`I make up a silly name'

# Details

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## Topics

## Sample

29 children aged 6-10 from UK schools

## Implications For Parents About

Parental practices / parental mediation

## Implications For Educators About

Digital citizenship

## Implications For Policy Makers About

Creating a safe environment for children online

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Industry

# Abstract

Children under 11 are often regarded as too young to comprehend
the implications of online privacy. Perhaps as a result,
little research has focused on younger kids’ risk recognition
and coping. Such knowledge is, however, critical for
designing efficient safeguarding mechanisms for this age
group. Through 12 focus group studies with 29 children aged
6-10 from UK schools, we examined how children described
privacy risks related to their use of tablet computers and
what information was used by them to identify threats. We
found that children could identify and articulate certain privacy
risks well, such as information oversharing or revealing
real identities online; however, they had less awareness with
respect to other risks, such as online tracking or game promotions.
Our findings offer promising directions for supporting
children’s awareness of cyber risks and the ability to protect
themselves online.

# Outcome

"Our results showed that children’s
ability to fully recognise privacy risks has a direct impact
on their ability to consistently describe and manage these
risks: when they only vaguely recognised the risks, they
would try to make sense out of them using their knowledge or experiences, but would not always take effective action.
Expanding our understanding of children’s perceptions of
risks thus advances the goal of facilitating a child’s ability to
cope with risks from a young age, scaffolding this through
a knowledge acquisition, rather than a restrictive approach.
We hope that our findings will support both designers of new
privacy tools for children, as well as those of educational
material seeking to address gaps in their understanding of
risks and data use online.
Providing better privacy-by-design guidelines for protecting
children is essential both to influence, and meet the aspirational
goals of data protection (DP) initiatives being set
forth around the globe. Although the GDPR in the EU protects
the use of children’s data, the Children’s Online Privacy
Protection Act (COPPA) in the US has yet to provide
an explicit regulation of third-party tracking. This study has
highlighted some potential avenues by which future tools
might, through greater data literacy, lay the foundation for
having children understand, and start to exercise, the rights
such DP regulation grant them." (Zhao et al., 2019: 10-11)