Growing Up Online

Analytical report by Kaspersky
for the Middle East, Türkiye
and Africa

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Content

Introduction

In the digital age, the internet has become an integral part of daily life, impacting how families interact, and how children learn and entertain themselves. With children and adolescents growing up in a world dominated by digital media, understanding the children's online behavior is crucial for both parents and educators. The interaction between parents and children in the online realm presents unique challenges and opportunities, influencing everything from communication patterns to educational development and online safety.

This report entitled **"Growing Up Online"**, delves into the online behavior of parents and children in the Middle East, Türkiye and Africa (META) region, and aims to uncover trends, habits, and concerns associated with internet usage. The study offers tips and expert opinion for parents on how to deal and overcome pressing online threats that could be encountered by their children.

The study sample included 10000 online interviews (5000 parent-child pairs, with children aged 3 to 17 years) in 5 countries: **Türkiye, South Africa, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.** The survey was conducted by Toluna research agency at the request of Kaspersky. Survey results were released in October 2024.
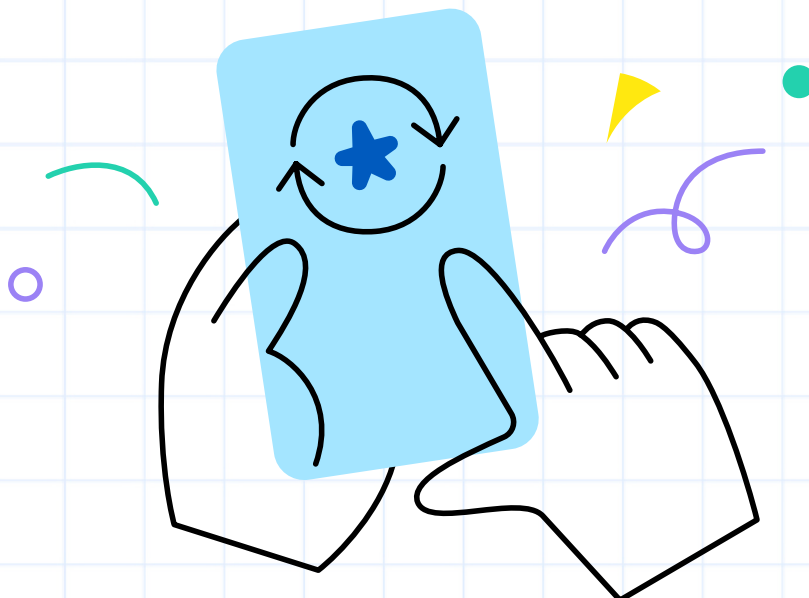
Using gadgets

97% of children regularly use various gadgets. The most popular gadget is a smartphone (**62%**), followed by a tablet (**53%**).
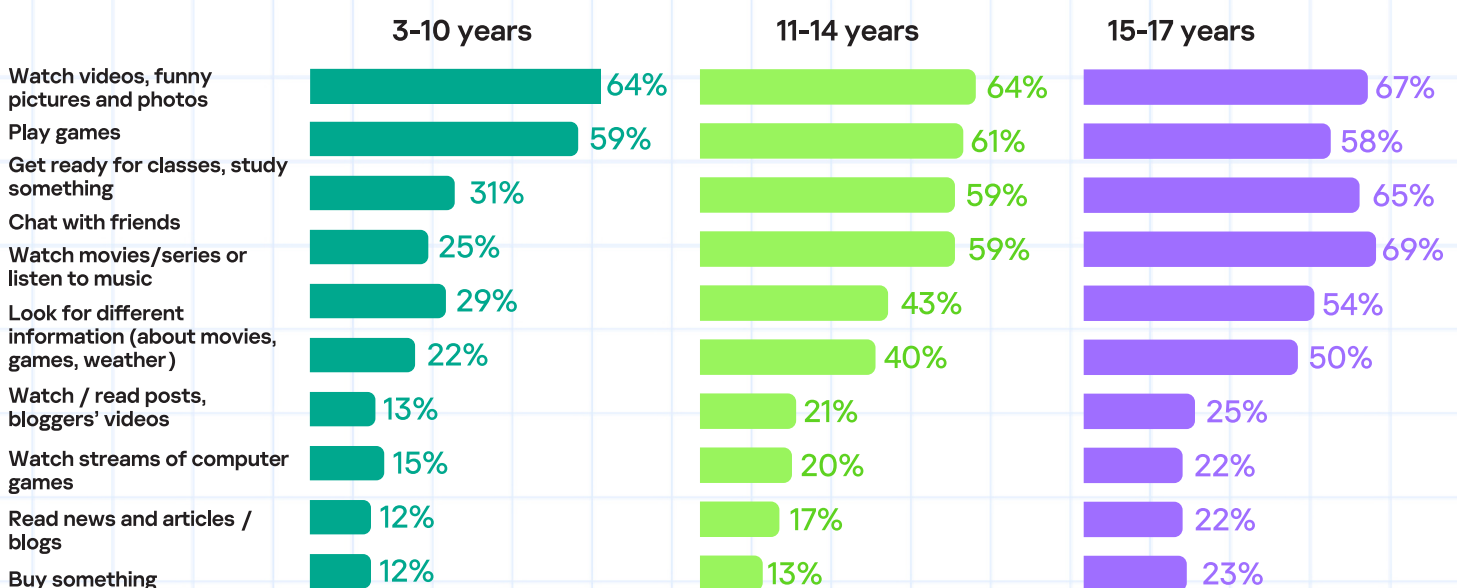
Even though smartphones are the most popular gadgets among children of all age groups, the older children are, the more they are exposed to smartphones. Thus, for children under 10 years, it is only **59%**, while **74%** of 11-14-years-olds and **83%** of 15-17-years-olds use smartphones regularly.

The top three among children's activities on the Internet includes watching videos, funny pictures and photos (64%), playing video games (59%), and preparing for classes, studying something (39%).

Girls are more likely to use the Internet for studying (**42% versus 37%** for boys), and listening to music and watching movies (**37% versus 31%**). Boys choose playing games more than the girls do (**64% vs. 54%**).

Regardless of the age, children use Internet for gaming and entertainment (watching videos and pictures). The older the children, the more activities they have online. Thus, high schoolers more often use the Internet for their studies and learning new things

Children's online activities

	3-10 years	11-14 years	15-17 years
Watch videos, funny pictures and photos	64%	64%	67%
Play games	59%	61%	58%
Get ready for classes, study something	31%	59%	65%
Chat with friends	25%	59%	69%
Watch movies/series or listen to music	29%	43%	54%
Look for different information (about movies, games, weather)	22%	40%	50%
Watch / read posts, bloggers' videos	13%	21%	25%
Watch streams of computer games	15%	20%	22%
Read news and articles / blogs	12%	17%	22%
Buy something	12%	13%	23%

Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

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Using gadgets
Getting to know gadgets

76% of children have their own smartphone or tablet.

Half of children get familiar with mobile gadgets by the age of 6. From year to year, parents introduce children to gadgets at younger and younger age. Among those who are 15-17 years old now, there are only **4%** of those who knew how to use a gadget by the age of 5. For children of 11-14 years, this score is **8%**, while over half of children who are now under 10 years old have had an acquaintance with gadgets by the age of 5 (**55%**).

The same is with providing a child with their personal gadget. Despite the fact that only two thirds (**69%**) of children under 10 years have their personal gadgets, there is still a trend of giving children smartphones or tablets at an earlier age. Thus, among the children under 10 who own a gadget, the majority has got it by the age of 7 (**84%**). As for 11-14-years-olds, only **16%** of them have got their first gadget by the age of 7, while among 15-17-years-olds there are only **6%** of those who got it before going to school.

The majority of parents provide children with gadgets for educational reasons (**92%**), and for keeping the child occupied while travelling (**89%**).
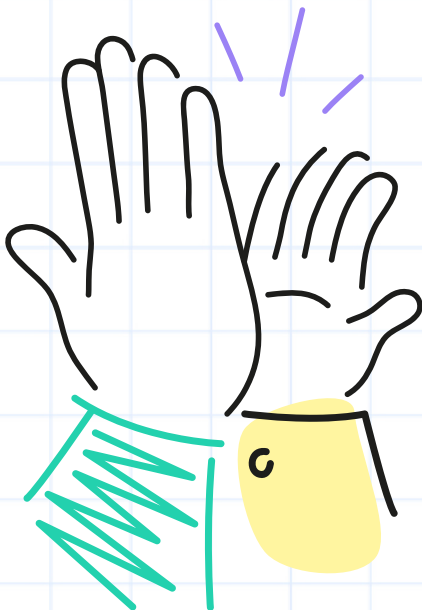
Choosing wisely: a guide to your kids' first gadget

What to do before giving a gadget to a child

Set up a Child Account before giving your offspring their first gadget. It acts as a safeguard on the device, preventing things like downloads of mature content or songs with explicit content.

Install all the basic applications that support either communication or geo-location (like messenger and map apps), plus learning applications. And don't forget to set up the privacy and confidentiality settings in each of the installed applications, so that the child, for example, isn't discoverable via their phone number by unknown individuals.

Install a digital parenting app. This will empower you to curate content, monitor the amount of time your kid spends on specific apps (and set limits if needed), and track their current location.

With **Kaspersky Safe Kids** parents can effectively safeguard their children across both online and offline spaces.

Try Kaspersky
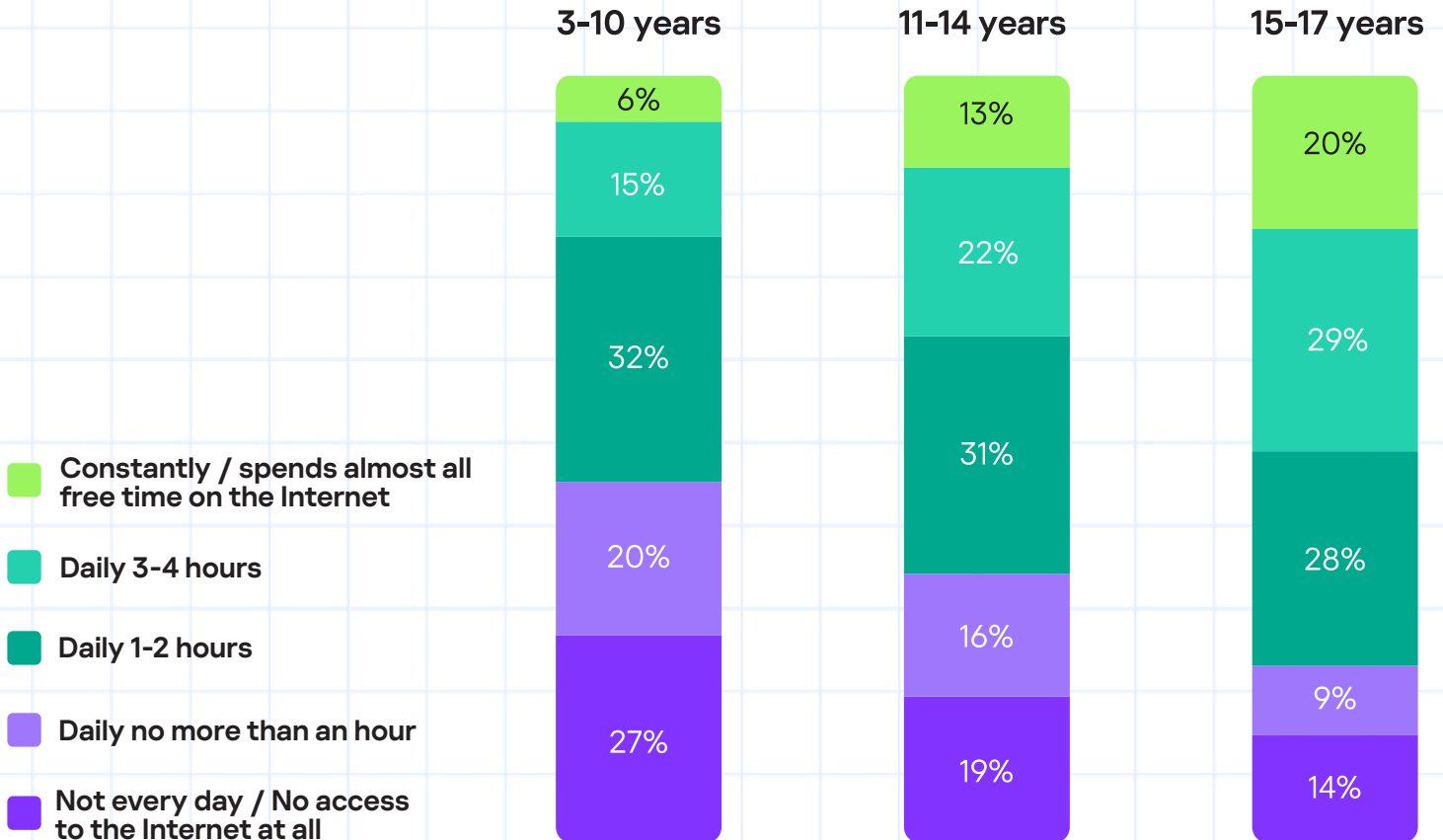Safe Kids

Using gadgets
Time with gadgets

One of the acute problems connected to the immersion of children into the digital world is the time they spend with gadgets and online.

The older the children get, the more time they spend online. Out of the majority of children who use the Internet anyway (**97%**), one-fourth do spend 3 or more hours per day online (**26%**).

With age, time spent on the Internet increases. Only **6%** of children 3-10 years old spend all their time on the Internet, while this parameter makes up to **20%** when it comes to 15-17-years-olds.

Time spent online

	3-10 years	**11-14 years**	**15-17 years**
Constantly / spends almost all free time on the Internet	6%	13%	20%
Daily 3-4 hours	15%	22%	29%
Daily 1-2 hours	32%	31%	28%
Daily no more than an hour	20%	16%	9%
Not every day / No access to the Internet at all	27%	19%	14%

Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

As a means of control over screen time, 90% of parents set limits on how much time their children can spend online.

The level of control over children's time on the Internet is slightly lower in Türkiye (**87%**) and South Africa (**87%**), compared to other countries.

Even though control becomes less as the child grows older, by the age of 15-17, parental restrictions remain quite high (**79%**).

