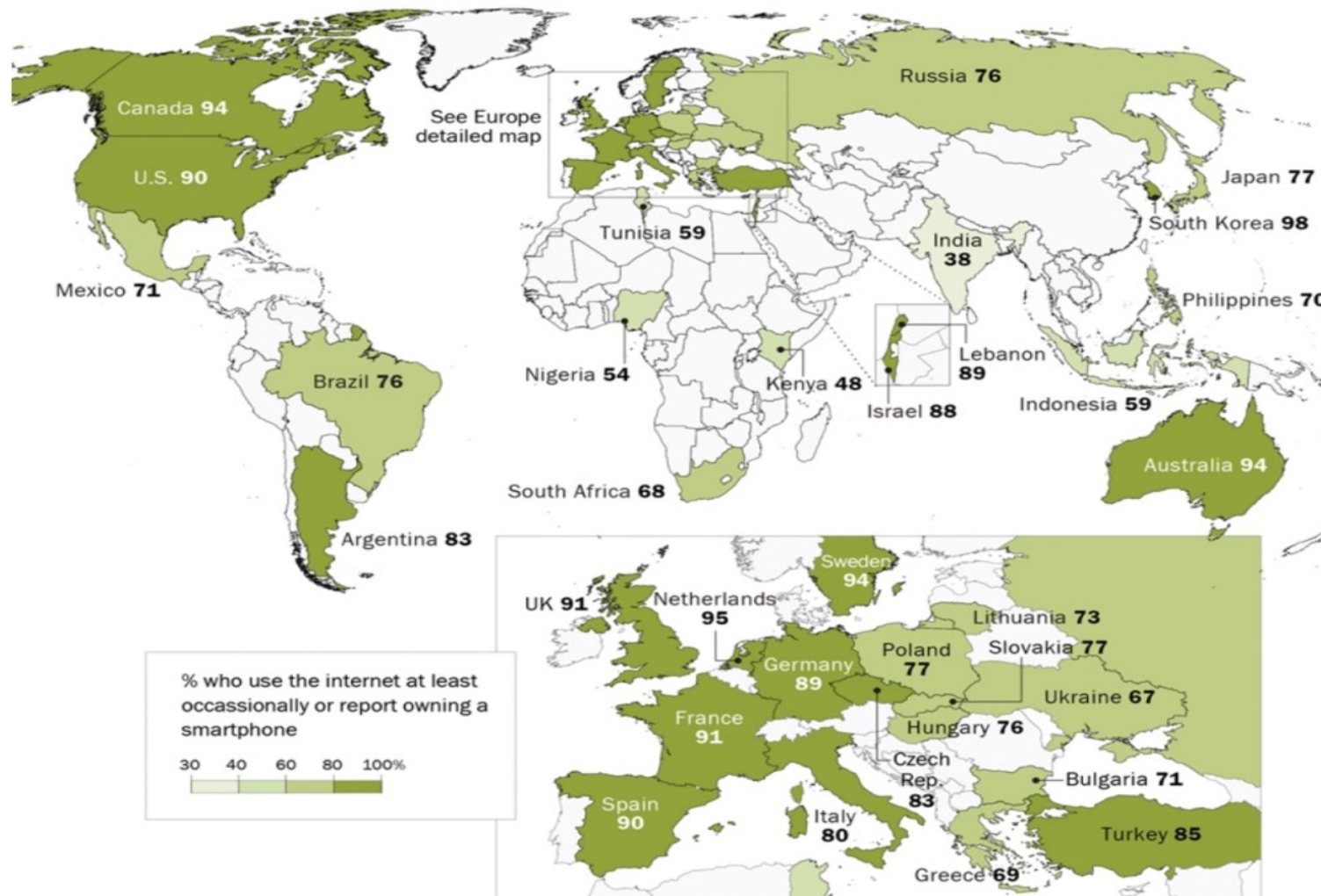 - *Adaptable worker skills valued*

Yet, on the other....

- Growing social and racial inequality, worsening security and privacy and further spread of misinformation

- Peoples' mental health will be challenged

- Job insecurities due to employment shifts to automation, on-demand work

Anderson, J., et al, (2021, February 18). *Experts say the "New Normal" in 2025 will be far more tech-driven, presenting more challenges*. https://www.pewresearch.org

Internet use is a prevalent part of many people's lives across the globe

% who use the internet, at least occasionally, or report owning a smartphone

Canada 94
U.S. 90
Mexico 71
Brazil 76
Argentina 83

See Europe detailed map

Russia 76
Japan 77
South Korea 98
Tunisia 59
India 38
Philippines 70
Nigeria 54
Kenya 48
Lebanon 89
Israel 88
Indonesia 59
South Africa 68
Australia 94

