

Workshops

Parents Chair: Maria Rossidou, Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, Cyprus

- **Digital Parenting** – Rhea Verheul, Ombudsperson for Children's Office, The Netherlands



ALWAYS ONLINE

Digital parenting

ENOC Conference workshop
25 September 2019



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SOME FACTS ABOUT THE NETHERLANDS

- Nearly 100% of children aged 12-18 have access to the internet at home
- There are plenty initiatives to help parents navigate the digital world, reach unclear
- Digital literacy is not mandatory in schools



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HOW DO PARENTS FEEL ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S USE OF DIGITAL MEDIA?

- **56%** talk with their children about their online activities at least once a week – but not about the most difficult subjects
- **55%** worry about what their children see online
- **83%** monitor their children's online behavior in some way

Source: Safer internet centre (2019). Ouders en digitale opvoeding.



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HOW DO CHILDREN FEEL ABOUT THEIR USE OF DIGITAL MEDIA?

- **52%** would like to cut down on screen time
- **30%** feels uneasy when not online
- **20-30%** have experienced online harassment or bullying at least once
- **A vast majority** still think (social) media have a positive or neutral impact on their lives

Sources: Safer internet centre (2019). Ouders en digitale opvoeding. I&O Research (2019). Opvoeden: de balans tussen vrijheid geven en verantwoordelijkheid nemen.



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CHILDREN: DIGITAL PARENTING ≠ DIGITAL MONITORING



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THE DIGITAL NATIVE MYTH



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GOOD DIGITAL PARENTING

- No one size fits all approach
- Children need guidance (from their parents and others)
- Children appreciate genuine interest
- Monitoring can be OK, to a certain extent

→ Requirement: Sufficient tools and training for parents



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Parents Chair: Maria Rossidou, Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, Cyprus

- **Age of Consent** – Karen McCauley, Ombudsman for Children's Office, Ireland





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‘Age of Digital Consent’

**ENOC Annual Conference
Belfast, Northern Ireland
25-26 September 2019**

**Dr Karen McAuley
Ombudsman for Children’s Office
25 September 2019**

'Age of Digital Consent'

- GDPR and Children
- 'Age of Digital Consent' – Developments and debate in the Republic of Ireland
- Reflections

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

- Came into force on 25 May 2018
- Aims to give people more control over the use of their personal data

GDPR and Children

Children, like adults, are data subjects

No mention of children under previous EU data protection law

GDPR does not include a definition of 'child', but it does make children visible:

- explicit references to children
- new emphasis on the importance of protecting children's personal data
- children merit special protection because they may be less aware of the risks, consequences and safeguards involved in processing and of their rights as data subjects

GDPR and Children's Rights as Data Subjects

- As data subjects, children have rights in relation to their personal data
- Children have the same rights as adults over their personal data
- The GDPR does not address the question of when children should exercise their data protection rights themselves
- However, child-specific protections are attached to some of its provisions
- One of these provisions is Article 8 – the 'age of digital consent'

Article 8 – Age of Digital Consent

The GDPR sets out the lawful bases for processing people's personal data (Article 6)

One lawful basis is where a person gives consent to the processing of their personal data for one or more specified purposes (Article 6(1)(a))

Article 8 sets out when it is lawful for **information society services offered directly to a child** to process a child's personal data on the basis of consent:

- lawful on the basis of the child's consent "where the child is at least 16 years old"
- where the child is below the age of 16, it is lawful "only if and to the extent that consent is given or authorized by the holder of parental responsibility over the child"

Member States can provide by law for a lower age "provided that such lower age is not below 13 years"

Legislating for the Age of Digital Consent

- **2016** – Department of Justice and Equality holds a public consultation on age of digital consent.
- **May 2017** – General Scheme of the Data Protection Bill 2017 is published. No provision made for the age of digital consent - a separate Government decision is to be made on this.
- **July 2017** – Cabinet decides to set the age of digital consent at 13.
- **November 2017** – Cross-party parliamentary committee on Justice and Equality recommends that the age of digital consent should be set at 13 and that this should be reviewed at appropriate levels.
- **February 2018** – Data Protection Bill 2018 is published and provides for 13 as the age of digital consent.
- **February to May 2018** – The Bill makes it way through the Oireachtas (parliament). The proposal to set 13 as the age of digital consent is debated at different stages.
- **May 2018** – Data Protection Act 2018 signed into law by the President. Section 31 sets the age of digital consent at 16 and requires a review of the operation of this provision to start no more than 3 years after the provision comes into operation.