Share of parents who limit their child's time on the Internet

90%	91%	90%	79%
Overall	3-10 years	11-14 years	15-17 years
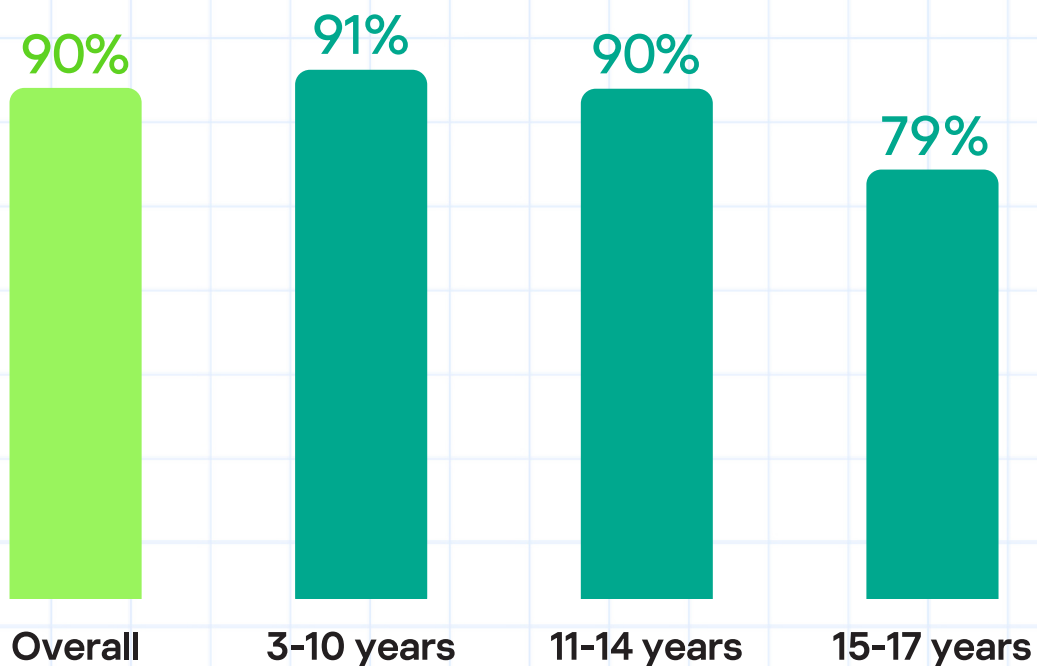
Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

How to discuss installing Kaspersky Safe Kids with your child

Depending on the child's age, you can install Kaspersky Safe Kids and set the rules for using devices yourself, or do it together with your child

Age: 3-6

Installing Kaspersky Safe Kids does not need to be discussed with children aged 3-6.

You can install the application before you give your child the device. If you let your child use your device, it's a good idea to create a separate account for the child where you can set all the necessary restrictions.

Remember that children can easily become addicted to gadgets. You should not let your child have their phone or tablet during meals or use it as a way to calm them down. Otherwise your child might refuse to eat without a cartoon or cry if you don't give them their phone.

Age: 7-10

Children aged 7-10 might use a computer for schoolwork, and a phone to contact parents and friends, so it's not unusual for them to have their own devices. It's better to install the application before giving your child their first personal device. You can tell your child, for example:

"I've installed a special program to protect you. It will teach you how to stay safe online, warn you about information that's bad, and help you find your phone if you lose it."

You don't need to tell the child about all the program functions. Use the information you get from Kaspersky Safe Kids wisely.

7-10 year olds spend most of their free time playing. It's important to control the time your child spends in front of the screen. The recommended time limit is no more than 2 hours a day.
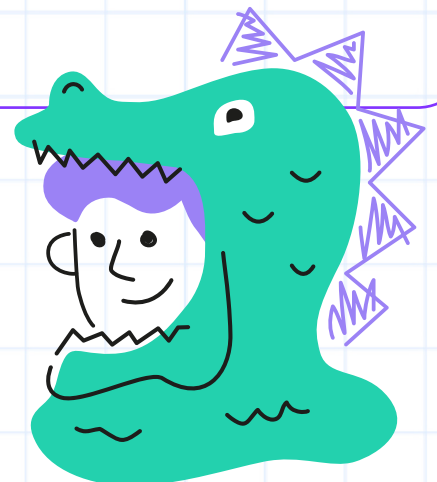
Age: 11-13

Installing Kaspersky Safe Kids should be discussed with children aged 11-13.

You can link it to buying a new device your child has been hankering after. You can say:

"I'll buy you a new phone (computer) on one condition – Kaspersky Safe Kids will be installed on it. It will protect you from dangerous websites, warn me about unknown people trying to make contact with you, and let me know where you are."

If you have no plans to buy a new device, tell the child about your concerns and suggest a compromise:

"You hear all the time about threats online and in real life: kidnapping, mugging, terrorism, gambling, cyberstalking, blackmail, etc. (It would be good to give a real-life example that the child knows about.) I worry a lot about you, but understand you're growing up and want more freedom and independence. Let's agree that I'll stop nagging you about what you're doing, but we'll install a program to protect you from dangerous websites, warn me if an unknown person is trying to make contact with you, and tell me where you are. What do you say?"

Age: 14-17

If your child is aged 14-17, you must reach a mutual agreement to use Kaspersky Safe Kids.

If you install the application without their consent, it could have undesirable consequences. You can say:

"You're already independent, and I realize you just think I'm fussing. But even adults sometimes get into difficult situations. I'd feel so much better if you agreed to install a special program on your phone and computer to warn me about threats and suspicious contacts, and protect you against buying things by mistake and financial fraud. I promise I won't use functions you really don't want me to."

Your child's voluntary consent to install the application is a sign of trust. Remember that most children over the age of 14 are sufficiently tech-savvy to delete any application from their device. Your teenager could simply turn off their phone, buy another device, or open a different social media account.
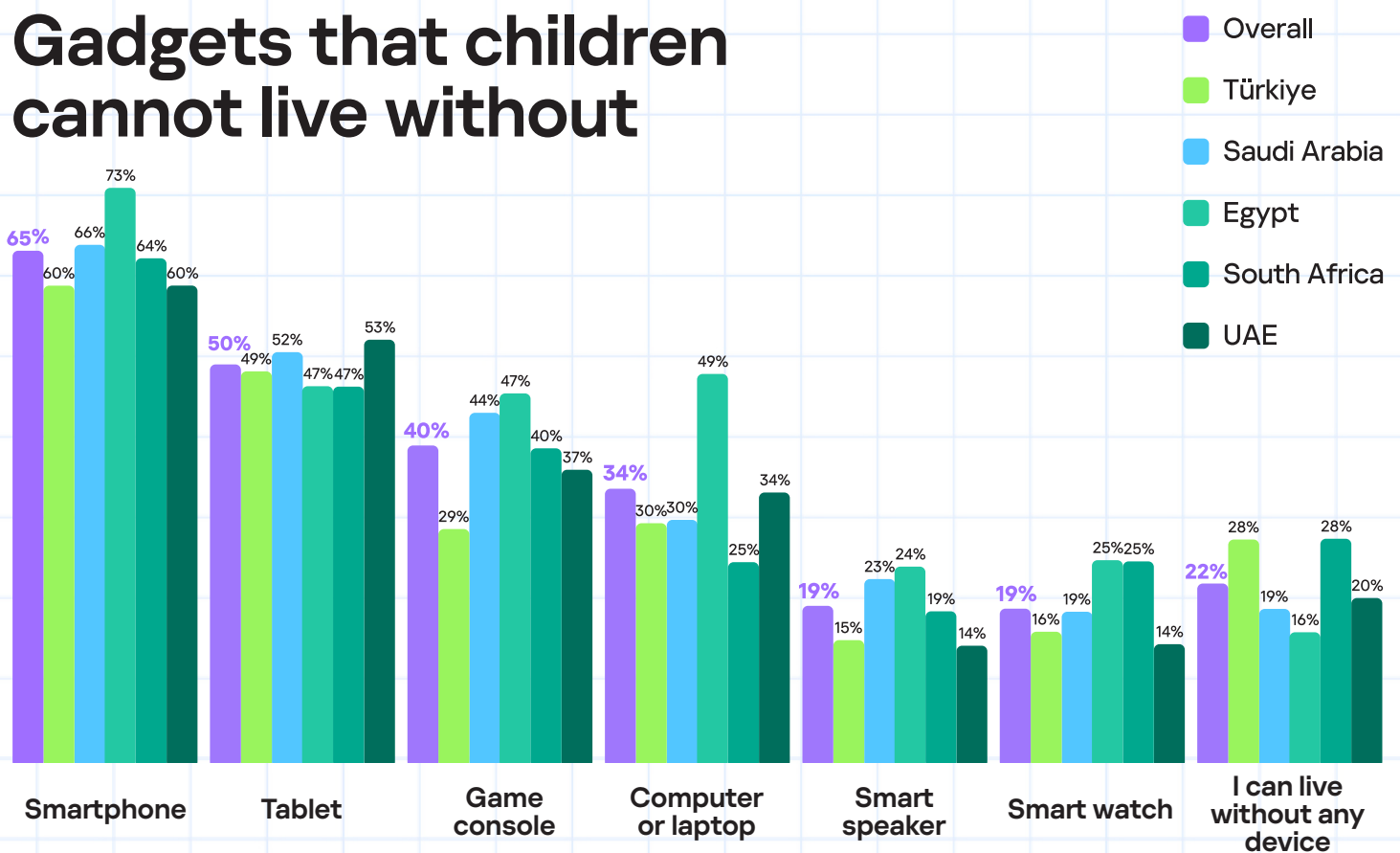
Using gadgets
Psychological aspects

Gadgets play an important role in children's lives, 78% of children cannot live without them.

Saudi Arabia (66%) and Egypt (73%) have the highest rates of smartphone dependence by country.

Gadgets that children cannot live without

Legend:
- Overall
- Türkiye
- Saudi Arabia
- Egypt
- South Africa
- UAE

Chart data:

Gadget	Overall	Türkiye	Saudi Arabia	Egypt	South Africa	UAE
Smartphone	65%	60%	66%	73%	64%	60%
Tablet	50%	49%	52%	47%	47%	53%
Game console	40%	29%	44%	47%	40%	37%
Computer or laptop	34%	30%	30%	49%	25%	34%
Smart speaker	19%	15%	23%	24%	19%	14%
Smart watch	19%	16%	19%	25%	25%	14%
I can live without any device	22%	28%	19%	16%	28%	20%

Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

The older the children get, the more likely they are to be addicted to gadgets.

This digital addiction leads to high rates of negative emotions (**71%**) in situations when mobile phone suddenly runs out of power and turns off: **48%** feel very sad, **27%** feel very angry, **8%** feel very scared.

Country wise, sadness prevails in Türkiye (57%) and South Africa (55%), while in Egypt, the level of anger is higher than in other countries (37%).

Children's feelings about their gadgets suddenly turning off

Feel very sad **48%**

Get very angry **27%**

Don't feel anything **20%**

Feel very scared **8%**

Haven't faced such a situation **9%**
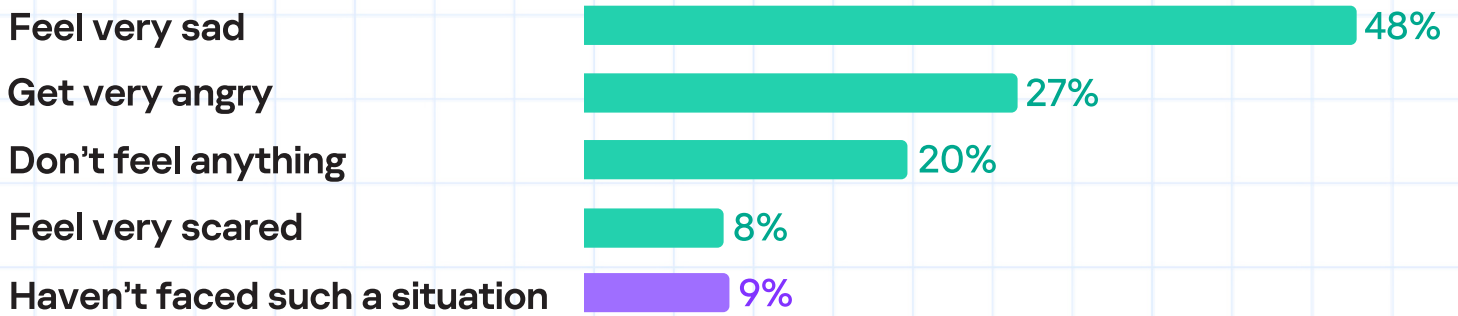
Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

Though in one third of families (39%) children and parents have mutual understanding of the matter of online behavior, there are still 27% of parents that have conflicts with their children about it.

The main issue that triggers the conflicts is amount of time spent with a gadget or online (**66%**). Apart from that, parents are worried about the content that the child consumes (**29%**) and the fact that the children spend all their time online instead of doing something useful (**27%**).

South Africa is the country where the rate of online-life-based conflicts is minimal (17%), compared to other countries. The biggest number of conflicts happens in the UAE (31%). Parents in the UAE are much more worried about the people with whom their children communicate online (28% compared to 8-16% in other countries).

At the same time, it is worth noting that the problem of the video content that children are watching remains quite acute. Thus, according to the parents, half of children have ever been exposed to violent videos on the Internet, either consciously (18%) or accidentally (35%).

Living in the digital world
Social networks

Most of the interviewed parents have accounts on social networks (**89%**). As for their children, less than a half of them have social media presence (**46%**). The older the children, the larger the number of those who use social media. The most active users are 15-17 year olds (**84%**).

Children with social networks accounts

3-10 years 35%

11-14 years 69%
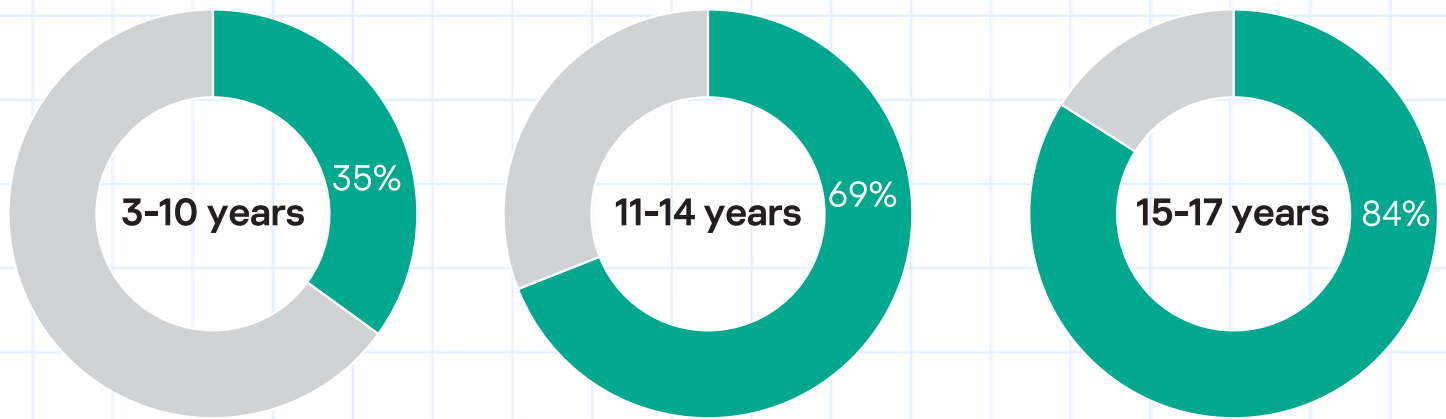
15-17 years 84%

Sample: children of mentioned age groups in 5 countries (3-10 years - 3537 interviews; 11-14 years – 1005 interviews; 15-17 years – 458 interviews)

The overall share of children who have any social network account is the highest in Egypt (58%), while in South Africa it's only 35%.

The majority of children (**81%**) pay attention to likes/views/comments on their social media posts, and almost half of them get upset if the number of likes or views is small.