% who use the internet at least occassionally or report owning a smartphone

30 40 60 80 100%

UK 91
Netherlands 95
Sweden 94
Lithuania 73
Poland 77
Slovakia 77
Germany 89
Ukraine 67
France 91
Hungary 76
Czech Rep. 83
Bulgaria 71
Spain 90
Italy 80
Turkey 85
Greece 69

Source: Spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey. Q51 & Q53. U.S. data is from a Pew Research Center survey conducted Jan. 8-Feb. 7, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Internet access and use varies around the world. Although approximately 77% have internet access, this ranges from developed economies (e.g., US, EU) 98% to less developed economies (e.g., Africa, India), 13%.
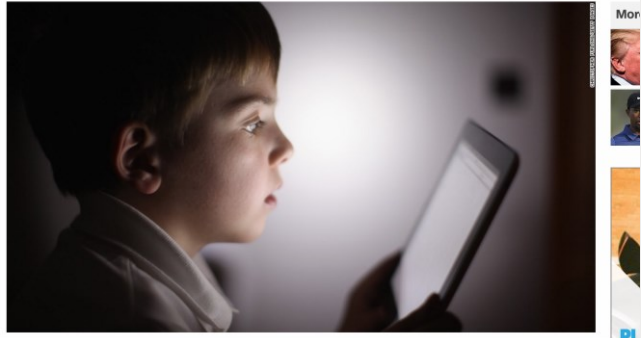
Schumacher, S. and Kent, N. (2020, April 2). *8 charts on internet use around the world as countries grapple with COVID-19.* Pew Internet and American Life. Retrieved from https://www.pewresearch.org/

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Is the Internet hurting children?

By Chelsea Clinton and James P. Steyer, Special to CNN
Updated 10:04 AM ET, Mon May 21, 2012

Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?

More comfortable online than out partying, post-Millennials are safer, physically, than adolescents have ever been. But they're on the brink of a mental-health crisis.

<1.5 years old — 0 hr
Avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting

1.5-2 years old — 0-1 hr
Introduce digital media, choose high-quality programming, and watch it with your children

2-5 years old — <1 hr
Limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media w/ children

6+ years old — Place Limits
Place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media

Parents are overwhelmed with concerns for their children's use (and wondering *how* to parent):

- Sleep
- Distraction from learning, socialization
- Possible addiction (e.g., internet gaming disorder)
- Obesity
- Bullying, damage to mental health
- Exposure to harmful images
- Exposure to online predators
- Security and privacy breeches

