Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and Social Media: A Literature Review and Thematic Analysis

# Details

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## Topics

* Internet usage, practices and engagement
* Literacy and skills
* Wellbeing
* Risks and harms
* Access, inequalities and vulnerabilities

## Sample

Twelve peer-reviewed papers on the topic young people with intellectual disabilities and social media, published in well-established and recognized journals between 2001 and 2017.

## Implications For Parents About

## Other Parent Implication

Need to focus on positive risk-taking as not about avoiding but handling risks

## Implications For Stakeholders About

## Other Stakeholder Implication

Professionals need to focus on positive risk-taking as not about avoiding but handling risks

# Abstract

Background: The aim of this review is to identify and analyse the research findings in the field of young people with intellectual disabilities and social media.
Method: Twelve peer-reviewed papers published in well-established and recognized journals between 2001 and 2017 were identified from electronic database searches (Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar), the Internet (Facebook) and correspondence with experts.
Results: Six topics were identified through thematic analysis of the texts: opportunities, risk and vulnerability, sexuality, identity, barriers and support.
Conclusion: The latest research on young people with intellectual disabilities is characterized by issues of risk, vulnerability and support. The concept of positive risk-taking is suggested for the development of methodological approaches in practice and research. Furthermore, vulnerability, online and offline activities and identity formation should be examined more closely, and there is a call for new research methods in this area, for example observations and netnography.

# Outcome

"Six topics were identified through thematic analysis of the texts: opportunities, risk and vulnerability, sexuality, identity, barriers and support.... The latest research on young people with intellectual disabilities is characterized by issues of risk, vulnerability and support. The concept of positive risk-taking is suggested for the development of methodological approaches in practice and research. Furthermore, vulnerability, online and offline activities and identity formation should be examined more closely, and there is a call for new research methods in this area, for example observations and netnography."
(Authors, in Abstract)