Such attention to likes and comments usually decreases with age.
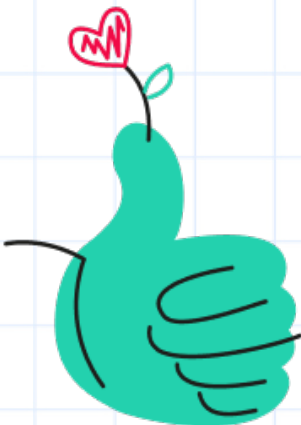
Tracking views / likes / comments on social media posts

Age group	Very carefully, upset if there are only a few likes or views	Keeping track of the number of likes or views, but not upset if the number is small	Not following, not interested in that
Overall	35%	46%	19%
3-10 years	40%	42%	18%
11-14 years	32%	48%	20%
15-17 years	24%	54%	22%

■ Very carefully, upset if there are only a few likes or views
■ Keeping track of the number of likes or views, but not upset if the number is small
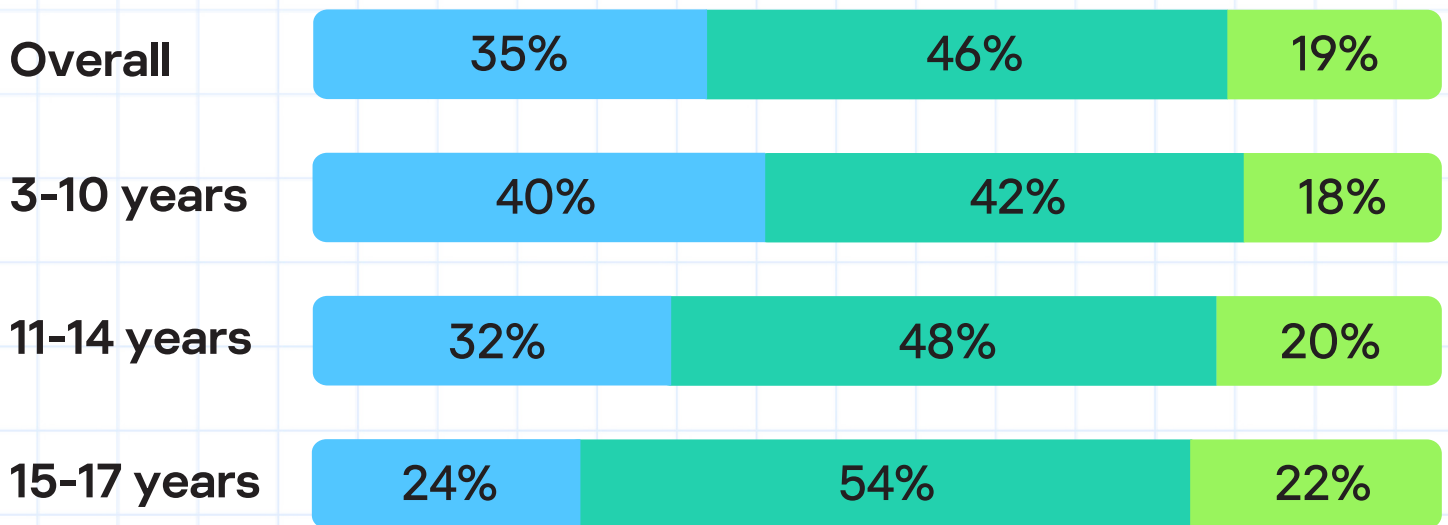■ Not following, not interested in that

Sample: children of mentioned age groups in 5 countries (overall – 2322 interviews; 3-10 years - 1238 interviews; 11-14 years – 697 interviews; 15-17 years – 387 interviews)

Getting upset with few likes or comments is more typical for the UAE children (47%), compared to others. South African children, on the contrary, are less prone to getting upset while still tracking the number of likes or views.
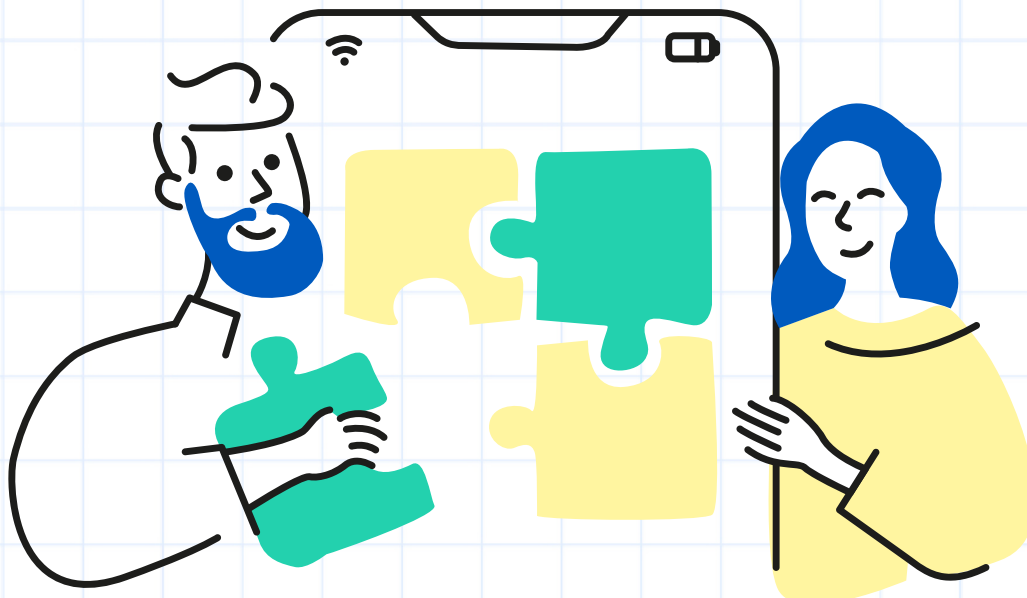
Living in the digital world
Privacy on social media

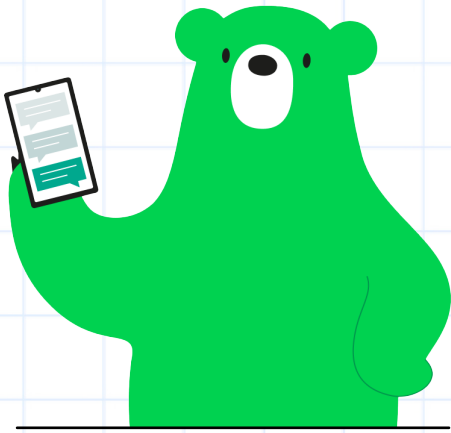Both parents and children share at least some types of personal information on social networks. Around half of parents (**48%**) tend to share pictures of their children on their personal pages, and over a half of those who share photos also post additional information (**57%**). The most common types of shared personal information are children names and their hobbies (**53%**), though some parents could share more precise information such as geolocation, preschool/school name, or stories from child's life.

At the same time, children choose to share about their hobbies the most often.

Information that children share on social media pages

Category	Percentage
Interests / hobbies	45%
Names of relatives (including parents)	22%
Personal photos	21%
Mobile phone number	19%
School number/ address	14%
Geolocation	14%
Home address	13%
Photos showing the interior of the house/apartment	11%
None of the above	24%
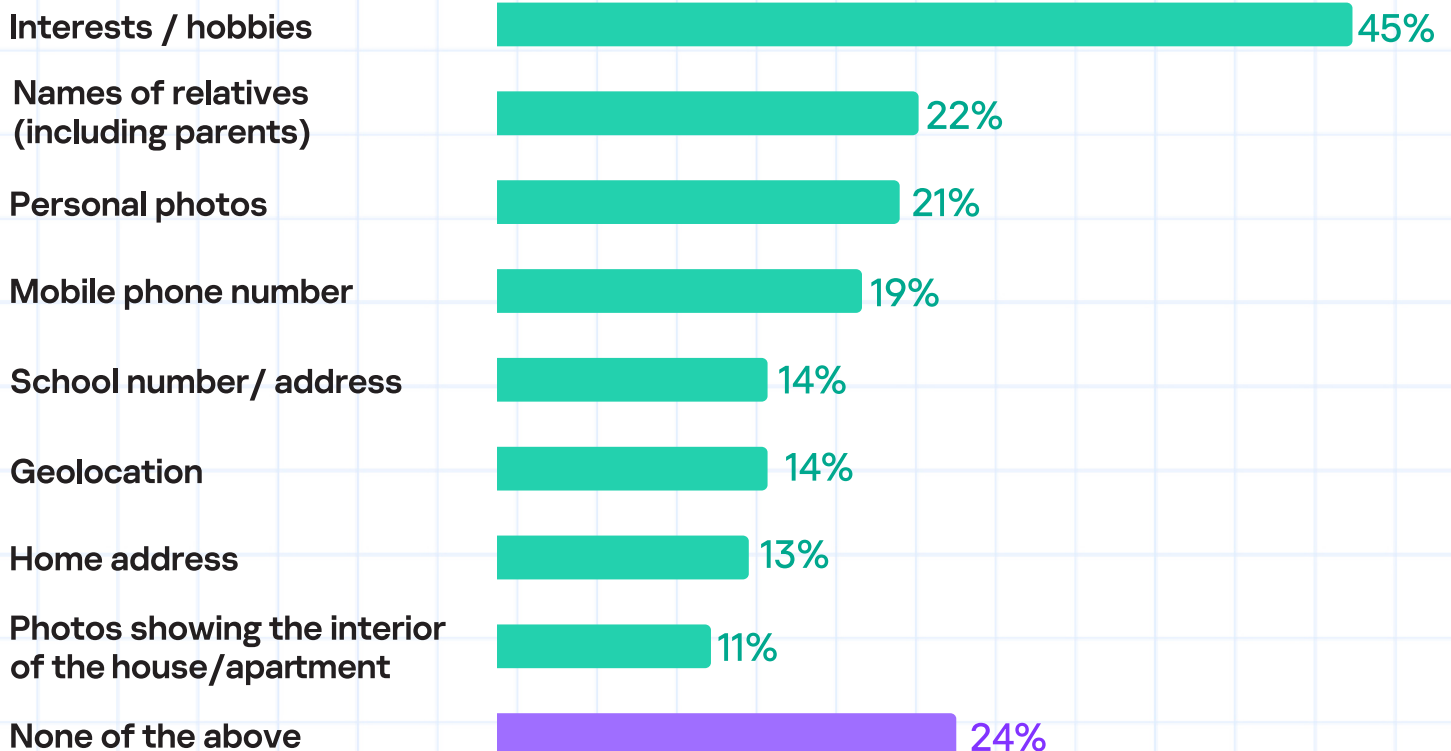
Sample: children who have social networks accounts of all ages in 5 countries (2322 interviews)

In South Africa, children more often post pictures of their home interior (**22%**), while children in the UAE tend to share their school number / address more often (**25%**) than children in other countries.

Besides, half of children (**55%**) indicate their real age on social networks, and **20%** pretend that they are older than they really are.

Girls in all countries are less likely to indicate their age on social networks. South Africa is the country with the highest rate of children who hide their age from online public.

The main reason for posting about their children is for a parent to keep memories (**64%**). Some of the parents also want to share their pride in child's achievements (**42%**) or letting relatives and friends know about child's life (**29%**). While **21%** of parents think it is okay to do because everyone else does it.

Pictures of children on social networks

48%

of parents post photos / posts / videos of their children on social media

Reasons for posting information, photos, posts and videos of children on social networks

Keeping memories — 64%

Pride in child's achievements — 42%

Sharing information about child's life with relatives and friends — 29%

Posting is an important part of life — 22%

Liking personal appearance in the photo — 20%
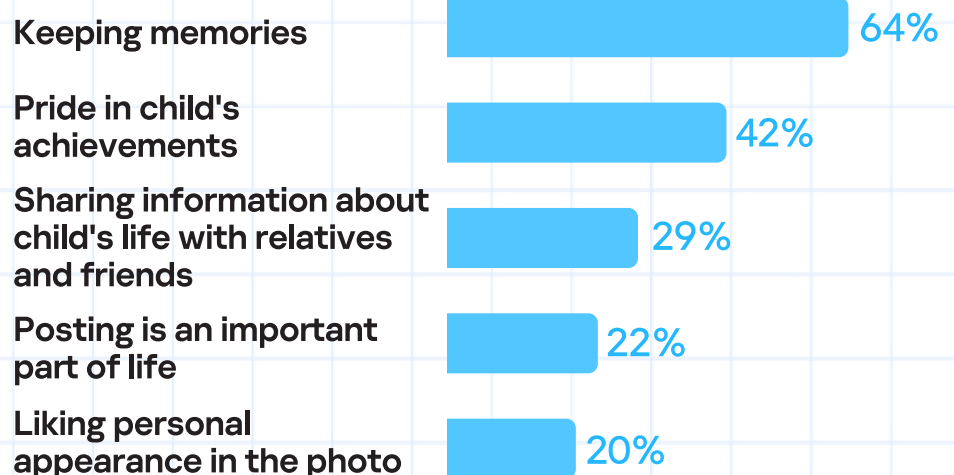
In Saudi Arabia, parents more often tend to refrain from posting their children's pictures, thus, only one third of them (38%) post personal pictures. Parents from South Africa prefer not to add much personal information to posts on social networks (71% of them do not add any information under photos/videos of their children).

Sometimes, the habit of sharing personal life details goes too far. **14%** of teenagers (11-17 years old) have cases of sending in private message or posting on social media some very personal or indecent photos or videos. Also, it is worth remarking that **35%** of children have regretted posting something on social media.

Oversharing is a common issue among children and their parents.

Over half of parents (**59%**) ask for their children's consent before posting information about them. However, one third of those who ask make a final decision themselves, regardless of the child's opinion. The older the child, the more important is their permission to publish photos. Thus, parents of children under 10 years old are less likely to ask for consent, because they think their children are too young.

Parents in South Africa are more likely to disregard their children's opinions and admit that they have never thought about asking their children's consent more often than parents in other countries.

Despite the fact that parental oversharing is quite high, there are still indicators of popular belief that baby pictures should not be posted on the Internet. Thus, only one third of parents (**33%**) claim that they have posted the pictures of their children in infancy without covering their face from strangers, while others have either hidden the face (**28%**) or refrained from posting any pictures at all (**39%**).

Not posting any baby pictures is the most common in Saudi Arabia (48%). In Türkiye, parents most likely would post infant pictures, but cover the baby face (42%, compared to 17-28% in other countries). Parents of South Africa post baby pictures without hiding the face (43%, compared to 25-36% in other countries) most often.
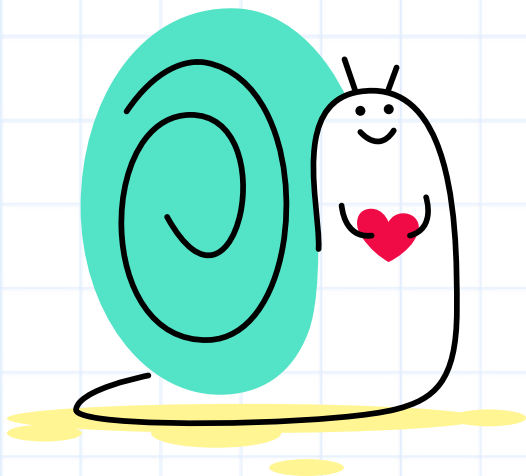
In terms of cybersecurity, the negative trend among parents and children is disregard to privacy settings. Thus, around one-fourth of adults (**28%**) and children (**26%**) have public accounts on social networks so that everyone could access their information. Half of parents (**55%**) and children (**49%**) restrict the access to their posts and photos only for friends.