- …

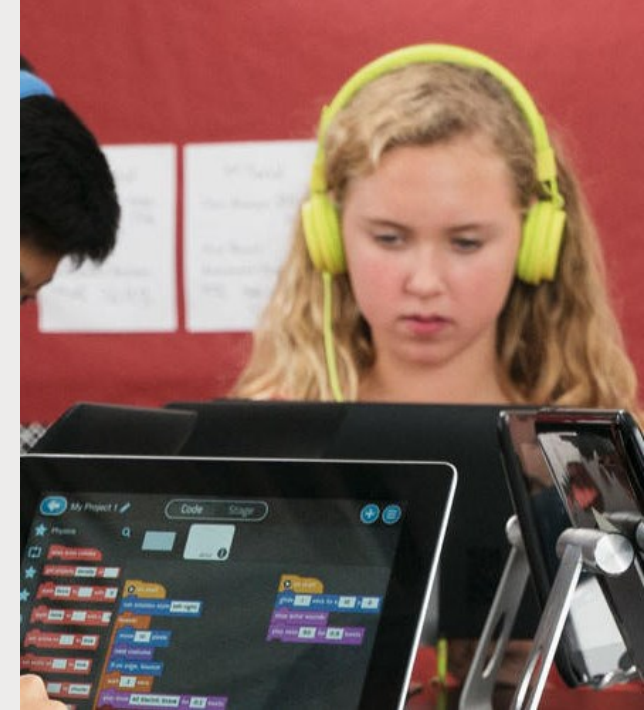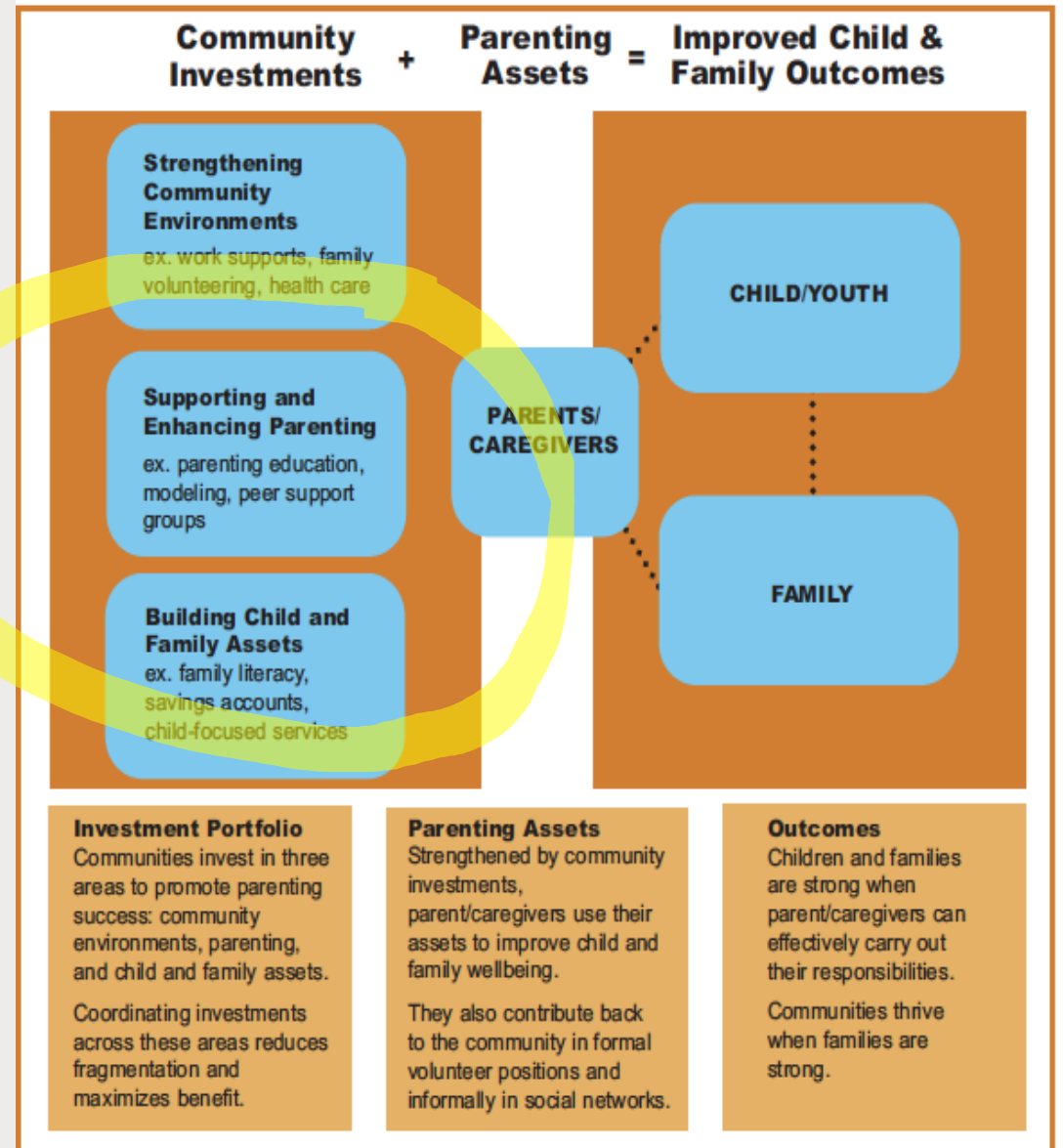4

Rarely do parents learn about the positives.

- Opportunities for learning and engagement.
- Creativity, collaboration, connectivity, and identity development.
- Personal expression
- Cultivating skills to use in adulthood

Parenting Education as an investment in families now and in the future

Community Investments + Parenting Assets = Improved Child & Family Outcomes

Strengthening Community Environments
ex. work supports, family volunteering, health care

Supporting and Enhancing Parenting
ex. parenting education, modeling, peer support groups

Building Child and Family Assets
ex. family literacy, savings accounts, child-focused services

PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS

CHILD/YOUTH

FAMILY

Investment Portfolio
Communities invest in three areas to promote parenting success: community environments, parenting, and child and family assets.

Coordinating investments across these areas reduces fragmentation and maximizes benefit.

Parenting Assets
Strengthened by community investments, parent/caregivers use their assets to improve child and family wellbeing.

They also contribute back to the community in formal volunteer positions and informally in social networks.

Outcomes
Children and families are strong when parent/caregivers can effectively carry out their responsibilities.

Communities thrive when families are strong.

Parenting education efparenting efforts can focus on specific child-rearing skills to enhance parent-child interaction… [and] how to **promote a child's physical and emotional health.**

The goals and objectives of parenting education programs may encompass a variety of parent and child outcomes.

Parenting education is … delivered in a variety of places and by a range of professionals and paraprofessionals with differing levels of preparation. (Zapeda et al., 2004, p. 10).