Debate on the Age of Digital Consent

Shared concerns about children's online safety

- Commercial exploitation of children
- Children's exposure to harmful content and behaviours online
- Heightened risks to children offline (e.g. processing of geolocation data)

Other issues raised, including:

- Children's capacities
- Duties, roles and capacities of parents
- Intelligibility of providers' terms and conditions
- Status of verification measures

Divergent views about age of digital consent

- The nature and extent of the protection the age of digital consent can offer
- Whether setting the age at 13 or 16 would afford children more protection

Developments about Children's Online Safety

Aug 2019
Parliamentary
Committee
consultation on
online harassment
& harmful
communications

Sept 2016
LRC report on
Harmful
Communications
& Digital Safety

May 2017
Harassment,
Harmful
Communications
& related
Offences Bill 2017

March 2019
DCCAE
consultation on
regulation of
harmful content
online & AVMSD

May 2018
GDPR comes into
force + Data
Protection Act
2018 enacted

Nov 2017
Digital Safety
Commissioner Bill
2017

Dec 2018
DPC consultation
on children's
personal data &
children's rights
as data subjects

July 2018
Government
publishes Action
Plan for Online
Safety

March 2018
Parliamentary
Committee report
on cyber security
for children and
young adults

Giving Meaning to the Age of Digital Consent

- **Verification** - appropriate, effective tools
- **Transparency** – concise, clear, accessible information

Should providers be able to rely on consent as a lawful basis for processing children's personal data:

- if the information they provide is not concise, clear and accessible?
- if they don't have effective verification methods in place?

Thank you



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- **Parental Use of Digital Technology** – Donna Kernaghan, Barnardo's Northern Ireland



Connections:

Parenting Infants in a Digital World

DR DONNA KERNAGHAN

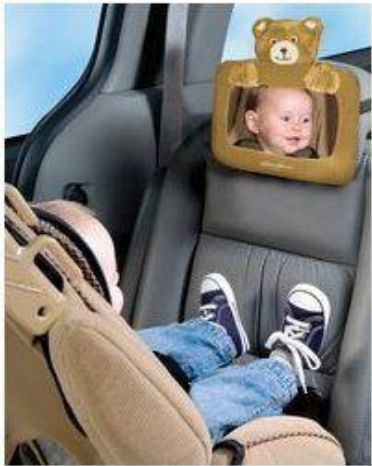
BARNARDO'S NORTHERN IRELAND

Overview

- ❖ Context
- ❖ Aims and Objectives
- ❖ Methodology
- ❖ Results
- ❖ Conclusions



Generation Alpha



What is Infant Mental Health?



THE CAPACITY TO DEVELOP
CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OTHERS



THE ABILITY TO EXPRESS
AND MANAGE EMOTIONS



THE CONFIDENCE TO
EXPLORE AND LEARN ABOUT
THEIR ENVIRONMENT

'Five to Thrive' Approach



RESPOND

Respond to your child by copying their facial expressions and sounds and give them time to respond back.

RELAX

Take your child out for a walk and talk about everything you see and hear.

TALK

Read a book to your baby or toddler and give your child a chance to join in.




CUDDLE

Pretend your child's favourite toy needs cuddles for comfort because it is upset or ill. Show your child how to comfort and talk calmly to the toy to make it feel better.

PLAY

Engage in simple games such as Peekaboo. Encourage your child to copy you and take it in turns to play this game.

A black tablet with a silver bezel is shown at a slight angle. The screen is white and displays the text 'TECHNOFERENCE: Everyday interruptions in interpersonal interactions or time spent together that occur due to digital and mobile devices' in a black, sans-serif font. The text is centered and occupies most of the screen area. The tablet has a home button on the right side of the bezel.