Who can see information on pages on social media

Only friends	Parents 55% / Children 49%
Everyone	Parents 28% / Children 26%
Friends and friends of friends	Parents 17% / Children 20%
Nobody	Children 3%
I don't know	Parents 1% / 2%
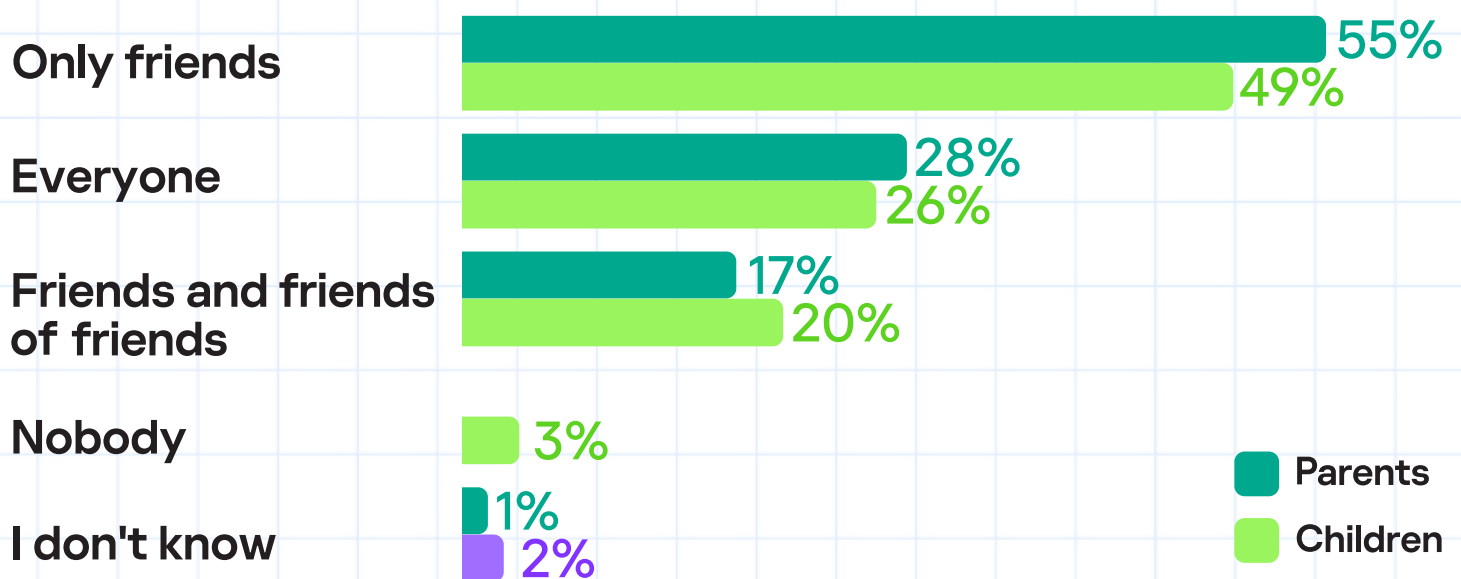
Parents
Children

Sample: those, who post their photos (among children)/photos of their children (among parents) on social networks in 5 countries, parents (2130 interviews) and children of all ages (2322 interviews)

Younger children are more likely to add other children as friends on social networks that they do not know in real life (**34%** among those who are 3-10 compared to **24-29%** among 11-17 years olds). However, most of the social networks friends are real-life acquaintances, peers (**77%**) and family members (**58%**).

Parents are not fully aware about their child's communication in messengers. Over half of all the children have secret chats with classmates that parents and teachers do not know about (**57%**). Every fourth child has secret chats with non-school friends (**23%**).

Social media rules for parents

Kids and social media do not have to be an incompatible pairing. However, parents must guide their children's social media use. In many instances, this may involve exposing kids to social media and having conversations about the use of these platforms — and their minherent dangers and pitfalls — long before the kids ever create their own accounts. Once it is appropriate to begin using these platforms, following simple social media guidelines for parents can help avoid the worst effects of social media on children.

Here are a few considerations:

- Know which social media platforms your kids are using.

- Know the legal age restrictions for each social media platform in use — the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) restricts social media use to children under the the age of 13.

- Ask questions, but in a non-invasive way — show genuine interest in what they're seeing online and who they're talking to.

- If and when appropriate, use parental controls on your children's devices and social media accounts.

- Talk to kids about the importance of maintaining in-person friendships and social interactions in real life as well as online.

- Verify children's social media connections — teach them to identify fake accounts.

- Discuss what's appropriate to share on social media — explain that everything online is permanent, even if it is deleted.

- Have open conversations about the appropriate ways to act online — it is important for kids to understand what cyberbullying is, how to recognize it, and the effects it can have.

- Kids should see their parents and social media as a good thing — model good behavior.

- Teach kids about the value of technology-free or screen-free time.

- Address the effects of social media on children by discussing mental health, cyberbullying, feelings of isolation, and the need to compare.
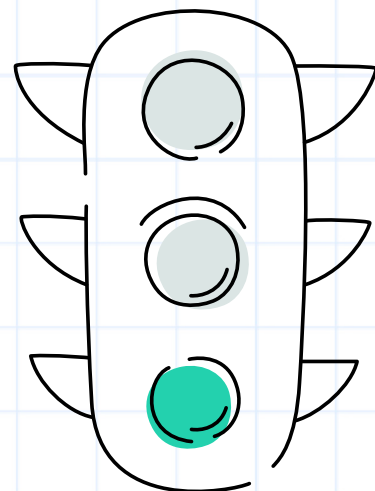
Living in the digital world
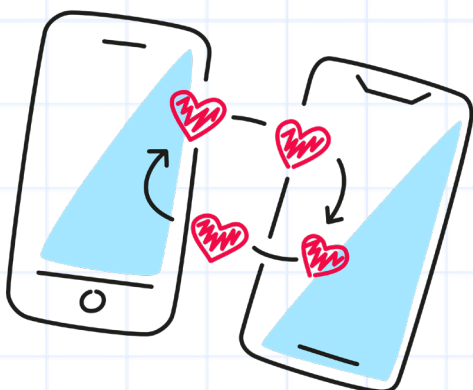## Blogs and bloggers

Half of all children watch or read bloggers (**50%** based on interviews with children, and **56%**, according to parents). Blogs are more popular among teenagers (from **63%** among 11-14 year olds to **67%** among 15-17 year olds). However, less than a half of those who follow blogs do it regularly.

In Egypt and the UAE, the share of those who watch or read bloggers on a regular basis is higher than in other countries (20% in Egypt, 21% in the UAE, compared to 12-15% in other countries).

The most popular topics of the blogs that children follow on social media are online games, music and movies. Girls more often follow blogs with music (**48% vs 40%** for boys), shopping (**29% vs 19%**), and fashion-related content (**35% vs 16%**), while boys prefer toys (**48% vs 40%** for girls) and computer games (**48% vs 35%** for girls). Game content is also more attractive to children under 10, while older children more often choose to follow fashion and beauty bloggers.

Overall, parents understand their child's interests in blog topics. However, they tend to think that their children follow news and psychology blogs more often than it is in reality, and also they underestimate their children's interests in entertainment blogs.

In South Africa, over a half of all children who have access to social networks, are subscribed to music-related blogs, which is higher than in other countries. Moreover, South African children are more attracted to fashion and beauty blogs, compared to children in other countries.

Topics of the blogs or bloggers that children follow

Topic	According to parents	According to children
Computer games	42%	51%
Games / toys	44%	50%
Music	43%	50%
Movies	32%	38%
Challenges	25%	25%
Science	22%	24%
Shopping	24%	24%
Fashion and beauty	25%	23%
News	21%	16%
Psychology / relationships	17%	12%

According to parents
According to children
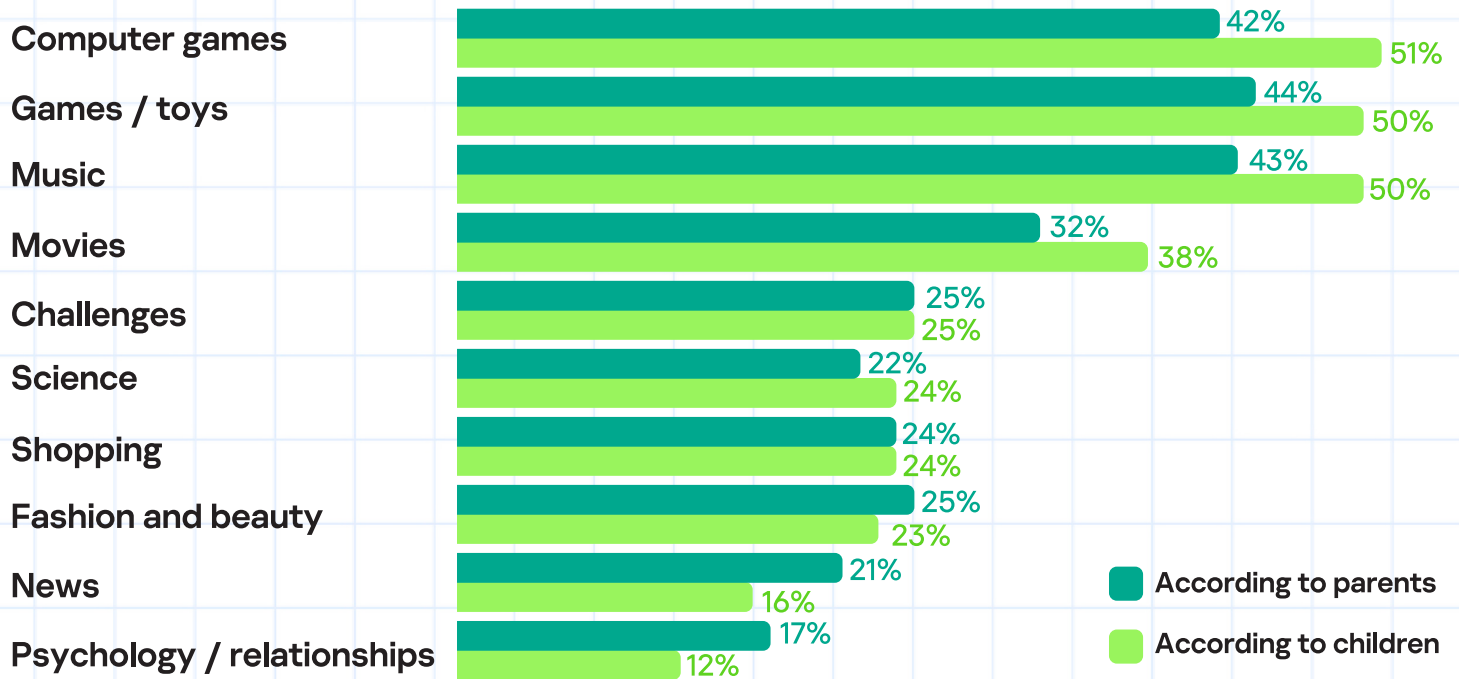
Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries who watch/read bloggers (2500 interviews) and their parents (2802 interviews)

Opinion leaders such as online bloggers are not only the news source but also role models in career development sphere. Thus, **42%** of children would like to become bloggers, regardless of age.

Wish (for a child) to become a blogger

Parents
Children

	Parents	Children
Overall	69%	42%
Türkiye	79%	35%
Saudi Arabia	64%	41%
Egypt	73%	50%
South Africa	62%	40%
UAE	66%	47%
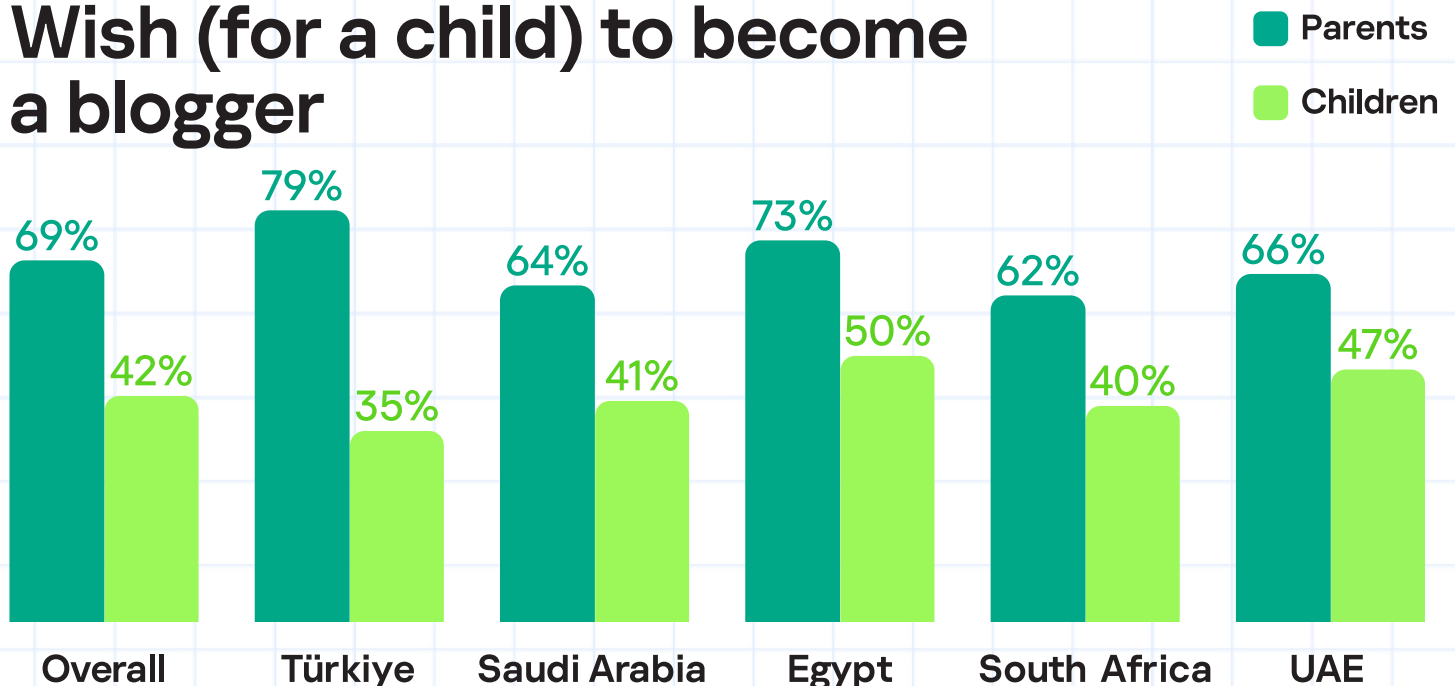
Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews) and their parents (5000 interviews)

It is interesting to note that the share of parents who are ready to support their child in becoming a blogger is bigger (**69%**) than the actual share of children who want to be bloggers. This might be because parents are themselves active social networks users, and they consider blogging as a promising job. However, **44%** of parents would agree on their children becoming bloggers only when they grow up, and **8%** of parents state that being a blogger is acceptable if it is paid.

Most of the children who would like to have a blog believe that their parents support their desire to become a blogger (**74%**). At the same time some children are not sure about parents' reaction: **17%** of them prefer not to tell their parents about their plan. **9%** of children face parents' misunderstanding of their wish to be a blogger.

The share of children whose dream is to become a blogger is higher in Egypt (50%) and the UAE (47%). Children in Türkiye are the least interested in it (35%).

The largest number of parents who agree that their children should become bloggers are in Egypt (72%) and Türkiye (78%).

Bigger number of children from South Africa prefer not to tell their parents about their plans to become bloggers (29% compared to 12-18% in other countries).