Community Investments + **Parenting Assets** = **Improved Child & Family Outcomes**
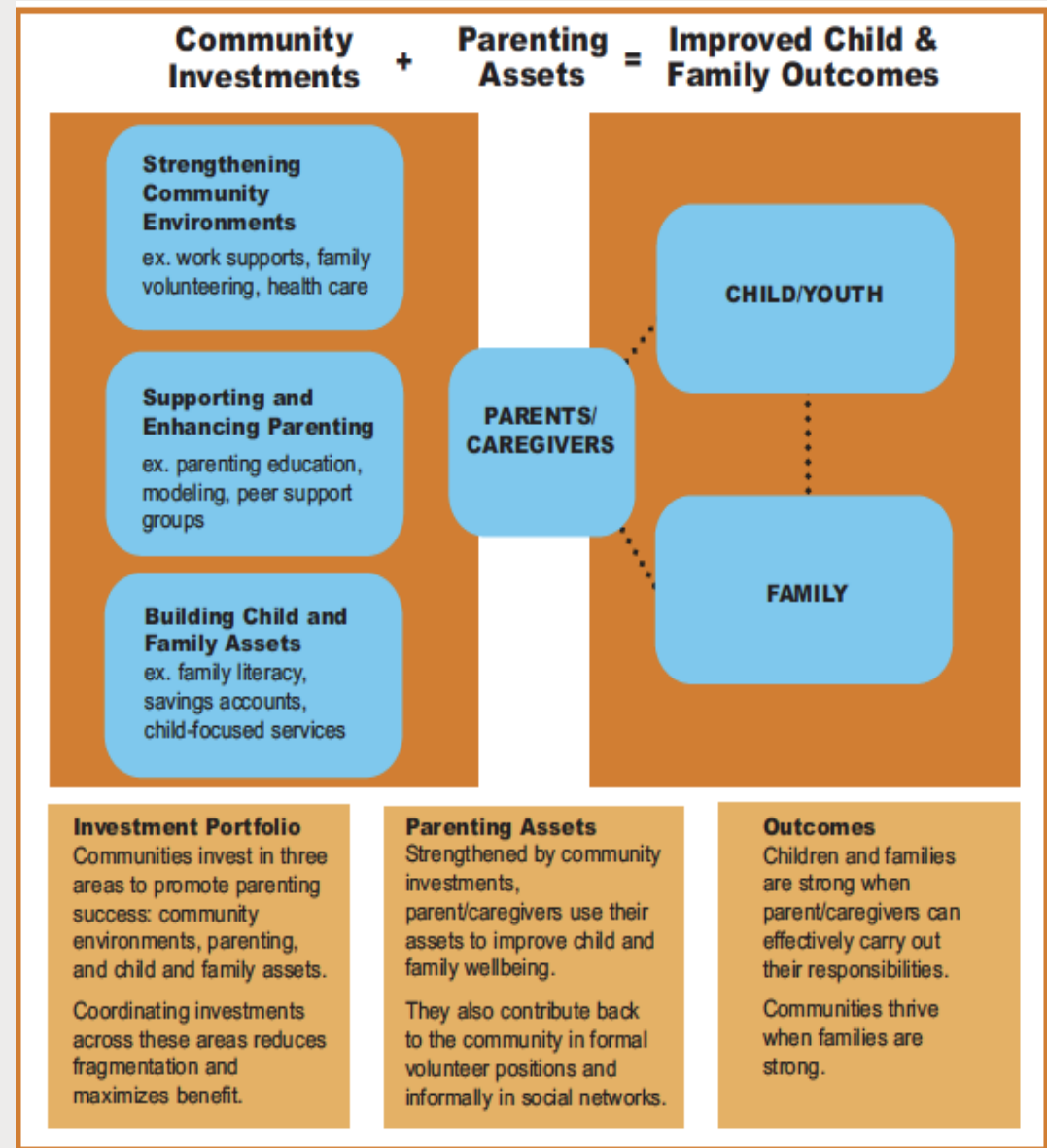
From Family Strengthening Policy Center (2007). The Parenting Initiative: Investing in Parents so Children & Youth Succeed.

TABLE 1 The universe of possible outcomes of family support and parenting support