TECHNOFERENCE: Everyday interruptions in interpersonal interactions or time spent together that occur due to digital and mobile devices

McDaniel and Radesky, 2017

Aims and Objectives

1. Gain an understanding of parents' and infants' use of digital technology in everyday home life and how this may impact on parent-infant interactions;
2. Explore parents' awareness of infant mental health with specific reference to the 'Five to Thrive' approach and the parenting styles used with infants;
3. Identify which areas parents of infants could benefit from additional support in order to improve service delivery.

Methodology

- ❖ Participants identified through seven Barnardo's NI services
- ❖ Barnardo's UK wide Research Ethics Committee Approval
- ❖ Anonymous questionnaire
- ❖ Online and paper versions available
- ❖ Conducted in March 2018
- ❖ Analysis conducted using SPSS

Demographics

Total of 199 participants

Mainly females in their thirties

Most had two children or one child

Over 40.0% had above NI weekly income

Total number of children 369 with 246 aged 0 – 3 years old

Table 1: Number of Infants by Age Category

Age Category in Years	Number of Children
0 - 1	94
1- 2	77
2 - 3	75
Total	246

Figure 1: Most Common Devices in Home

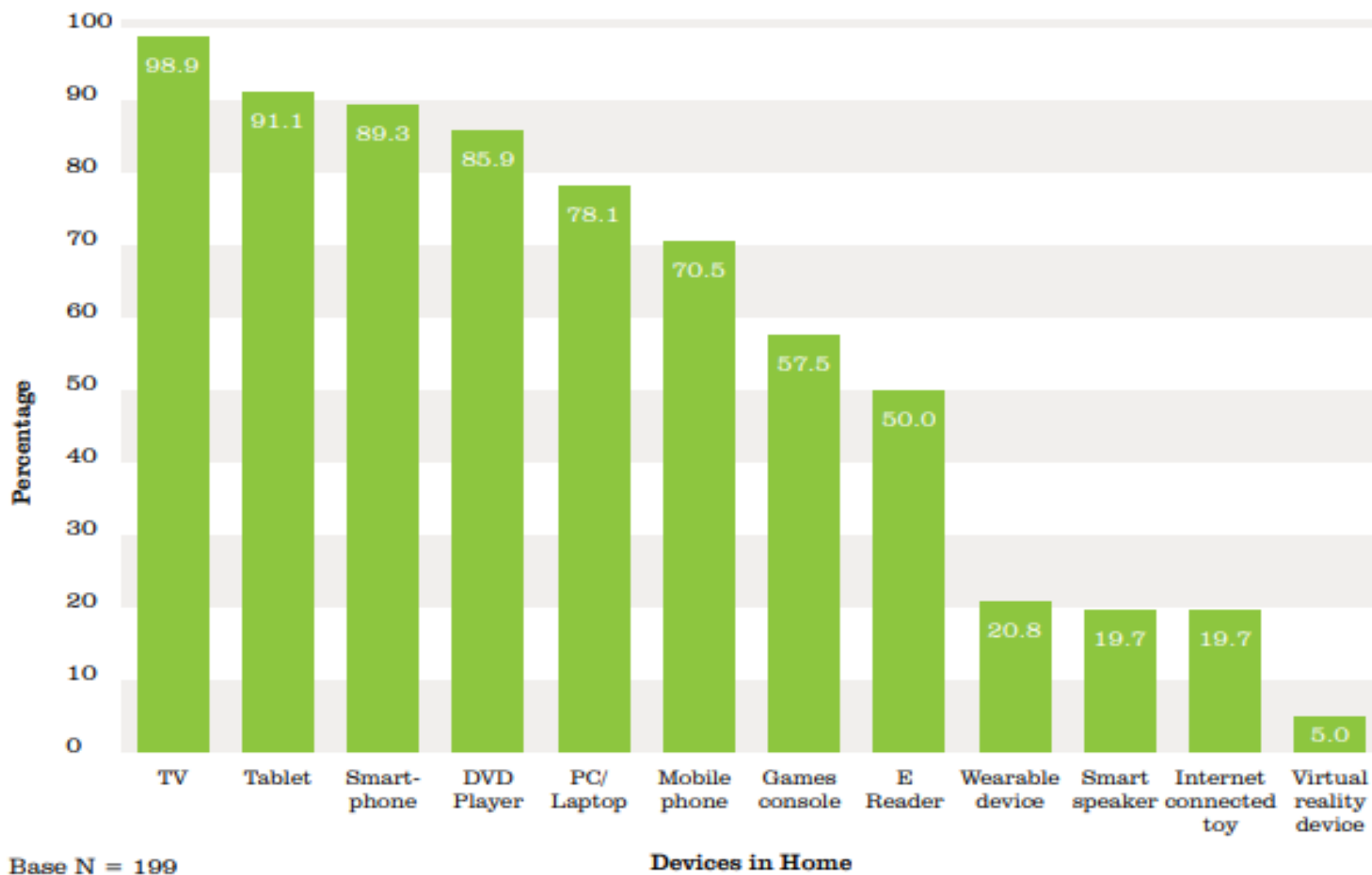
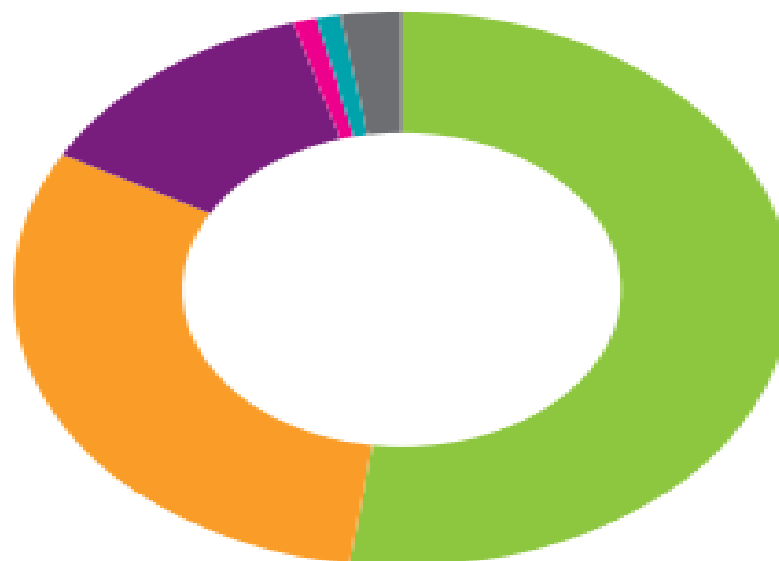


