Parental controls: reimagining technologies for parent-child interaction

# Details

## Year

2017

## DOI

10.18420/ecscw2017-28

## Issued

2017

## Language

English

## Authors

Bieke Zaman ;Nouwen M.;Jafarinaimi N.

## Type

Report and working paper

## Topics

* Social mediation
* Learning
* Online safety and policy regulation

## Sample

Two co-design sessions with Belgian parents and their children aged 9 to 12 (3 parents, 3 children) and 13 to 15 (4 parents, 4 children)

## Implications For Parents About

Parental practices / parental mediation

# Abstract

This article questions existing approaches in designing parental controls and
puts forward a hypothesis to reimagine technologies to mediate parent-child interactions.
First, we present an overview of the current parental controls. Second, we explain the
gradual shift away from the idea of ‘harmful’ digital media in parental mediation studies
and introduce previous work in CSCW and HCI that has proposed solutions to support
discussions about digital media between parents and children. Then, we hypothesize that
an emphasis on collaboration and mutual learning might help researchers and designers
to rethink and reimagine technologies that support parent-child interactions with and
through digital media. Finally, we share our findings of two co-creation workshops with
children and parents on ways to instill parental involvement in children’s digital media
use. The workshop yielded insights on the differing views between parents and children
about how technologies might instill long-term negotiations based on parents’ and
children’s experiences, enriched by real-use data.

# Outcome

"We provided an overview of the current parental controls parents can use to keep their children safe online. These parental controls are successful in convincing parents who support a top-down management of digital media at home. We introduce the gradual shift away from the idea of ‘harmful’ digital media in parental mediation studies. The shift towards designing technologies to support parents in attaining mutual media agreements concerning screen time and the appropriateness of digital content. We put forward a hypothesis to support designers and researchers to reimagine how technologies can mediate parent-child interactions with and through digital media and to understand how technology might stimulate parent-child interactions." (Nouwen et al., 2017, pp. 12-13)