| TARGET	SHORT TERM	LONG TERM
Child focused	Emotional and behavioural development	Reduced rates of child poverty
	Involvement in education and health monitoring	Reduced rates of mortality, stunting and wasting
	Reduced risk of maltreatment; increased safety	Higher immunization rates, breastfeeding, child safety
	Greater participation in decisions that affect child	Reduced risk of anti-social behaviour among children and adolescents
Parent focused	Improved skill levels	Improved emotional and mental health (stress, well-being)
	Improved attitudes and feelings, coping and confidence	Increased involvement of fathers
	Improved knowledge and understanding of child development	Continuous involvement in the child's life (when in the child's best interest)
	Improved knowledge of resources and support services available	
	Engagement in social networks and community	
Parent–child focused	Parent–child relationship	Increase in the use of positive discipline
	Attachment, bonding	Reduced rates of children's exposure to violence in the home
	Communication	
Family relations / Family condition and family functioning	Strengthened relationships	Reduced poverty
	Less social isolation	Reduced rates of family conflict
	Increased care role and support by other family members	Reduced rates of family breakdown
		Reduced rates of child placement in alternative care
Community / Capacity building	Development and operation of policy, programme or intervention adjusted to national conditions	Building up a portfolio of policies or interventions
	Use of volunteers	Building up a trained sectoral workforce or resource pool (including volunteers)
	Making available materials	Change in local or national values and practices
	Training and capacity building of staff and volunteers	Reduced rates of children's exposure to violence in the community and/or locality

Relationships

Content
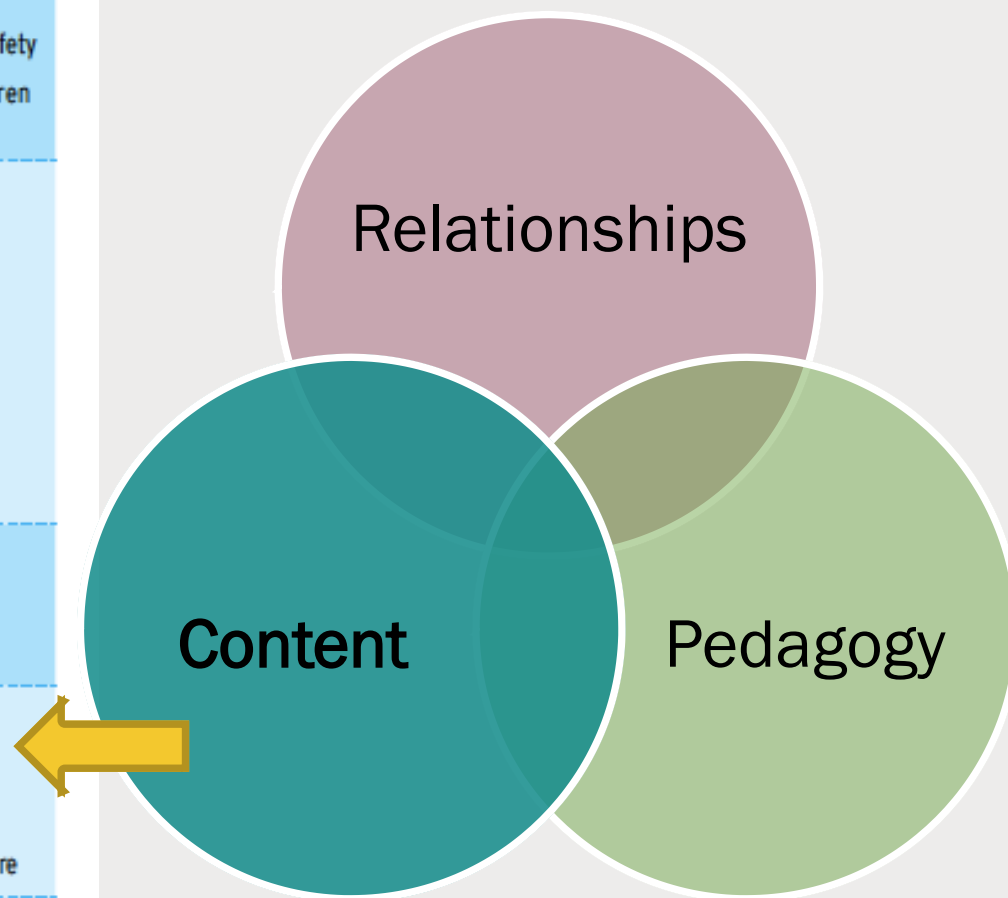
Pedagogy

"No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship." James Comer, MD, MPH