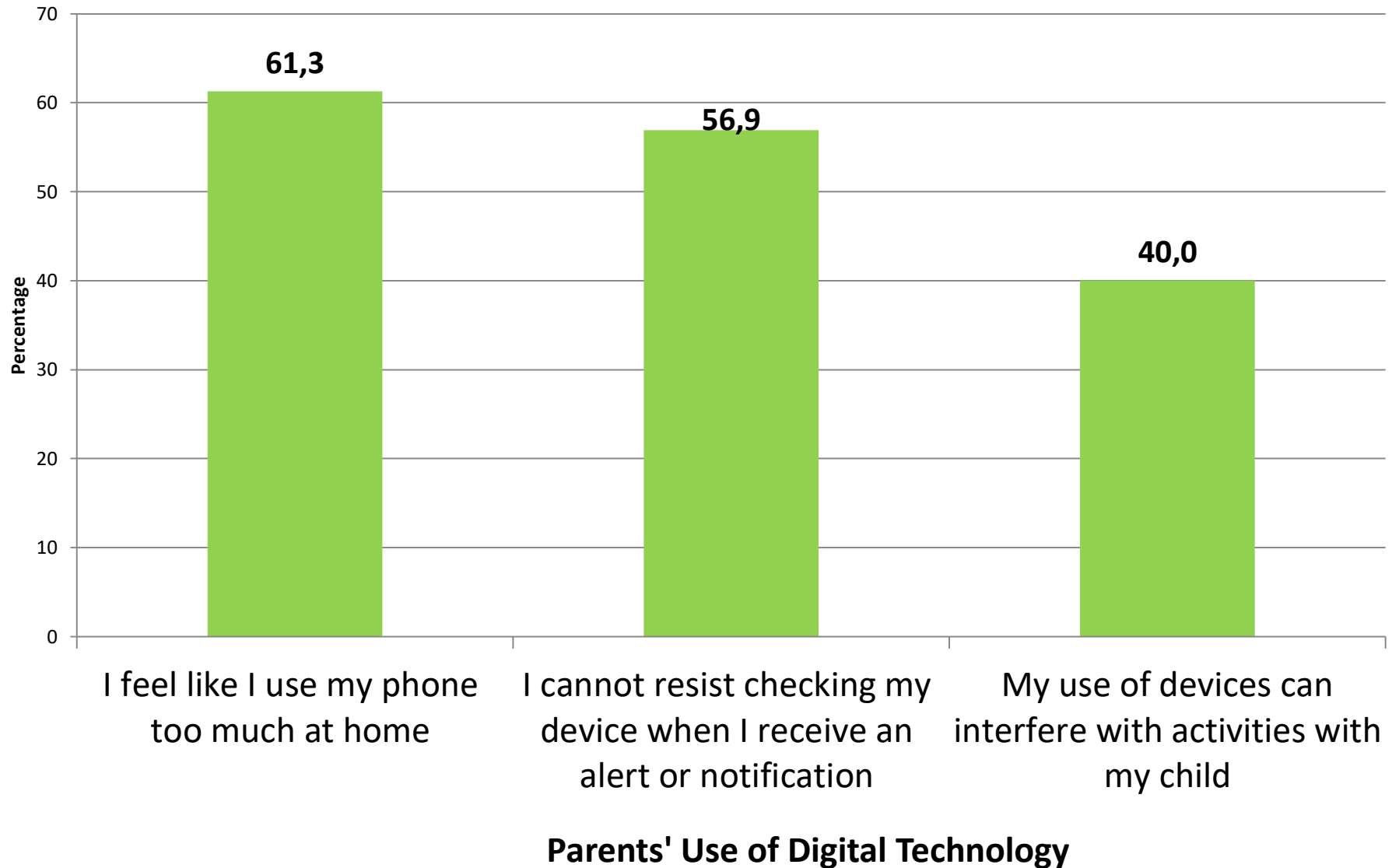
Figure 2: Frequency that Parents Accessed Internet at Home



