

Digital Natives: The Impact of Social Media on Child Development

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Abstract. This article examines the pervasive influence of social media on child development, focusing on cognitive, emotional, and social domains. With children increasingly exposed to digital environments, it is crucial to understand how these platforms affect their growth. The study integrates findings from psychology and education to evaluate both positive and negative consequences. Key themes include identity formation, attention span, and peer interaction, offering essential insights for parents and educators striving to manage children's social media use effectively.

Keywords: social media, children, development, psychology, education

Introduction: In the digital age, children's interactions with social media platforms begin at an increasingly young age, raising concerns about the implications for their development. This research addresses the urgent need to comprehend the multifaceted effects of social media on children. By synthesizing data from psychological studies and educational insights, we provide a nuanced perspective on how social media influences cognitive development, emotional well-being, and social skills. Our analysis highlights both opportunities and challenges presented by digital engagement, aiming to guide parents, educators, and policymakers in fostering healthy digital habits among children.

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