RELATIONSHIPS

PEDAGOGY
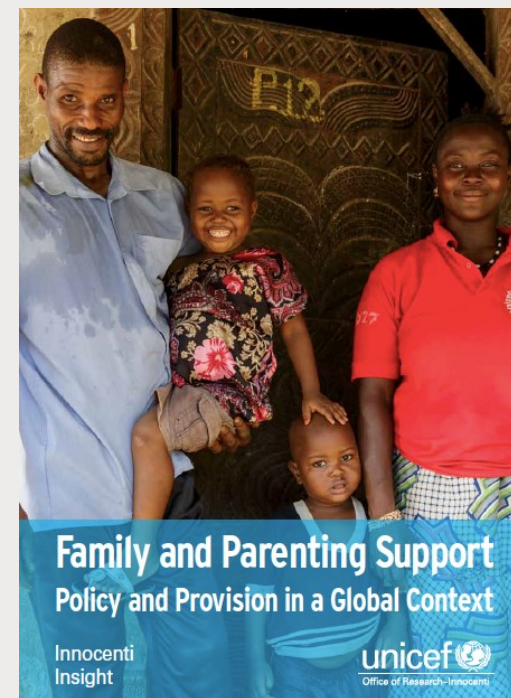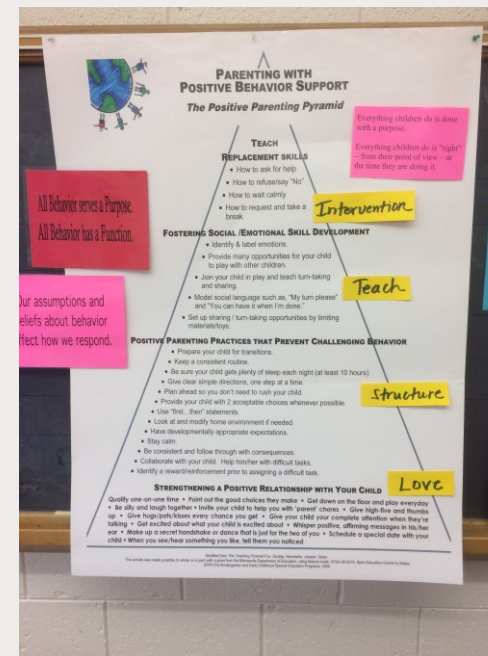
Parenting Education as the Promise in our Digital Age

Relationships

Technology

Pedagogy

Content
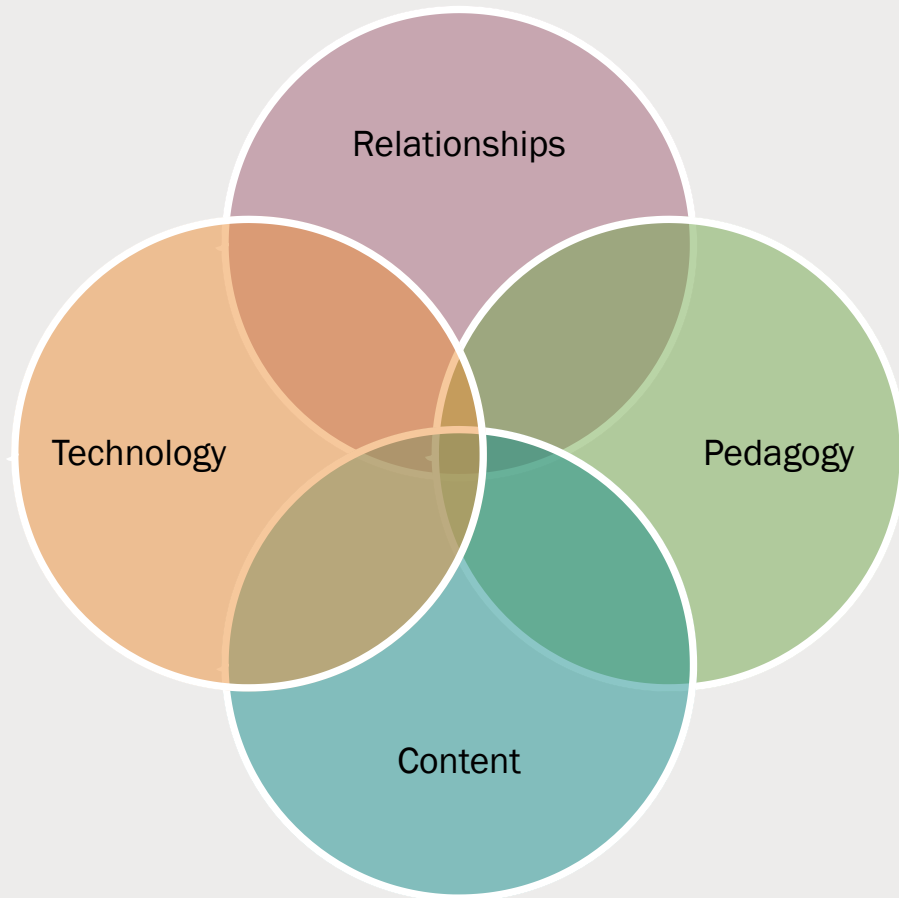
What matters is not only what advice is provided for parents but also how *it is provided. ... it should be* timely*, ..it should* reach parents from all walks of life*, in the* languages *that they and their children speak at home. Relatedly, it should be transparent to* parents how digital services engage with their children*, ..and* what parents can do if they consider there's a problem or injustice*. (Livingstone, 2021)*

Sample content aids on media literacy

Chile Ministry of Education, Center for Education & Technology

ORIENTACIONES DE **CIUDADANÍA DIGITAL** PARA LA FORMACIÓN CIUDADANA

BEING ONLINE
- Access and Inclusion
- Learning and Creativity
- Media and Information Literacy

WELL-BEING ONLINE
- Ethic and Empathy
- Health and Well-being
- ePresence and Communications

RIGHTS ONLINE
- Active Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Consumer Awareness

common sense media®   Find movies, books, and more ...