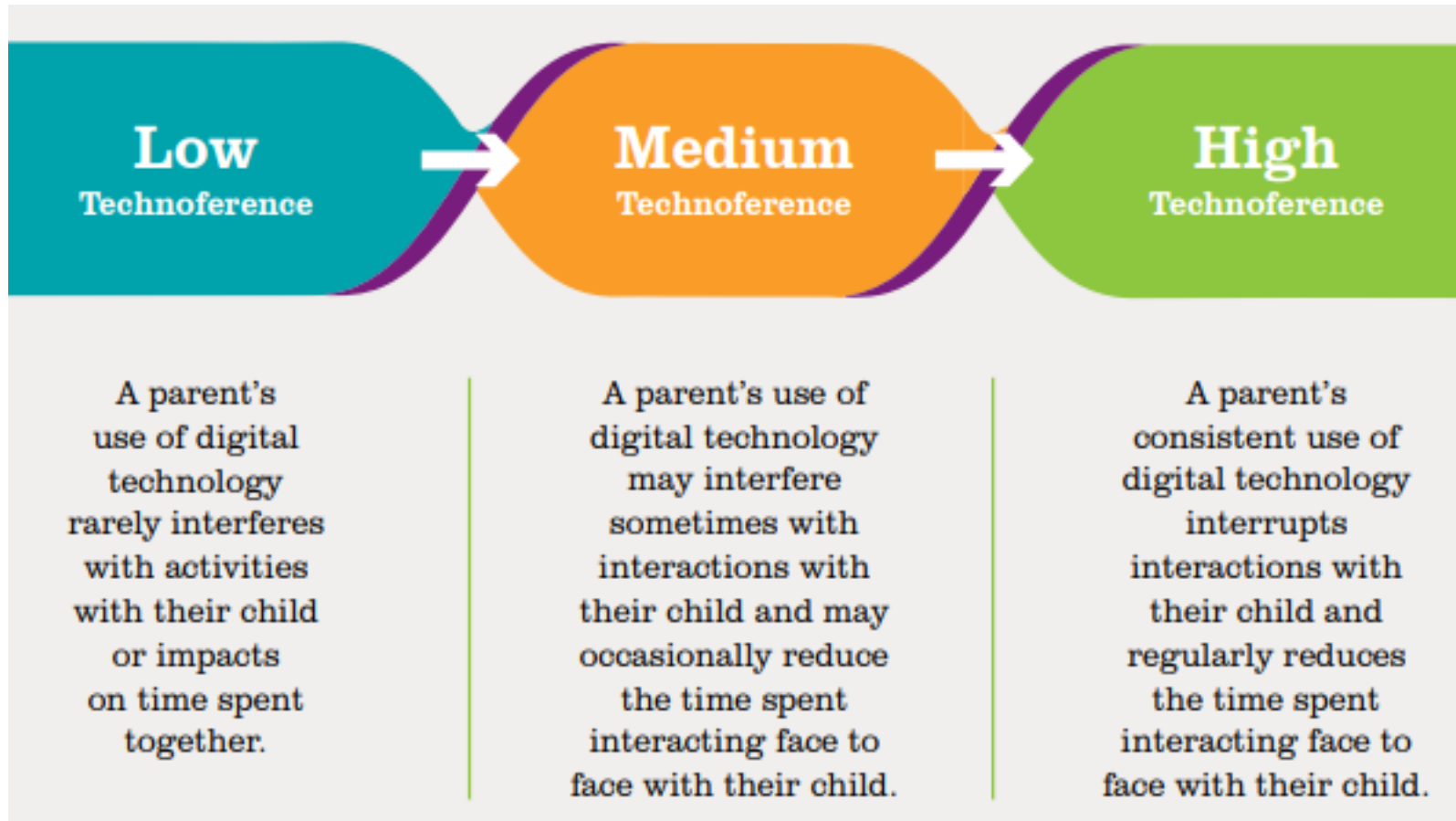
52.1%	Online several times a day
30.9%	Online daily or almost daily
12.4%	Online almost all the time
1.0%	At least weekly
1.0%	Hardly ever
2.5%	Never

