

Coronavirus and Children Online: What the Experts Say

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COVID-19 has led to children communicating, learning & playing online more than ever. While this offers many benefits, there are concerns about their exposure to risks, mental health, quality of online schooling & the digital divide. Leading Minds Online explores the opportunities & risks that have emerged from this seismic shift in how millions of children live their lives.

Bridging the Digital Divide

Access to & use of ICT is uneven among children & teachers, with their digital divide resulting from the same inequities prevalent in the offline world: poverty, lack of access to adequate infrastructure, discriminatory gender norms, & marginalization of the most vulnerable.

Listen to the "COVID Generation"

Children & young people have known for years what many adults are only now realising: the internet is a great space for learning & social interaction in a new & vibrant way. Yet their voices are largely absent from the digital debate. Our experts agree that this must change.

Gaming to Learning

Children's activities online can be conducive to learning, even things they do 'for fun'. They are mainly motivated by the online world's blend of learning, socializing & play, which have lots of applicability to education & skills development.

[WATCH THE RECORDING:
YOUTUBE.COM/UNICEFINNOCENTI](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFINNOCENTI)



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1.5 billion children are in lock-down, 60% of whom are online.

While children are currently less affected by the virus itself, they are greatly affected by its secondary effects, like recession, limited or no schooling, & rising violence.

As children live more of their lives online, we must consider ways to protect them, their data, & their privacy, while taking advantage of opportunities for play, friendship, & learning.

Lockdowns reinforce the essentiality of equitable access to the Internet.

Young people are inheriting a world with many challenges, & are demanding to be part of the solution, including in the online debate. They want a healthy internet that respects their privacy, keeps them safe, & allows them to be included & respected.

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