Movies & TV   Books   Apps & Games   Parents Need to Know
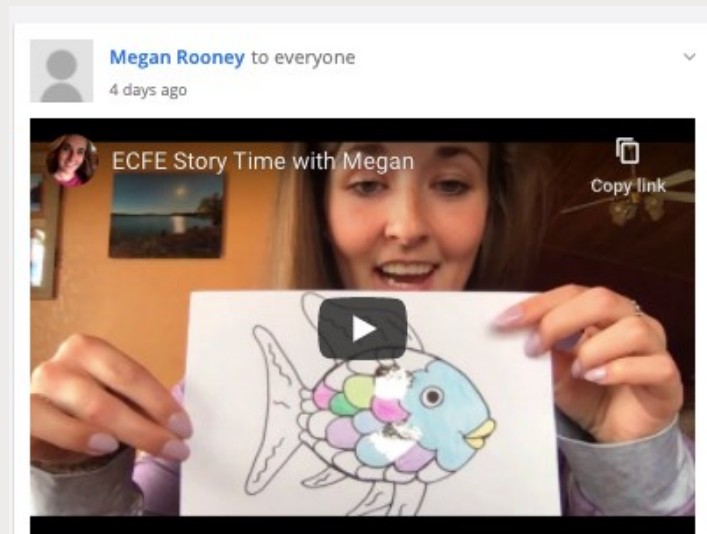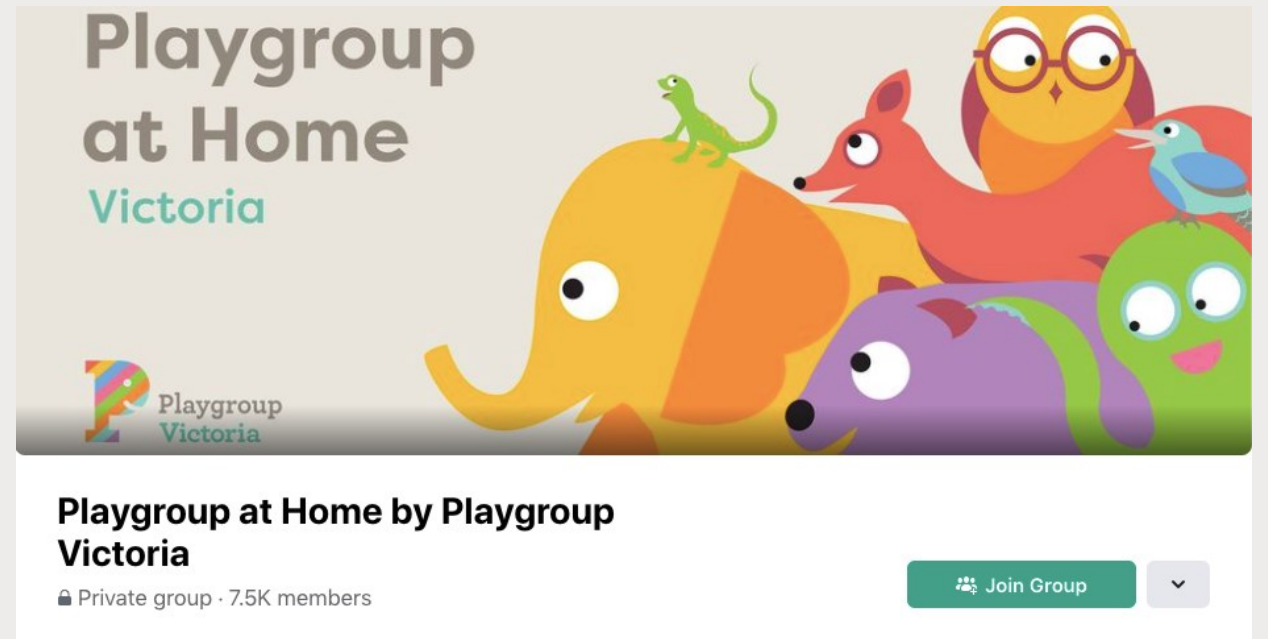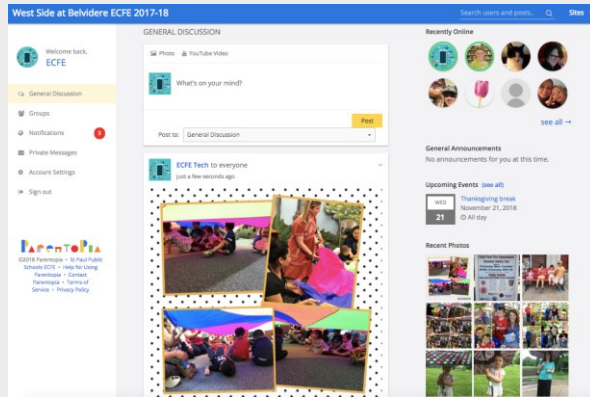
Facebook, Instagram, and Social