Base N = 199

Figure 3: Parents' Use of Digital Technology at Home



Levels of Technoference



Daily Technoference Examples

44.0% use phone/tablet when infant is playing under their supervision

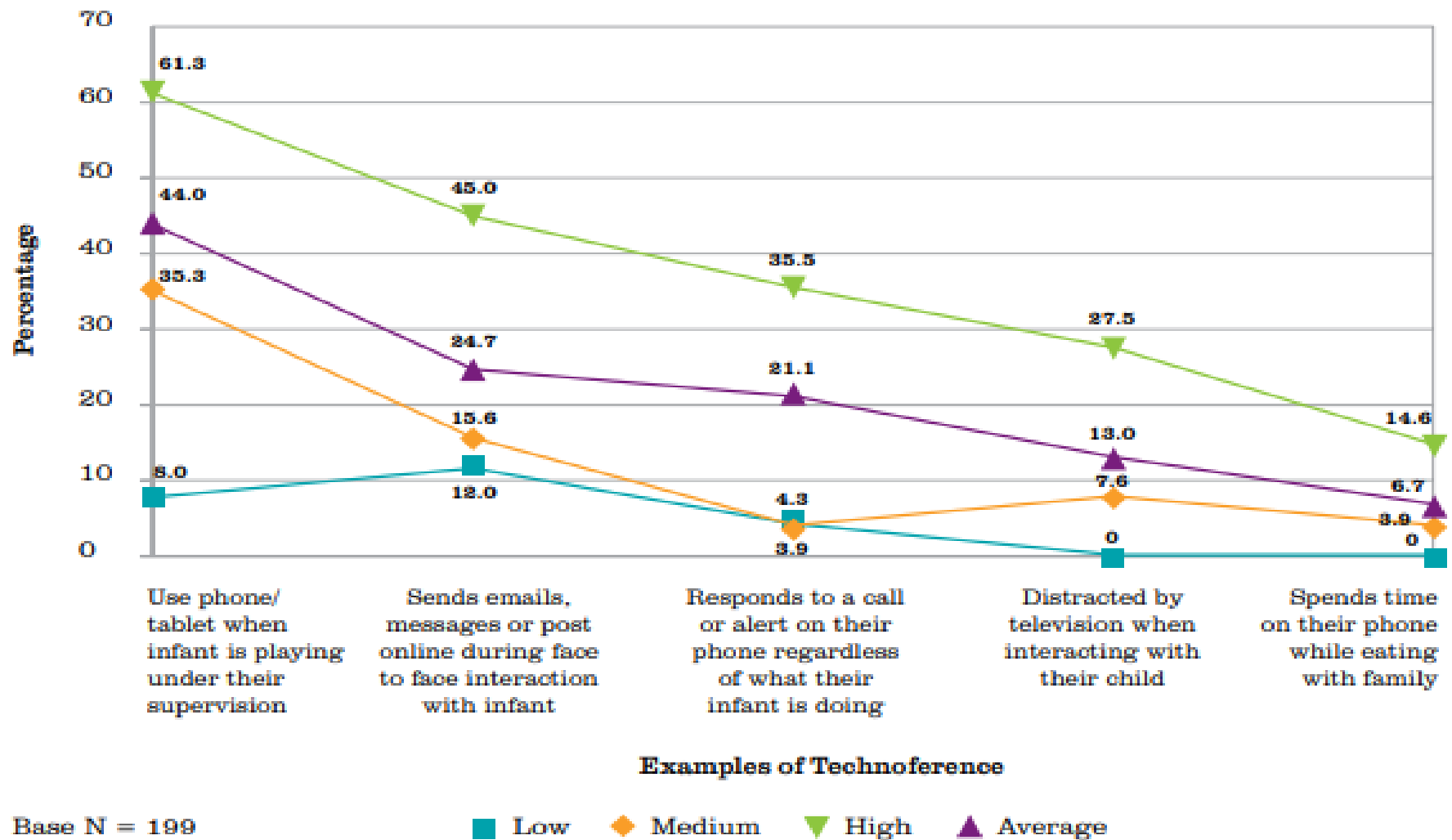
24.7% send emails, messages or post online during face to face interaction with infant

21.1% respond to a call or alert on their phone regardless of what their infant is doing

13.0% distracted by television when interacting with their child

6.7% spend time on their phone while eating with family

Figure 4: Daily Examples of Interference in Parent-Child Interactions by Levels of Technoference



Impact of Technoference on Parenting

- ❑ Participants with high levels of use at home were more likely to permit their child to use devices to access a range of content **alone** for **longer periods of time**.
- ❑ The greater parents' own interaction with devices and the internet at home, the less likely they were to feel they were being a **good role model** to their child in terms of how they used digital technology.
- ❑ Parents with high use of digital technology at home were more likely to have **no rules limiting infants' use of digital technology** compared to those with medium or low levels of use.

