

“You Need to Learn with Experience” Parent-Child Conversations and Ethical Generative AI Use



PRESENTER:

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INTRODUCTION

- **Generative artificial intelligence** (genAI) is a type of artificial intelligence that processes large amounts of data to create new content¹
- With major technology companies adopting genAI (e.g., Google), it is rapidly becoming integrated into families' daily lives.
- Exploring how families talk about genAI may highlight opportunities for targeted education and ethical guidance to promote responsible use.

Research Questions

1. How do parent-child conversations about genAI differ by child age?
2. What strategies do parents use to guide children's moral reasoning?

METHODS

PARTICIPANTS

14 parent-child dyads from the Greater Vancouver Area.

- N = 14 parent-child dyads (10-year-olds and 12-year-olds; 64% boys; 93% mothers)

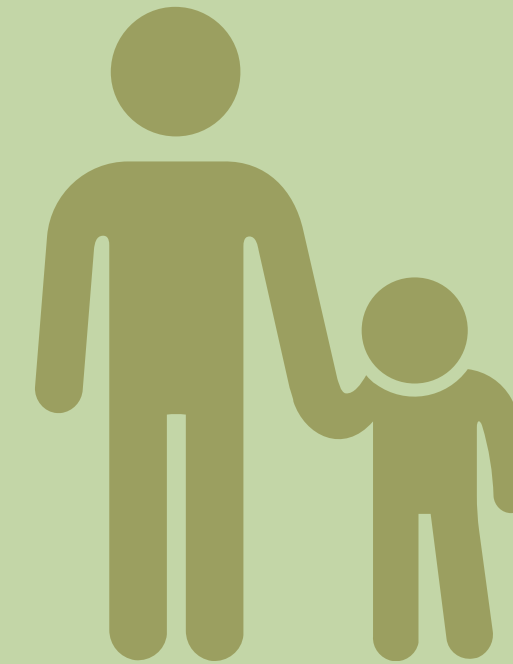
PROCEDURE

Parent-child dyads were prompted to discuss the “good” and “bad” uses of genAI for five minutes.

Themes Identified in Parent-Child Conversations

10-year-olds

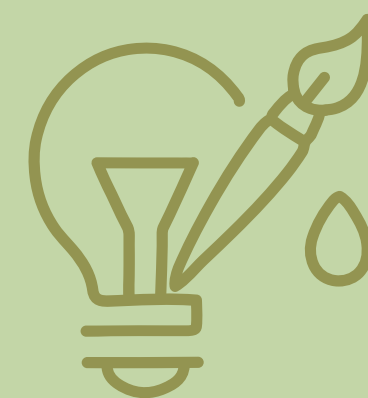
- Respecting other people
- Not cheating at school
- Knowing right from wrong
- Honesty and telling the truth



12-year-olds

- Respecting other people
- Protecting privacy and online safety
- Getting consent before using someone's image or voice
- Thinking critically about information

60% of parent-child dyads reported **more harmful** than helpful uses of genAI.



“The bad use is, it's wasting an opportunity to make something yourself”
– **10-year-old boy**

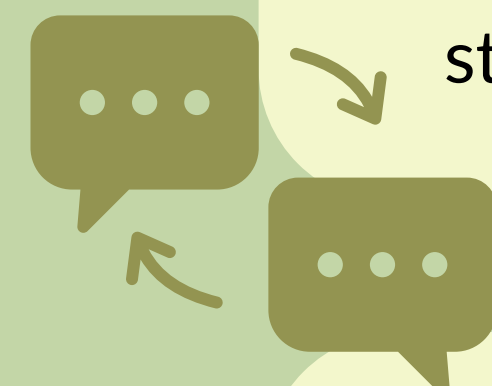


“I think [bad uses of genAI] mostly come from the person using it.”
– **12-year-old boy**

Parents use personal stories and principle-based strategies when talking about genAI with their youth.

Personal Stories

- A parenting strategy where parents set an example by sharing personal stories of their own genAI use



“Today I was asking [genAI] to compare e-bikes” – **Parent**

Principles

- A parenting strategy where parents highlighted immoral consequences of genAI use



“For example, there is an exam and you ask AI for answers, it's cheating” – **Parent**

RESULTS

- 60% of parent-child dyads reported more **harmful** than **helpful** uses of genAI.
- Through reflexive thematic analysis, two main parental socialization strategies were identified: (1) **Personal stories** (2) **Principles**
- Parents of 12-year-olds employed more principle-based strategies than parents of 10-year-olds.

DISCUSSION

- Parent-child conversations are important relational spaces for children's moral development.
- Discussions about genAI may help children develop their critical thinking about using genAI ethically²
- Future works should investigate the role of such conversations in promoting children's moral reasoning alongside genAI use.

AUTHORS

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