2020 Council of Europe Easy steps to help your child become a Digital Citizen

CLIQUE CLICK
Bringing up children in the digital age

Singapore Media Literacy Council

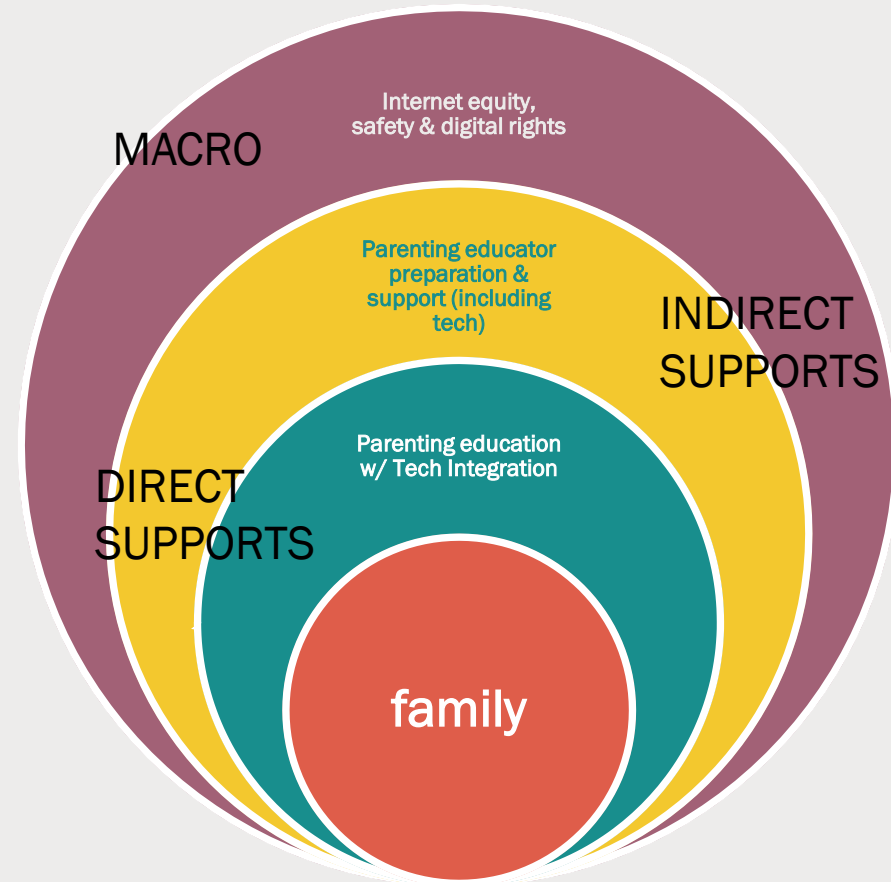# Technology-Integrated Parenting Education

Challenges to parenting educator preparation & support

- Globally, parenting education is highly fragmented and decentralized.

- Adheres to individualized standards of preparation and of practice. (US, NPEN.org)

- Many of those offering parenting education are trained to the specific curriculum or model.

- Unlike more unified professions (e.g., social work, teachers, therapists) there are few guidelines or work requirements specific to technology competence in parenting education.

- The majority (75%) of family educators report that their knowledge about technology and use of tech is learned 'on their own.' (Walker, 2019). During COVID-19, learning from peers was the primary way that educators adopted tech for program delivery (Walker, et al, 2021). Few have had courses related to technology in their preparation to teach.

- In short, *if we look to parenting education as the means for parent empowerment in the digital age, our policies MUST address the training, comfort and skill needs of professionals and paraprofessionals.*

Work across a policy ecology to strengthen parents and parenting education in the digital age.

1. Ensure internet access (equity), safety and promote digital rights. Especially children.

2. Include parenting education as a family support strategy and when addressing the range of children's outcomes.

3. Mobilize parenting education as the vehicle through which to Integrate digital technology content, make practice more effective, and to strengthen relationships.

4. Provide a system of supports and standards that empower parenting educator ability and confidence.

MACRO

Internet equity, safety & digital rights

INDIRECT SUPPORTS

Parenting educator preparation & support (including tech)

DIRECT SUPPORTS

Parenting education w/ Tech Integration

family

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