The most attractive things for children to become a blogger are the chances of becoming popular (**53%**), enjoyment of creating creative videos (**46%**), and the opportunity to earn money without much effort (**36%**).
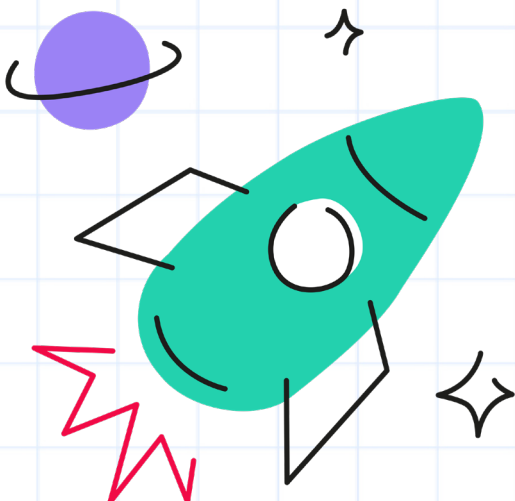
Attractiveness factors in being a blogger
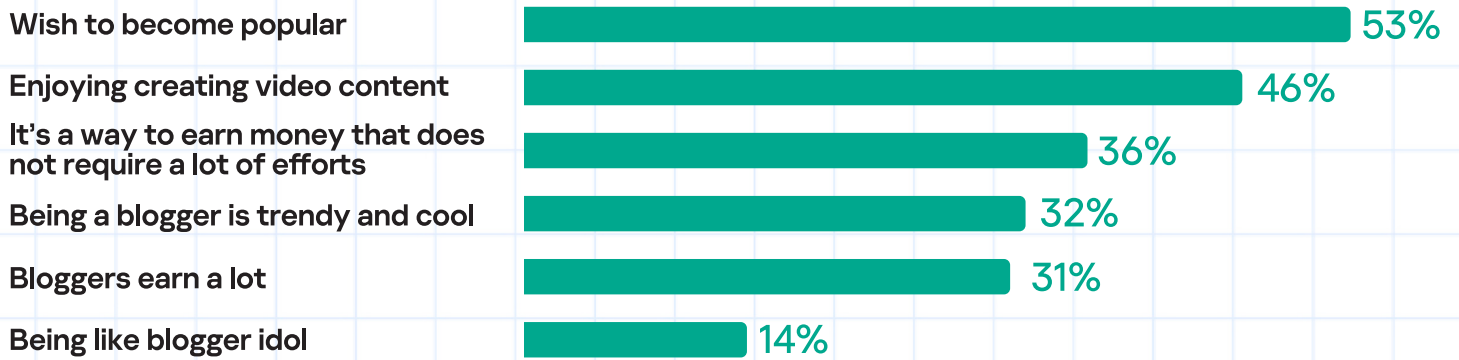
Wish to become popular	53%
Enjoying creating video content	46%
It's a way to earn money that does not require a lot of efforts	36%
Being a blogger is trendy and cool	32%
Bloggers earn a lot	31%
Being like blogger idol	14%

Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries who would like to become bloggers (2123 interviews)

One fourth of children (**25%**) are already engaged in blogging, while **19%** are working on content for a future blog.

60% of children who are thinking of becoming a blogger would like to combine full-time work and blogging.

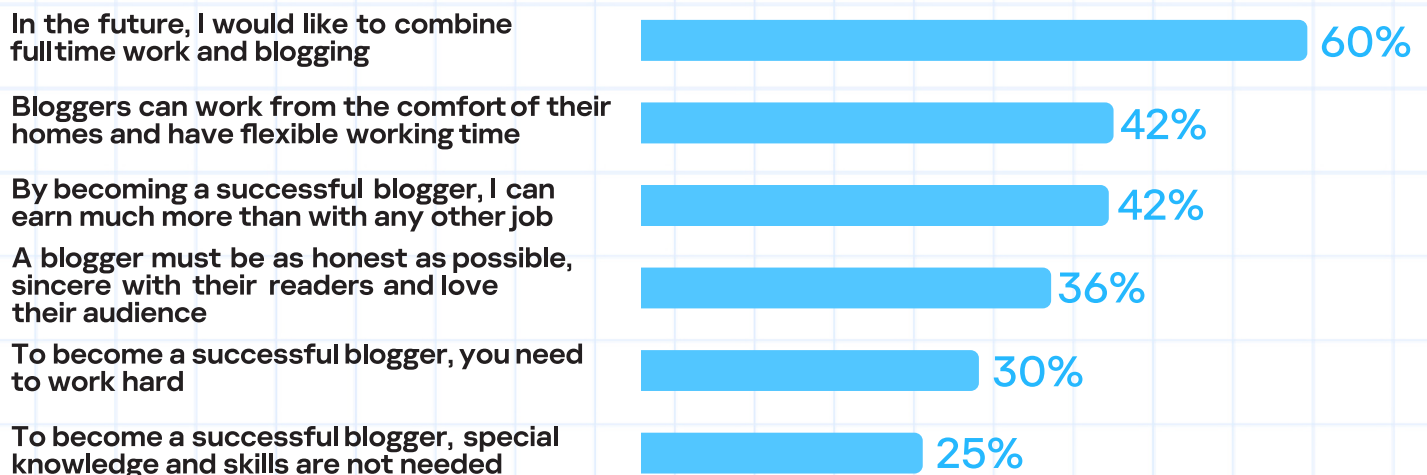Though future bloggers understand certain benefits of having a blog, such as an ability to earn more than with other jobs (**42%**) and to work from home with flexible schedule (**42%**), they still realize that blogging requires special knowledge and skills (**75%**).

Attitudes towards blogging

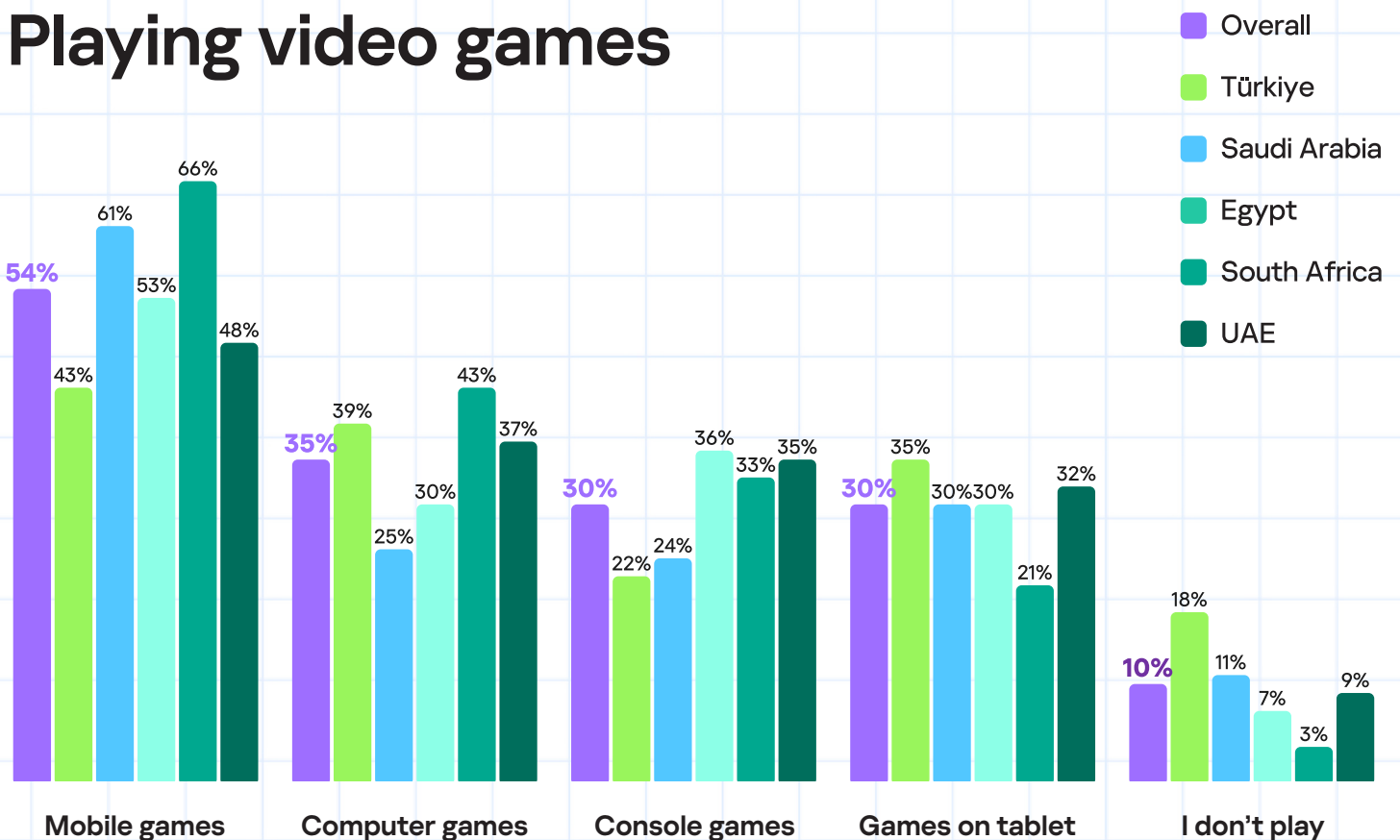|	
In the future, I would like to combine full time work and blogging	60%
Bloggers can work from the comfort of their homes and have flexible working time	42%
By becoming a successful blogger, I can earn much more than with any other job	42%
A blogger must be as honest as possible, sincere with their readers and love their audience	36%
To become a successful blogger, you need to work hard	30%
To become a successful blogger, special knowledge and skills are not needed	25%

Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries who would like to become bloggers (2123 interviews)

Living in the digital world
Mobile and video games

There is no doubt that children love playing videogames (**90%**). Half of them use smartphone for gaming (**60%**), the second place is taken by computer (**38%**). Based on parents' estimates, almost half of children play videogames every day (**45%**).

Playing video games

Legend:
- Overall
- Türkiye
- Saudi Arabia
- Egypt
- South Africa
- UAE

Mobile games: 54%, 43%, 61%, 53%, 66%, 48%

Computer games: 35%, 39%, 25%, 30%, 43%, 37%

Console games: 30%, 22%, 24%, 36%, 33%, 35%

Games on tablet: 30%, 35%, 30%, 30%, 21%, 32%

I don't play: 10%, 18%, 11%, 7%, 3%, 9%

Boys are slightly more attracted by video games (**93%**) compared to girls (**87%**). Moreover, they choose computer and console games more often than girls. However, according to parents' estimates, there is no difference between boys and girls in the amount of time spent on gaming.

Time children spend playing games on digital devices, parents' estimates

They play so much that they even skip school
2%

At least two hours every day and at least four hours on weekend
14%

Daily 1 - 2 hours
31%

1 - 3 times a week for a couple of hours
35%

Plays less than once a week
12%

Doesn't play at all
7%
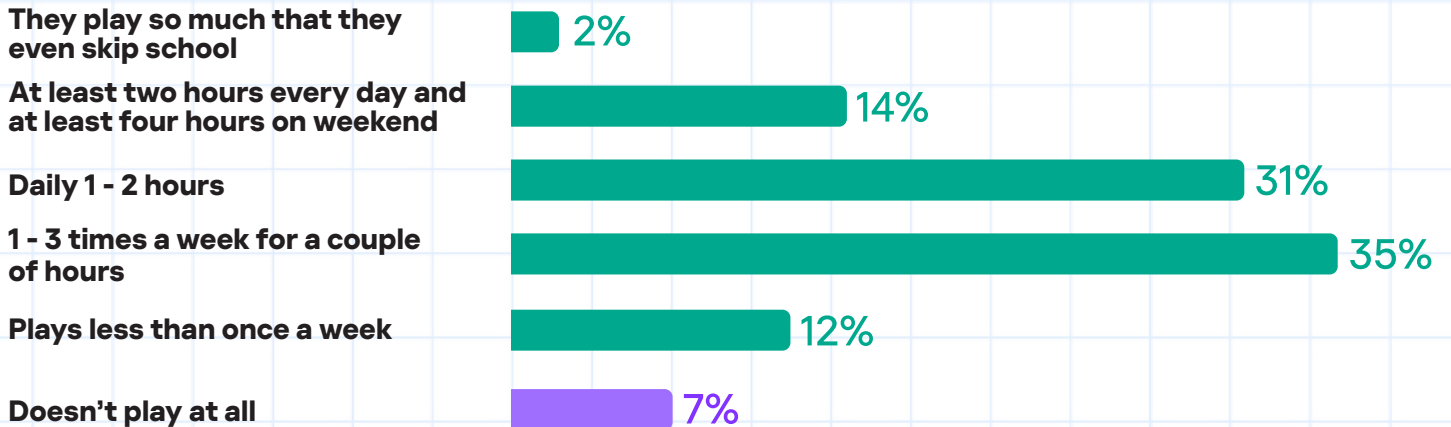
Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

Another form of interest to video games is watching streams (live games on platforms such as Twitch, GoodGame, YouTube, etc.). **75%** of parents believe that their child watches streams, while only **22%** of children do it often (**25%** of boys and **19%** of girls). Only **16%** of children claim that they watch streams on a regular basis. With age, the interest in watching streams increases.

Games are the most popular among children in Egypt – 97% of the respondents play some kind of digital games. Games are the least popular among children in Türkiye – only 82% of the children play games in this country.

Parents in South Africa have less understanding of how much time their children spend playing games.

There is quite a big gap between parents' and children's assessments of how age restrictions are observed when choosing a video game. Thus, while almost half of parents (**47%**) think that their children play games that were not appropriate for their age, there is only one fourth of all children (**28%**) who actually confessed that they had ever played games that were not suitable for their age. Girls are more obedient to age restrictions of videogames. **70%** of them have never played inappropriate games, while for boys it is **59%**.

Vast majority of parents (**83%**) agree that some videogames might provoke aggression and make children violent. Parents' worries about the content of the games might sound reasonable. Over one third of children (**37%**) mention that they have felt depressed or angry after playing a game.

