## Parenting in the age of social media

A poll of about 600 parents showed that children in Singapore are immersed in the social media world at an ever-younger age. Parents are worried, but many are stuck trying to deal with the challenge. Here are some key findings.

# AT A GLANCE

said they are concerned about their children's use of social media About 80% of parents

monitor how much time their children spend online, and/or what platforms they use



seven to 12 said they had Instagram accounts

### Nearly half in a figure of parents

with secondary school children fear that setting limits on social media use could affect their relationship

#### **DEVICES USED DAILY BY CHILDREN (%)**

	Overall	Aged 7 to 9	Aged 10 to 12	Aged 13 to 16	
Smartphone	84	67	8	5	98
Personal laptop	32	13	30	51	
Family laptop	36	44	37	27	
Tablet/iPad	52	65	51	40	
Others	5	7	5	5	

#### AGE WHEN THEY STARTED USING SOCIAL MEDIA (%)

3 years old or below	9	17	6	4
4–6 years old	25	42	24	11
7–9 years old	39	41	46	31
10–12 years old	22	0	24	40
13–16 years old	5	0	0	14

#### **TYPES OF PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE (%)**

Instagram 50 25 46 78   Facebook 52 41 48 65   Twitter 14 6 11 23   WhatsApp 72 43 76 76   Telegram 18 11 13 28	
Twitter   14   6   11   23     WhatsApp   72   43   76   9	3
WhatsApp   72   43   76	
Telegram 18 11 13 28	94
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Snapchat 13 5 13 21	
TikTok 36 22 38 46	
YouTube   65   58   62   75	5
t Tumblr 2 1 2 3	
۲ <mark>/h</mark> Others 9 14 8 6	

NOTE: This question was posed to parents who reported that they knew some or all of the social media accounts their children have.

#### TIME SPENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA (%)

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Under 1 hour	24	43	25	4
1–2 hours	29	31	37	20
2–4 hours	26	15	25	38
4–6 hours	10	5	5	20
More than 6 hours/ Outside of school and besides sleeping, he or she is on social media all the time	7	3	5	11
l don't know	4	3	3	7

#### **TYPES OF ONLINE HARASSMENT (%)**

Cyber bullying	79	86		93 63	
Sexual grooming	30	43	21	26	
Sexual harassment	45	43	57	37	
Others	15	7	7	26	

NOTE: This question was posed only to parents who reported that their children had faced online harassment. The poll is subject to a margin of error that is comparable with other research surveys.

Source: MILIEU INSIGHT STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS