

Research Project Title:

Fostering children's digital skills development for safer and positive usage of ICTs and social-emotional wellbeing through the application and testing of innovative educational technologies across families and schools

Information Sheet

Large Scale Survey

I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please, take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you want to take part in the study.

What is the Purpose of the research?

The research project explores the positive and negative aspects of the use of technology and the development of children's 'digital skills' to safely benefit from the use of technologies. The perspectives of children, parents, and teachers will be considered. The project comprises 3 studies: (a) a large-scale survey; (b) an experiment on educational services; (c) focus groups. At this stage we are carrying out the first study, namely the large-scale survey.

Who is conducting this Research?

This research is being conducted by Mattia Messena, a PhD student in psychology (from the School of Medicine, University College Dublin), who is leading this project under the supervision of Dr Marina Everri together with colleagues from *CyberSafeKids*, a non-profit organization concerned at raising awareness on Internet Safety. This research project is supported by the Irish Research Council via an Employment Based Postgraduate Programme grant. The grant allows PhD students and universities to collaborate with organisations in projects aimed at developing new and transferable knowledge between academic and non-academic sectors.

What will be required of me if I decide to participate?

The entire project lasts from September 2020 to August 2024 and involves 10-11 years old children, their parents, and teachers. We are currently asking you to participate in the large-scale survey. The survey will go from March 2022 to June 2022. We will ask you to answer to an online questionnaire (you can use tablet, computer, or smartphone) about the use of technology in your household and how you regulate your children's use of technology.

What will be required of my child if I decide to participate?

Children will be asked to answer to a short online questionnaire (they can use tablet, computer, or smartphone) when they are at school, under the researcher's and their teachers' supervision. Questions will address children's use of technology and their social-emotional wellbeing.

Is there any risk of participating?

It is not anticipated that there would be risks from participating in the study.

How will my privacy be protected?

To ensure anonymity, no identifying information (i.e. name, date of birth, address, phone number) will be asked for. In addition, no third party will have access to this information, only members of the research team. We will ask you to read and sign an informed consent form online before starting the questionnaire.

What will happen to my data?

The data collected in this study will take the form of an excel file. All data will be anonymous. Data will be stored according to the Data Protection Acts 1998 to 2003 until they will be disseminated (published in scientific journals or presented to meetings and conferences) and will be retained on a password-protected device that only the researchers have access to. In addition, the collected data will be used to develop educational services to promote a safer use of technologies.

Can I withdraw from the study at any stage?

YES! Your involvement in the study is completely voluntary and you are welcome to withdraw yourself from the research without providing a reason and you will not be penalised for doing so.

Who do I talk to if I have concerns after the study is finished?

For any concerns related to your participation in the research study, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the investigators and/or *CyberSafeKids* using the following contact references:

Investigator:
Mattia Messena
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Thank you.