South African parents have the most negative attitudes towards videogames. Half of them (52%) strongly believe that computer games provoke aggression. At the same time, the share of children who have never felt depressed or angry after playing a game is the highest in South Africa (66%, compared to 47-54% in other countries). Such low depression level might be the cause of stronger parental control of games' types and time spent on gaming.
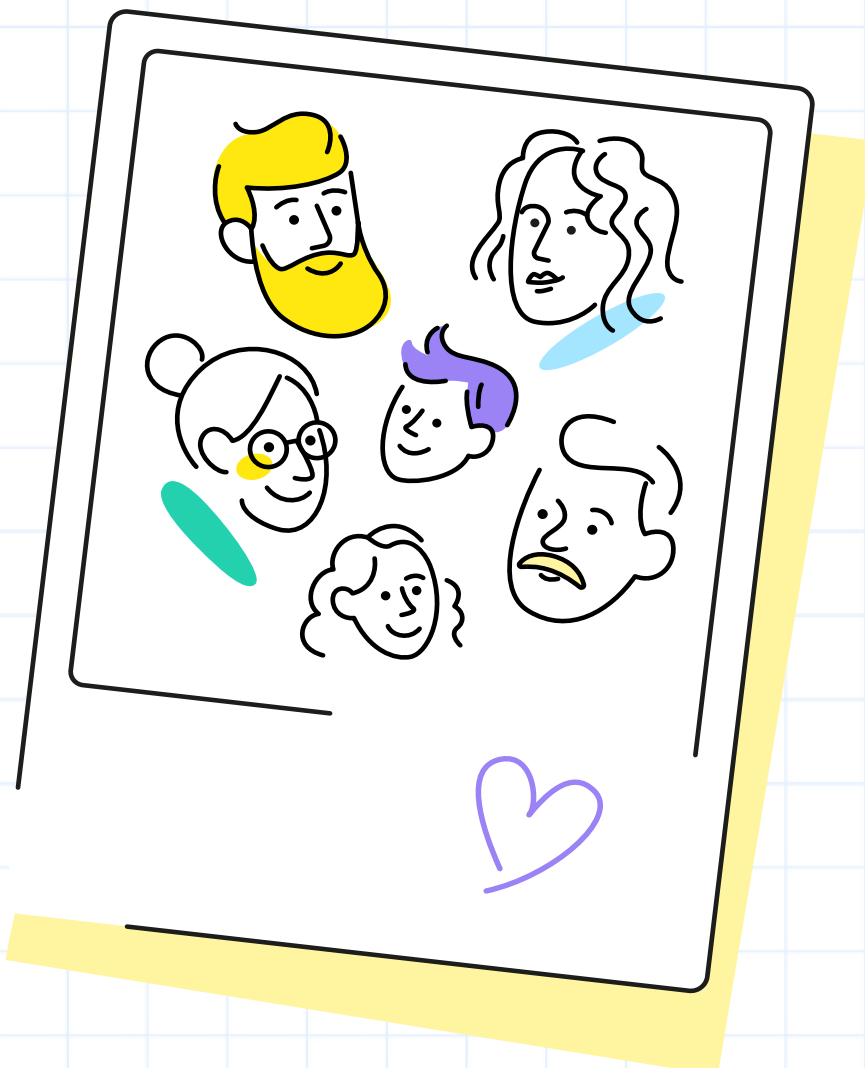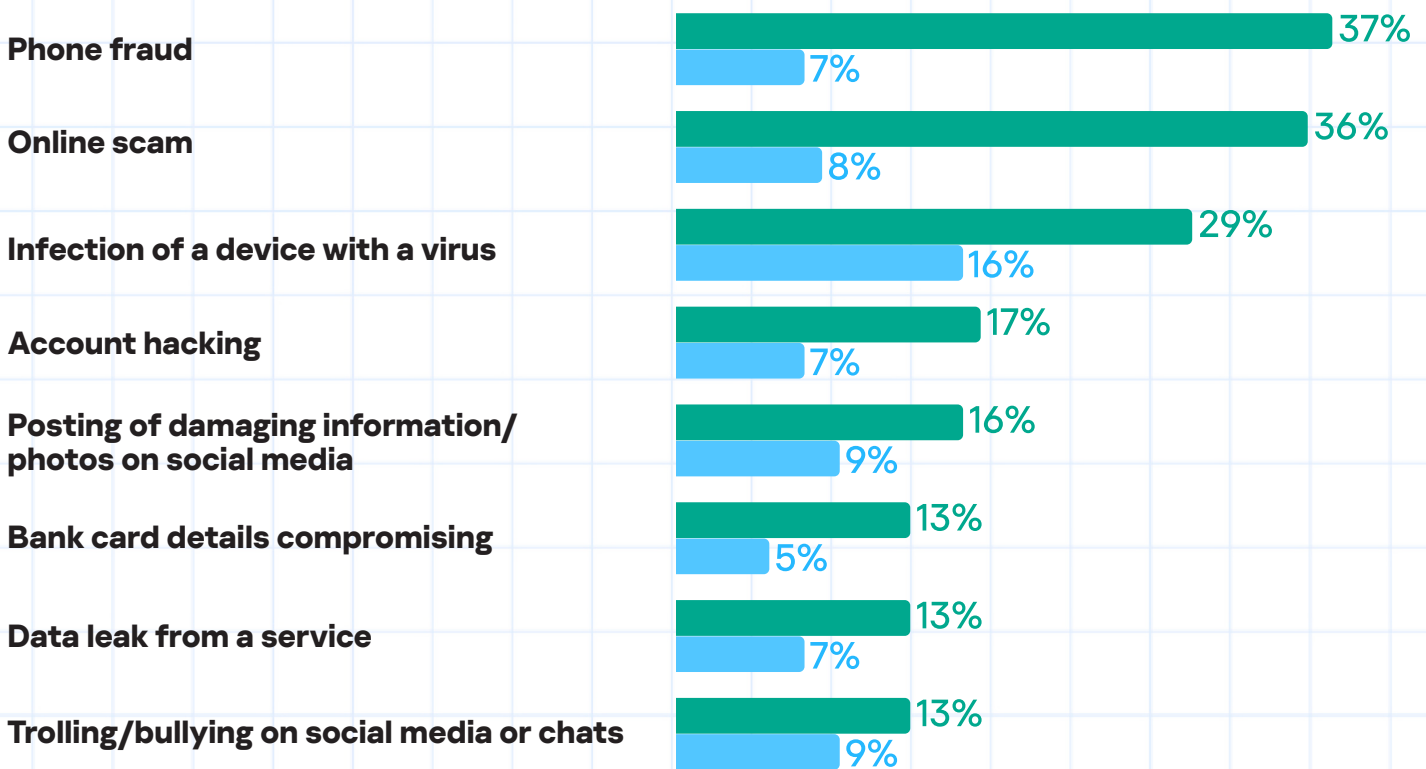
Online threats

Parents face most types of online threats more often than their children do.

The most popular threats faced by parents are phone fraud, online scam, and infection of the device with a virus.

Cybersecurity issues in the last two years

■ Happened with me
■ Happened with my child(ren)

Phone fraud
- 37%
- 7%

Online scam
- 36%
- 8%

Infection of a device with a virus
- 29%
- 16%

Account hacking
- 17%
- 7%

Posting of damaging information/ photos on social media
- 16%
- 9%

Bank card details compromising
- 13%
- 5%

Data leak from a service
- 13%
- 7%

Trolling/bullying on social media or chats
- 13%
- 9%

Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

As for children, the most common threat faced by them over the past two years is infection of the device with a virus (16%).

Most often, this was experienced by children aged 15-17 years (**21%**).

Parents in the UAE face various online-threats more often than in other countries: phone fraud, data leak, bank detail compromising.

Happened with me	UAE	Egypt	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Türkiye
Phone fraud	48%	42%	41%	25%	29%
Online scam	40%	32%	28%	46%	32%
Infection of a device with a virus	35%	35%	22%	24%	30%
Account hacking	21%	15%	11%	21%	16%
Posting of damaging information/photos on social media	22%	18%	14%	9%	17%
Bank card details compromising	19%	10%	11%	14%	9%
Data leak from a service	17%	13%	12%	10%	13%
Trolling/bullying on social media or chats	17%	14%	12%	9%	14%

Happened with my child(ren)	UAE	Egypt	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Türkiye
Phone fraud	10%	11%	9%	3%	4%
Online scam	12%	9%	10%	5%	5%
Infection of a device with a virus	19%	19%	16%	10%	15%
Account hacking	10%	8%	7%	4%	4%
Posting of damaging information/photos on social media	13%	11%	9%	4%	6%
Bank card details compromising	8%	8%	6%	2%	3%
Data leak from a service	11%	9%	7%	3%	4%
Trolling/bullying on social media or chats	11%	12%	10%	5%	7%

Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

One fourth of parents (25%) have lost money because of their child's online behavior, in cases like downloading a paid game, buying something online, or experiencing scam.

The highest rate of parents who have lost money due to their child's online behavior is in the UAE (31%), and the lowest is in South Africa (18%).

Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel in the Middle East, Türkiye and Africa at Kaspersky

When parents think of their children spending time online, their first concern is to protect them from unwanted content on the web. However, there is another important aspect that should not be forgotten, and that is the viruses and scams that their kids may encounter online. Applying parental control is not showing distrust to your child; it's a sensible precaution with which you can, among other things, protect your device and the data on it. It allows parents to control which sites their children visit and which games they play, as well as disallowing file downloads, blocking access to content on unwanted topics and preventing the disclosure of confidential information. This way, Kaspersky's technologies help protect finances and confidential data from cybercriminals, and children from the risks that may lurk in the online environment

Kaspersky Safe Kids is included in Kaspersky Premium security kit

In order not to lose money online, it's also advised to:

Use a separate credit or debit card to make online transactions. Set a spending limit on the card which can help keep a track of financial transactions.

Use reliable security solution such as **Kaspersky Premium** on all your devices which are used for financial transactions. It helps to detect fraudulent or suspicious activity and check the security of visited websites.
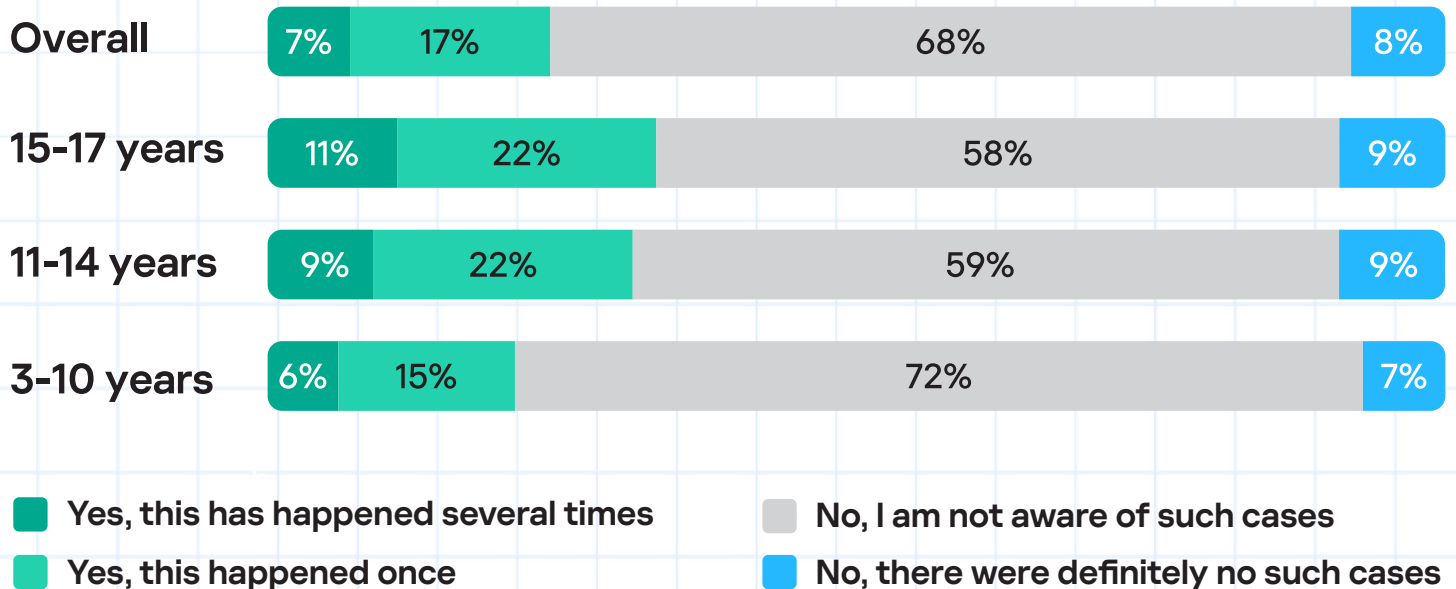
Online threats

Dangerous strangers in the digital world

According to the interview results, **19%** of parents are aware of the cases when some unknown adults tried to make friends with their children. This estimate is close to the real number of children who faced such cases (**24%**).

The older the child, the more chances are that they will be contacted by a stranger.

Have you ever been in a situation when an unknown adult was trying to make friends with you on the Internet (over the past year)?

	Yes, several times	Yes, once	No, not aware	No, definitely not
Overall	7%	17%	68%	8%
15-17 years	11%	22%	58%	9%
11-14 years	9%	22%	59%	9%
3-10 years	6%	15%	72%	7%

■ Yes, this has happened several times

■ Yes, this happened once

■ No, I am not aware of such cases

■ No, there were definitely no such cases

Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

A large number of children might face the negative consequences of online communication with unknown people. Such strangers might have various motives, including destructive ones. This might include attempts to deceive a child, involve them in a fraudulent scheme, find out information about parents, relatives or close friends, or the desire to gain his trust for closer contact.

A big number of children have online friends on social networks whom they do not know in real life: **31%** of them mutually follow their peers, and **4%** have some unknown adults as social networks friends. It is important to note here that it is impossible to estimate the real age of an online friend. So children might not have a full understanding who they are chatting with. It is very crucial to explain to children the risks of online communication with strangers, especially with the adult ones. Parents should remind children not to send their personal photos or videos to people whom they have never met in real life.
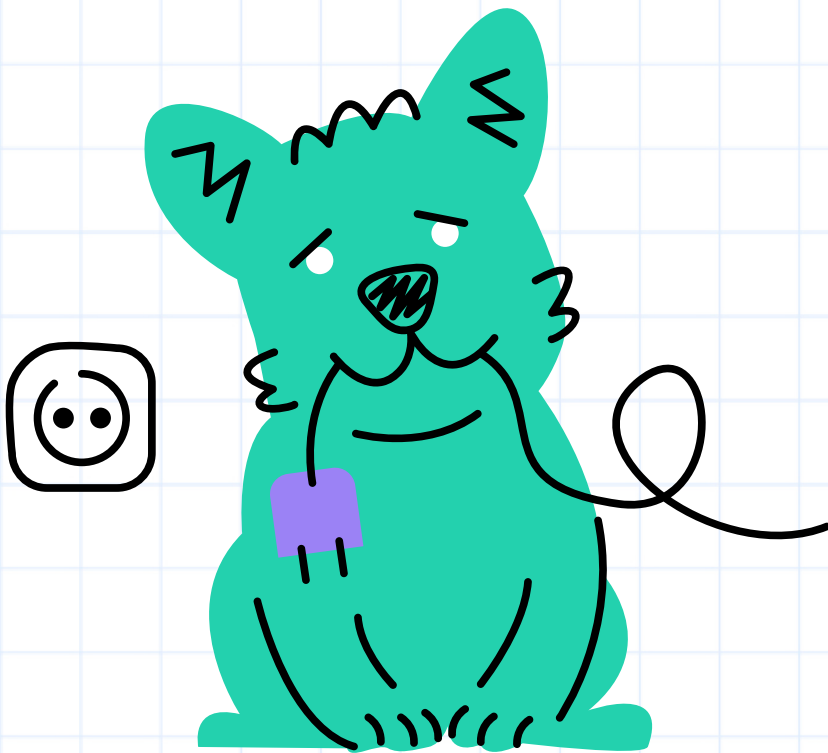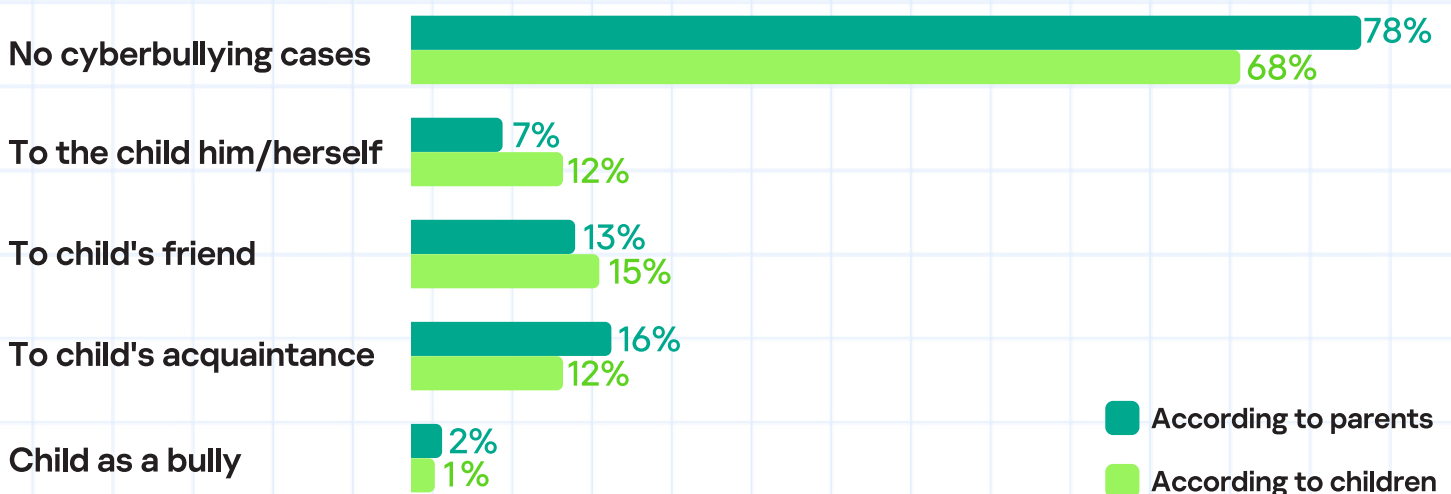
Online threats
Cyberbullying

Online communication is a natural process. It can have both positive and negative nature. Children could become a cyberbullying victim of their peers, as well as of strangers of various ages. Though sometimes parents might underestimate the effect of cyberbullying on their child, it could have deferred effect on a child's physical and mental health.