Table 2: Participants' Daily Use of Digital Technology as a Parenting Tool

Daily Use of Digital Technology for:	Infant Age Categories		
	0 – 1 %	1 – 2 %	2- 3 %
Bedtimes	6.4	11.7	5.3
Busy at home (e.g. housework)	20.2	29.9	20.0
Busy outside the home (e.g. shopping)	2.1	6.5	4.0
Car/Travelling	6.4	10.4	5.3
Mealtimes	8.5	7.8	6.6
Remove as a consequence of unwanted behaviour	5.3	10.4	9.3
Reward for good behaviour	7.4	14.3	17.3
When child is upset	7.4	11.7	13.3
Use as a distraction from unwanted behaviour	2.1	7.8	10.6



58.3% would like guidance around **screen time** for infants



51.3% would like information about **online safety** for young children



47.2% would like information **about children's use** of digital technology



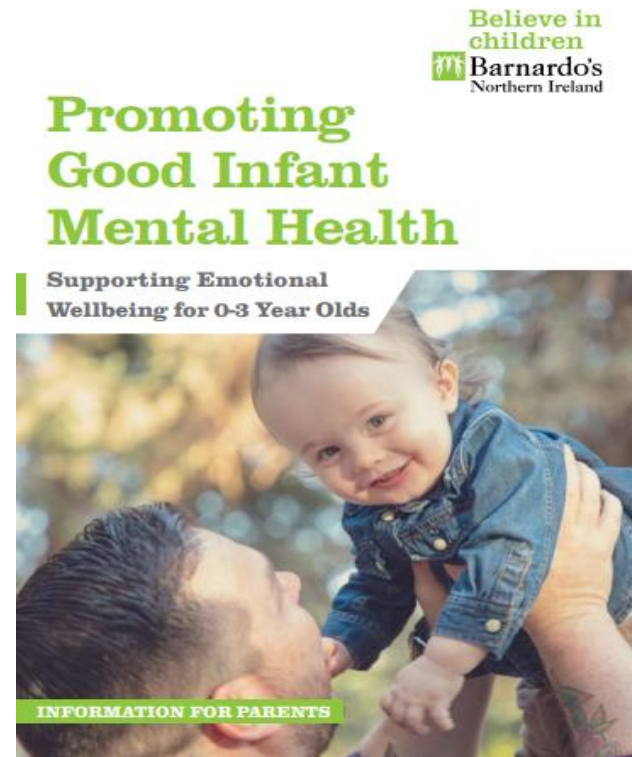
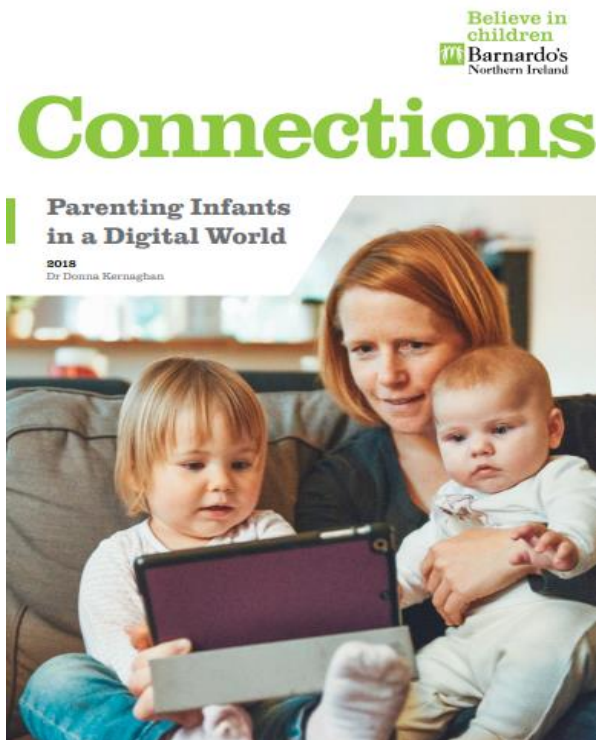
46.2% would like information about **educational benefits** of online apps

Guidance around Digital Technology for Parents

Conclusions

- ❖ Parents' use of digital technology at home does interfere with their interactions with children to varying degrees.
- ❖ Majority of parents had medium to high levels of technoference
- ❖ Infants with parents with high levels of technoference are more likely to:
 - (i) use devices alone for longer periods of time;
 - (ii) have less limits around their use of digital technology.
- ❖ Lack of evidence based advice for parents around many aspects of parenting in a digital age
- ❖ See full report for recommendations www.barnardos.org.uk

Further Reading.....



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