Family dynamics and Internet use in Britain: What role do children play in adults' engagement with the Internet?

# Details

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* Social mediation
* Internet usage, practices and engagement
* Literacy and skills

## Sample

1498 internet users aged 14 years and older from the 2011 Oxford Internet Survey (OxIS); and 1032 Internet-using children aged 9–16 and one of their parents from the EU Kids Online survey

## Implications For Stakeholders About

Researchers

# Abstract

The importance of considering the family context in the adoption and use of the Internet are
well recognised. Supporters of the digital inclusion agenda often see children as a way to
increase the digital skills and use of the Internet by parents and older adults. However, there
is a limited amount of research that has explored whether this is really the case. Using two
nationally representative survey data sets from Britain, this paper aims to better understand
the links between children and adults’ use of the Internet within the same household. In this
paper, we ask what influence children have on adults’ Internet use, skills and engagement.
The paper concludes that while children might influence uptake, characteristics of the adult
(for example. education, age and social capital) are more important in relation to their skills
and engagement with the Internet.

# Outcome

"there is some evidence that having children in the household encourages adults to get home Internet access but after that, children’s presence, age, confidence and skills to use the Internet are not significantly related to the Internet access points an adult has, their skills to use the Internet or the breadth of their Internet use. Thus, the notion of young people as ‘digital champions’ is not supported by the analysis above. Far more important than the presence and characteristics of children in the household are the individual characteristics of the adult." (Eynon Helsper, 2014: 168-9).