One fourth of parents (**27%**) are aware of their child being involved in cyberbullying, either as a victim, bully, or as a witness. According to children, **12%** of them have been cyberbullying victims, and **27%** of them are aware of such cases happening to their friends or someone they know.

The largest number of parents who know about the experience of children encountering cyberbullying was noted in the UAE (35%) and Egypt (35%). In these same countries, the highest proportion of parents say that their child (or children) have been victims of cyberbullying: 11% in the UAE and 9% in Egypt.

Cyberbullying cases among children

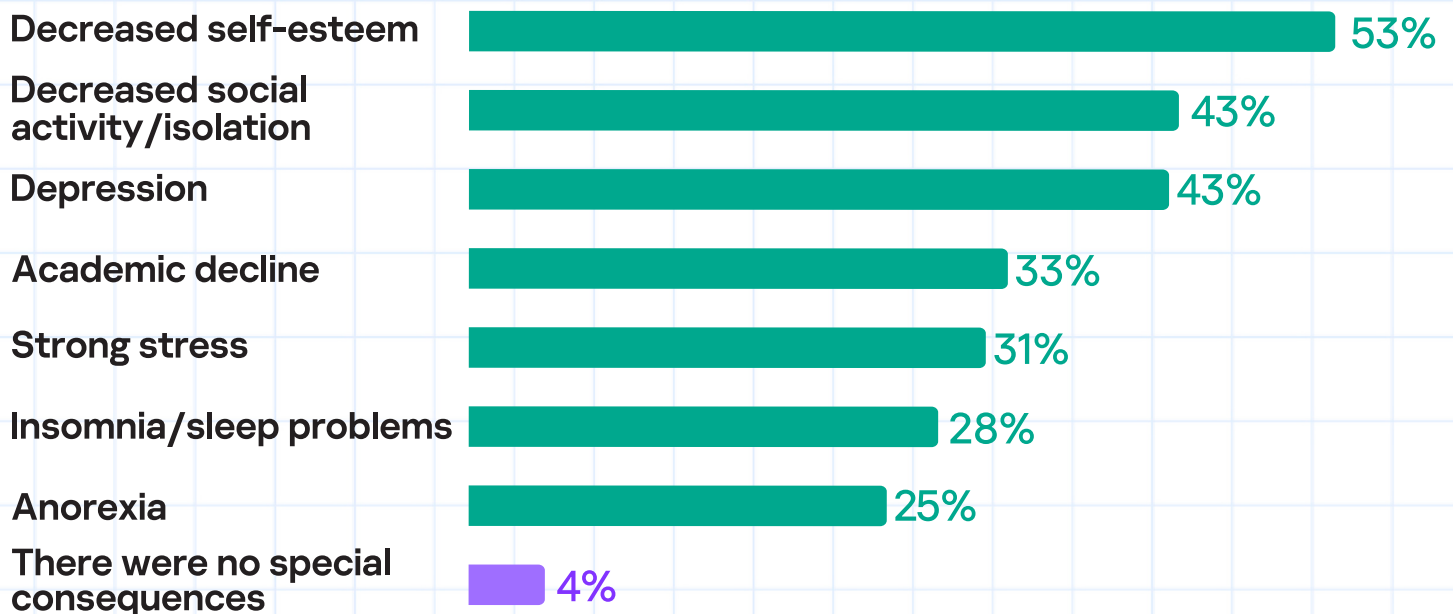|	According to parents	According to children
No cyberbullying cases	78%	68%
To the child him/herself	7%	12%
To child's friend	13%	15%
To child's acquaintance	16%	12%
Child as a bully	2%	1%

Sample: UAE children of all ages (1000 interviews) and their parents (1000 interviews).

In most cases, parents note that cyberbullying leads to negative consequences among children who face it. The most frequent consequences are self-esteem and social activity decrease, as well as depression. Another negative effect of cyberbullying is academic decline, which is more spread among girls (**37%**, compared to **29%** among boys).

Consequences of cyberbullying

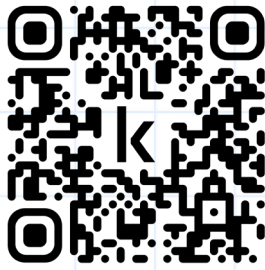|	
Decreased self-esteem	53%
Decreased social activity/isolation	43%
Depression	43%
Academic decline	33%
Strong stress	31%
Insomnia/sleep problems	28%
Anorexia	25%
There were no special consequences	4%

Sample: parents, whose children have faced cyberbullying (1331 interviews)

Anorexia, as one of the severe consequences of cyberbullying, is more salient for children under 14: one fourth of children of that age suffer from anorexia after facing cyberbullying (**26%** for 3-10 years old and **27%** for 11-14 years old, while only **15%** of children aged 15-17 suffer from it).

This is the checklist of top tips for keeping your children safe and prevent cyberbullying:

1.   Talk to your children about the potential dangers.

2.   Encourage them to talk to you about their online experience and, in particular, anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened. Protecting children from cyberbullies is especially challenging with smartphones, as they can be targeted in so many ways, especially out of view of their parents. Deal with cyberbullying as you would deal with bullying in real life: encourage children to be open and talk to a trusted adult if they receive any threatening or inappropriate messages. Numbers and contacts on apps can both be blocked if they are making children uncomfortable or unhappy.

3.   Set clear ground rules about what they can and can't do online and explain why you have put them in place. You should review these as your child gets older.

4.   Use parental control software to establish the framework for what's acceptable – how much time (and when) they can spend online, what content should be blocked, what types of activity should be blocked (chat rooms, forums, and so on). Parental control filters can be configured for different computer profiles, allowing you to customize the filters for different children.

5.   Don't forget to make use of settings provided by your ISP, device manufacturer and mobile phone network provider. For example, most phones allow you to prevent in-app purchases, so you can avoid them running up hefty bills when they play games.

6.   Protect the computer using trusted security software, like **Kaspersky Premium.**

Kaspersky Safe Kids is included in Kaspersky Premium security kit.

7.   Don't forget about your children's smartphones – these are sophisticated computers, not just phones. Most smartphones come with parental controls and security software providers may offer apps to filter out inappropriate content, senders of nuisance SMS messages, etc.

8.   Lastly, teach your children about the harm they may cause to others when saying something mean, rude or hurtful. To them, it might sound funny and unserious, but it could hurt or affect their school peers. And most importantly, parents should lead by example.
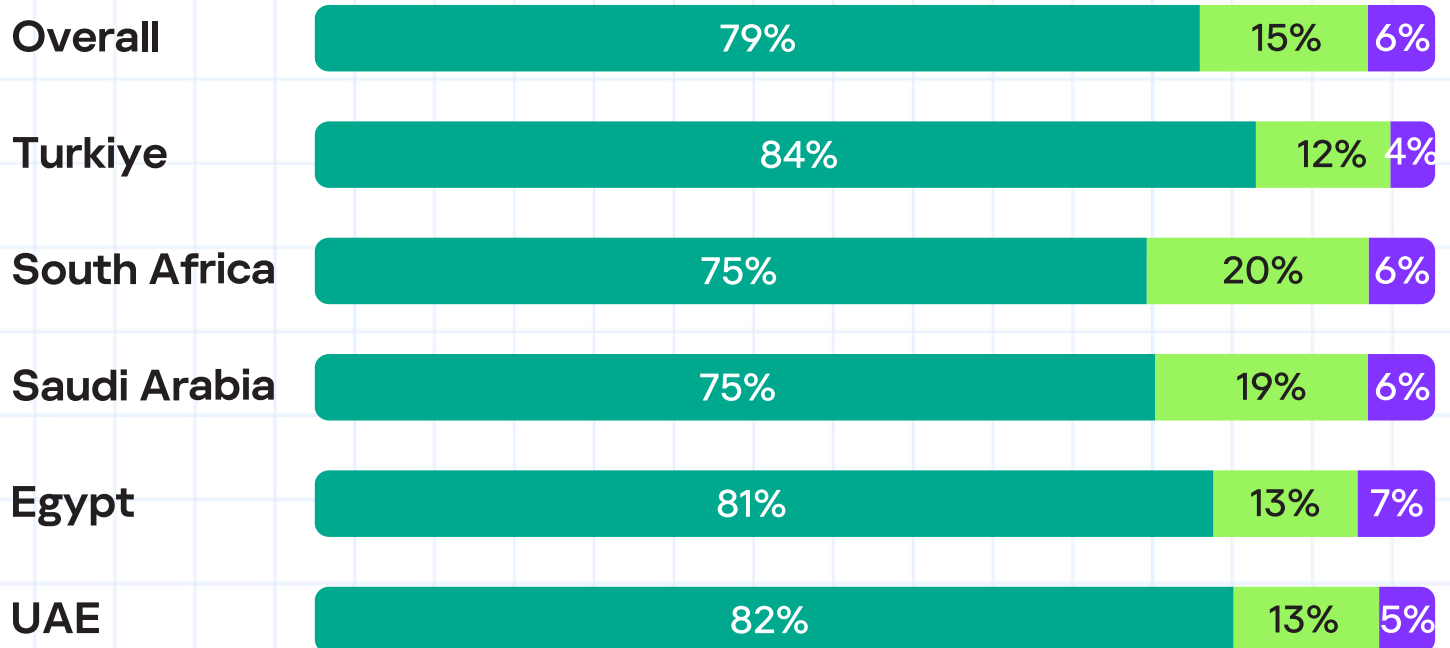
Prevention of threats in the digital world

The vast majority of parents (87%) discuss the rules of behavior on the Internet with their children, including online safety rules (78%) and rules of ethics (43%).

94% of parents control their child's online activities. The older the child, the less parental control: **85%** of 3-10 years old get constant control, while only half of 15-17 year olds (**55%**) get it and a significant share of them are controlled only when it is needed (**16%**).

Slightly more than in other countries, parents control children's online activities in Türkiye (96%) and the UAE (95%).
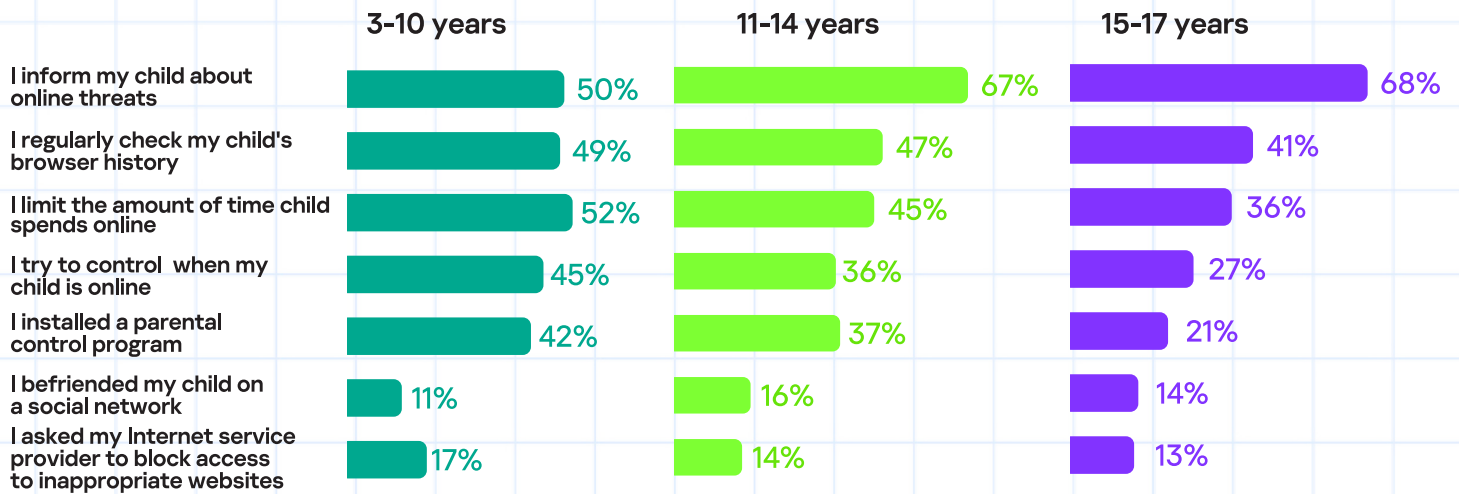
Do you control your child's online activities?

Legend:
- Yes
- When needed
- No

Country	Yes	When needed	No
Overall	79%	15%	6%
Turkiye	84%	12%	4%
South Africa	75%	20%	6%
Saudi Arabia	75%	19%	6%
Egypt	81%	13%	7%
UAE	82%	13%	5%

Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

Parents of younger children tend to pay closer attention to protecting their child from online threats. They limit the amount of time spent online, install parental control programs and try to control a child when they are online. With older children, the most effective measure is to talk about online threats and warn them to be careful while using the Internet.

What do you do to protect your child(ren) from online threats?

