

Since most children do not have experience with learning, lectures or workshops on the topic of sexting, it is necessary to spread awareness about this issue more effectively. Telus Wise, in collaboration with MediaSmarts, has decided to create new tools for parents, teachers and teens to help all Canadian families provide the resources needed to prevent this type of behavior.

Bibliography and sources

Non-Consensual Sharing of Sexts: Behaviours and Attitudes of Canadian Youth. [online]. [2018-10-18]. Available at: <<https://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/publication-report/full/sharing-of-sexts.pdf>>.

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ABSTRACT

In the digitalization period projects to support the development of critical thinking are needed to maintain political and societal balance. Rapid changes in technology and information leave a space wherein can form many harmful groups or individuals to influence their respondents with false messages and hoaxes. It is necessary to develop the critical thinking of people from a young age, so the project Trust Me has been created. The aim of the project is to support the education of pupils of primary and secondary schools in the field of media literacy and critical thinking. Through two specialized curriculums students can understand the ways of manipulation with information and learn how to distinguish trustworthy contents on the Internet.

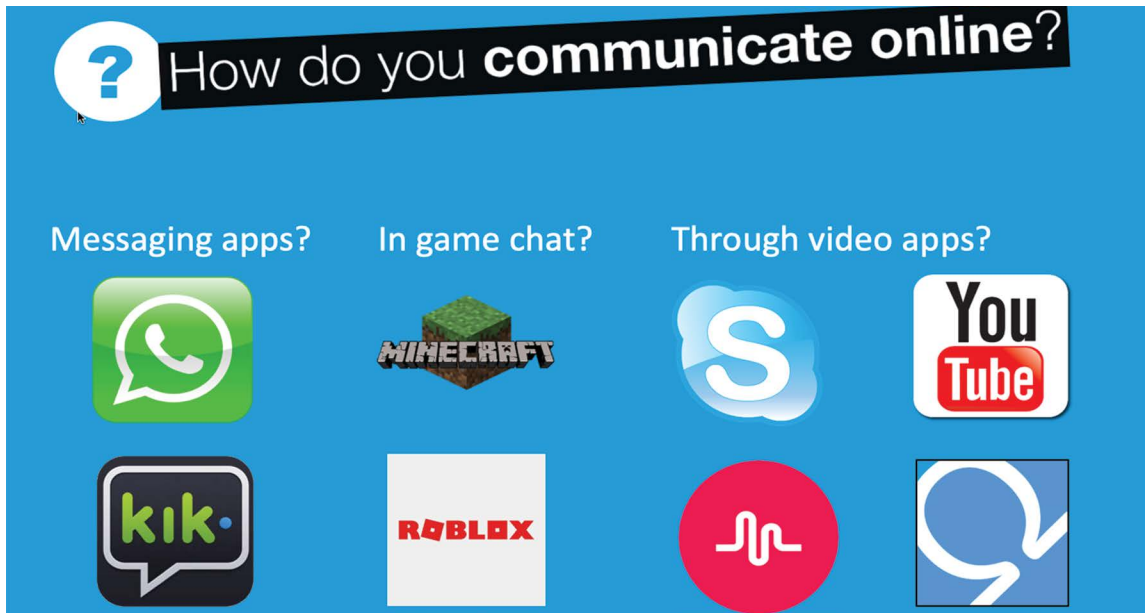
KEY WORDS

Digital age. The Internet. Critical Thinking. Media Literacy. Trust Me.

Project Trust Me

In the current digital age, use of the Internet is part of the everyday life of society. Its “endless” content and broad, almost global coverage provide a wealth of space for self-reflection on individuals and various interests groups. Because the Internet space and behaving there is not yet fully anchored in law, it offers a free way to a negative or deceptive way of giving information, advertising, opinions and so on. Spreading of disinformation and propaganda is much easier than in the past. Spreading of false news raises hate in society and can divide it into opposite opinion groups.

The need for critical thinking in society is rising with the freedom of speech and the democratic approach. Its goal is the ability to recognize relevant information from hoaxes, fake news and propaganda, that is, the effort to create a polarization of the society. While education systems support and teach media education, it is very difficult to keep up in the fast digital era, so new research and projects to promote media literacy and the development of critical thinking in society are welcome.



PICTURE 1: Representative search results following Texas shooting

Source: CAPLAN. R., HANSON. L., DONOVAN. J.: *Dead Reckoning: Navigating Content Moderation After “Fake News”*. [online]. [2018-10-17]. Available at: <https://datasociety.net/pubs/oh/DataAndSociety_Dead_Reckoning_2018.pdf>.

The ChildNet Trust Me project was created to support primary and secondary school teachers in developing the online critical thinking of their students. The PSHE Association in collaboration with London Grid for Learning brings two teaching plans, firstly for primary and secondly for secondary schools. The plans are built on practical learning on the Internet. In the first session, based on the content and contact, students will learn that not everything on the Internet is trustworthy, they will be able to recognize influence from third parties and decide correctly what to believe. In the second session (for secondary schools), students will learn through the exploration of content dedicated to “for all” to “just for me” to recognize the differences between fact and online opinion, develop their ability to analyse trustworthy content, develop their ability to perceive propaganda techniques and their use on the Internet as well as recognize the motives of these acts.¹

¹ Trust Me. [online]. [2018-10-18]. Available at: <<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Trust-Me-info-flyer.pdf>>.

On the project website www.childnet.com, both teaching plans (Trust Me Primary Pack and Trust Me Secondary Pack) are available in English for free downloading. They contain textual and pictorial materials necessary for teachers to learn critical thinking, examples, tasks and web links for wider understanding.²

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Trust Me

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Childnet has created a resource which is designed to support teachers in exploring critical thinking online.

The 'Trust Me' resource has been created with teachers in mind after hearing from schools that they wanted a resource which would start the conversations around extremism and extreme online content.

The main aim of this resource is to educate young people around inaccurate and pervasive information that they

Content

Propaganda

Contact

PICTURE 2: Webpage *Trust Me*

Source: www.childnet.com

Bibliography and sources

Trust Me. [online]. [2018-10-18]. Available at: <<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Trust-Me-info-flyer.pdf>>.
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Trust Me Secondary Pack. [online]. [2018-10-18]. Available at: <<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Trust-Me-Secondary-Pack.zip>>.

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² *Trust Me Primary Pack*. [online]. [2018-10-18]. Available at: <<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Trust-Me-Primary-Pack.zip>>.