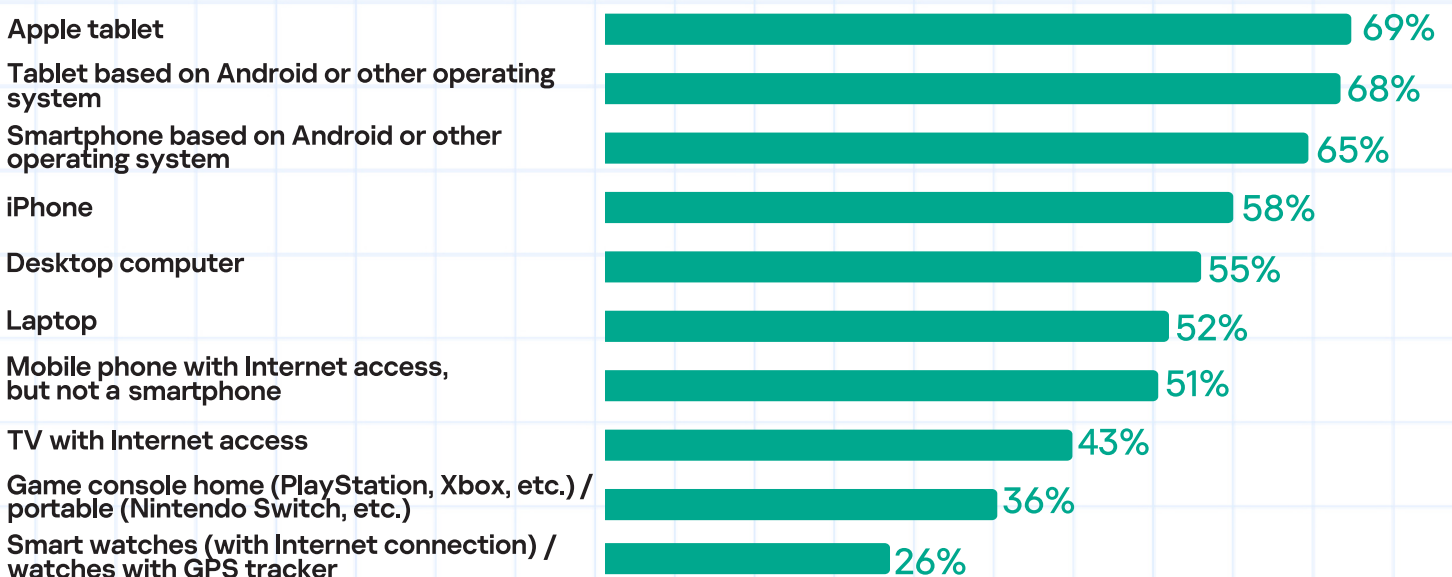|	3-10 years	11-14 years	15-17 years
I inform my child about online threats	50%	67%	68%
I regularly check my child's browser history	49%	47%	41%
I limit the amount of time child spends online	52%	45%	36%
I try to control when my child is online	45%	36%	27%
I installed a parental control program	42%	37%	21%
I befriended my child on a social network	11%	16%	14%
I asked my Internet service provider to block access to inappropriate websites	17%	14%	13%

Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

Most of the parents (90%) have installed parental control on their children's devices, which is a more common measure for younger children.

The most controlled devices are tablets (**68-69%**, depending on the OS), smartphones (**58%** for iPhone and **65%** for Android).

Child's devices that have parental controls/children's restrictions installed

Device	%
Apple tablet	69%
Tablet based on Android or other operating system	68%
Smartphone based on Android or other operating system	65%
iPhone	58%
Desktop computer	55%
Laptop	52%
Mobile phone with Internet access, but not a smartphone	51%
TV with Internet access	43%
Game console home (PlayStation, Xbox, etc.) / portable (Nintendo Switch, etc.)	36%
Smart watches (with Internet connection) / watches with GPS tracker	26%

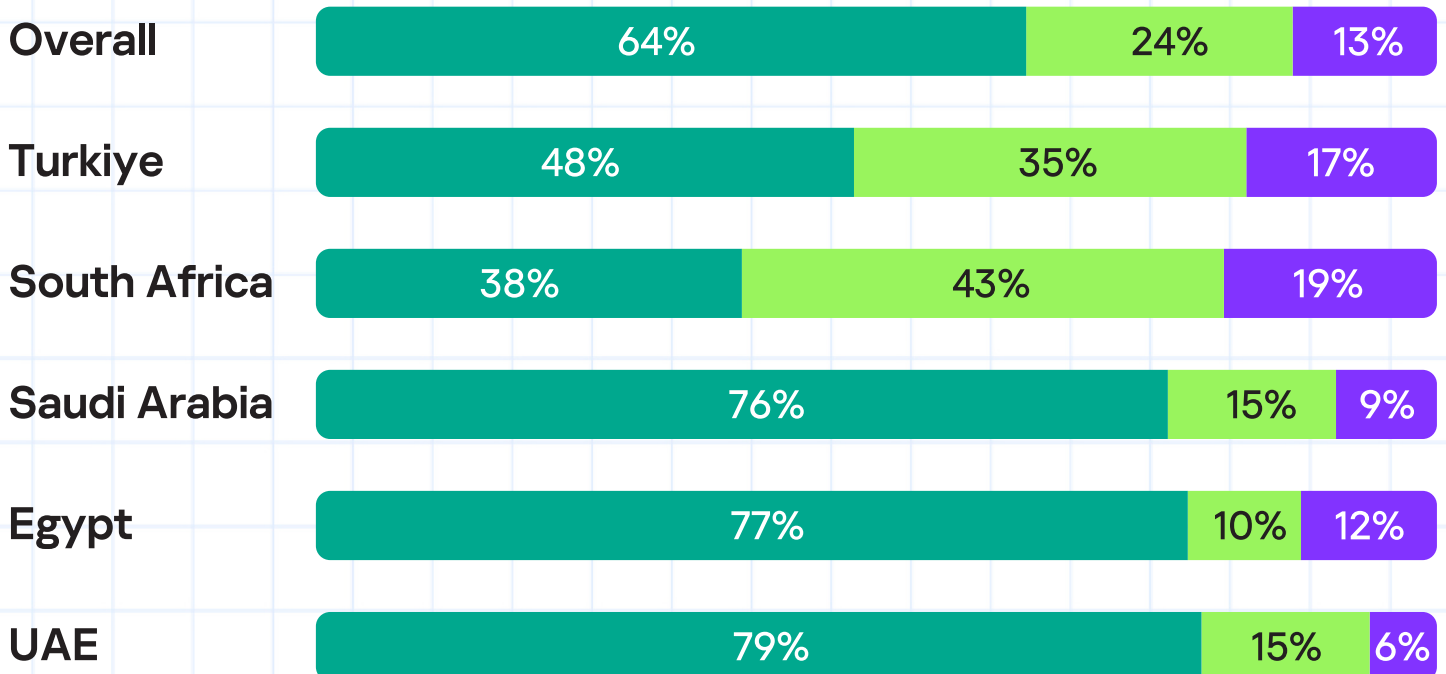Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

Parents control not only online life of their children, but also their geolocation (64%).

Older children tend to have less geolocation monitoring, compared to younger ones: only **44%** parents of 15-17 years old children track their child's location.

The largest number of parents track their child's location in the UAE (79%), Egypt (77%), and Saudi Arabia (76%). South African parents are the least who prefer not to intervene their children's personal life and not track their geolocation.

Tracking child's location using location tools / parental control software

Legend:
- ■ Yes
- ■ No, but I would like to
- ■ No, we don't need it

	Yes	No, but I would like to	No, we don't need it
Overall	64%	24%	13%
Turkiye	48%	35%	17%
South Africa	38%	43%	19%
Saudi Arabia	76%	15%	9%
Egypt	77%	10%	12%
UAE	79%	15%	6%

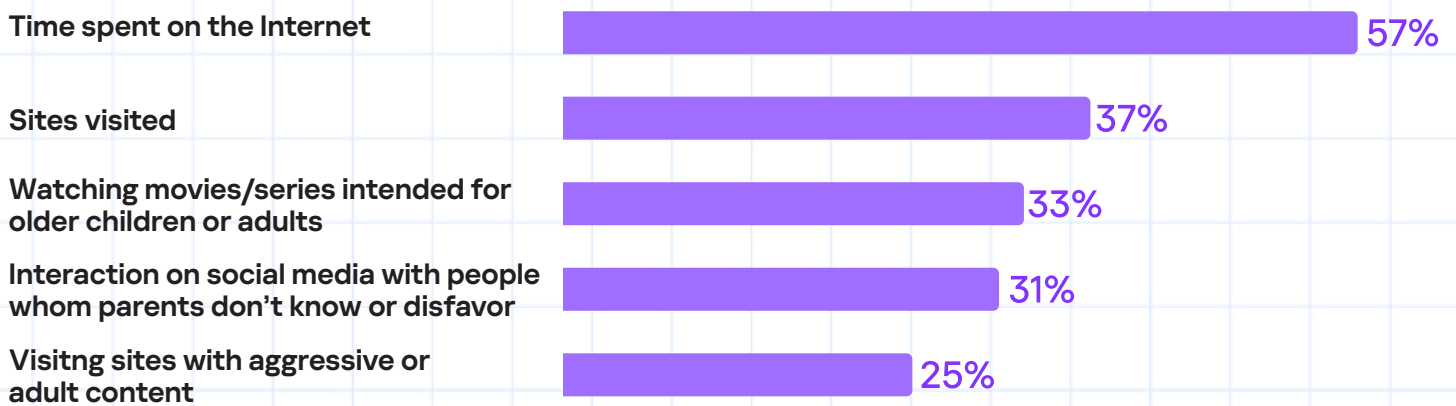Sample: parents of children of all ages in 5 countries (5000 interviews)

Geolocation tracking might be a useful feature for parents if their children are going to school and returning home on their own.

Despite parents' attempts to control their child, some children still try to hide their online activities from their parents (**24%**). The older the children, the more likely they are to hide something from their parents (**35%** for 15–17-year-olds, compared to **30%** for 11–14-year-olds and **20%** for 3–10-year-olds).

The highest number of children hiding their Internet activity from their parents was noted in the UAE (29%).

The three main types of information that children prefer their parents not to know about are time spent online (**57%**), sites visited (**37%**), and adult movies watched (**33%**).

Top-5 things children would prefer to hide from their parents

Time spent on the Internet	57%
Sites visited	37%
Watching movies/series intended for older children or adults	33%
Interaction on social media with people whom parents don't know or disfavor	31%
Visitng sites with aggressive or adult content	25%

Sample: children of all ages in 5 countries who have ever hidden what they do on the Internet from their parents (1175 interviews)

In order to hide their online activities, some of the children aged 11-17 set passwords on their devices (**28%**), clear browser history (**20%**) and go online when parents are not around (**16%**).

To sum up, it is important to note that one cannot fully control their child's online life. It is especially hard with older children who know ways of bypassing the restrictions. In such cases, the most effective way of preventing online threats is explaining the security rules and teaching the child to follow them.

Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel in the Middle East, Türkiye and Africa at Kaspersky

Due to the fact that modern children from early childhood use smartphones and other gadgets, they perceive the digital space as something natural and familiar, like taking a walk. At the same time, the digital space also has its own rules of secure behavior, which many teach from childhood, such as not communicating with strangers or going to unfamiliar and unknown places. Parents can make their children's digital world more secure by shielding them from inappropriate content and helping them learn how to be secure in a digital environment by using various tools and methods. For instance, adults can encourage certain digital habits within the family or use parental control apps, which can help filter out desirable and undesirable content categories, as well as check child's online activity.
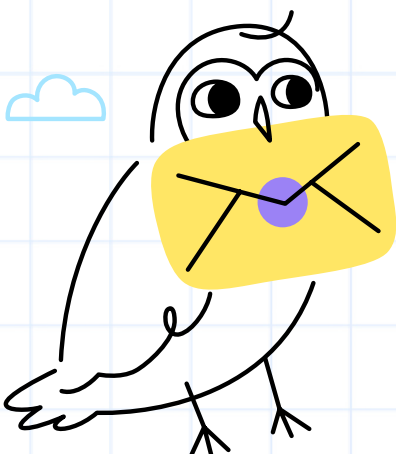
Countries' features
UAE

Features:

- **Openness on social networks.** Both parents and children share additional information, while **40%** of children are friends with children they do not know in real life;

- **Children are interested in becoming a blogger**, **35%** of those who want to become a blogger believe that this does not require special skills, **38%** are involved in the development of their blog;

- **31% of parents lost money because of the child's behavior on the Internet**, while **28%** of conflicts with the children occur because of who they communicate with on the Internet;

- **Parents themselves, more than in other countries, have faced various kinds of online fraud**;

- **The largest number of children face cyberbullying**, the largest number of children send their nude photos online, the largest number of children face adding unfamiliar adults as friends on social networks;

- **Children are more likely than in other countries to experience a decrease in academic performance due to cyberbullying;**

- **It is more popular than in other countries to add a child as a friend on social networks for control.** Geolocation control of the child is popular.

Childrens' portrait

- **14% of children get their own phone/tablet for the first time at the age of 3,** this is one of the highest rates among countries;

- **They behave openly on social networks;**

- **49% have a social media page.** One fourth of children share their mobile phone number (**26%**),

school name/address (**25%**), and **17%** share geolocation. One third of all social media users in the UAE have public accounts (**33%**) with information open to everyone. **40%** are friends with boys and girls of their own age whom they do not know in real life;

- **Blogging is popular: 47%** want to be a blogger;

- **There is a lowest rate of parents' awareness of their children playing computer games.** Thus, **13%** of parents acclaim that their child does not play games, while, according to children, only **9%** of them do not play;

- **29% of children hide things which they do in internet from their parents;**

- **In the UAE, there is the highest percentage of children aged 12 (25%)** and older who have ever sent their very personal or indecent photos or videos of themselves in private messages or posted on social media;

- **Unfamiliar adults tried to contact children the most on the Internet in the UAE** (**32%**), for **18%** of children this was not a single case;

- **The UAE has the biggest number of children (70%) who have secret chats that parents are not aware about;**

- **The largest number of children watching violent videos intentionally is in the UAE** (**26%**);

- **The UAE has the largest number of children who have ever regretted posting something on social networks (43%) among countries;**

- **In the UAE, the largest number of children became victims of cyberbullying** (**18%**), and the largest number of children who noted that their friends had become victims (**20%**), compared to other countries.

Parents' portrait

- **The vast majority of parents limit the child's time on the Internet (92%);**

- **93% use gadgets for educating child,** which is within the countries average;

- **They behave openly on social networks:** **89%** have a social media page, while social media accounts of **38%** of respondents from the UAE are publicly open;

- **In the UAE, parents face online threats more often than in other countries;**

- **31% of parents lost money due to their child's online behavior in the UAE;**

- **Conflicts with children due to their online behavior occur in 31% families;**

- **Parents most often tell about the rules of ethics on the Internet 49% in the UAE;**

- **As a means of control of their children, parents regularly check browser history (53%) and install parental control program (43%);**

- **The share of parents who befriend their children on social media is the largest among countries (17%);**

- **The largest number of parents track their child's location in the UAE (79%).**

Countries' features
Egypt

Features:

- **High dependence on gadgets,** anger when the phone turns off is more common than in other countries;

- **Openness on social networks** (parents share additional information; children reveal their real age on the Internet more than in other countries, children's pages are open to everyone, more than in other countries);

- **The largest number of children want to become bloggers,** are supported by their parents, and are highly involved in the development of their blog. More than in other countries, children watch bloggers;

- **Games are popular, children play a lot of time,** **77%** have played games unsuitable for their age, more than in other countries experience negative emotions after playing. **11%** of parents do not believe that games can cause aggression (more than in other countries);

- **The largest number of children watch violent videos,** both accidentally and on purpose, the largest number of children face online threats, the largest number of children face the addition of unfamiliar adults as friends;

- **Parents talk about the rules of behavior on the Internet,** including ethics, try to control the child's activity on the Internet, track geolocation.

Childrens' portrait

- **Children have the highest rates of smartphone (73%)** and computer/laptop (**49%**) dependence by country;

- **Popular activities on the Internet for children: after watching videos (62%)** and playing games (**54%**), there is a chatting with friends (**37%**);

Countries' features
Egypt

- The share of children that are not yet familiar to gadgets is the highest in Egypt (**18%**);

- When the phone is turned off, more children feel anger in Egypt than in other countries (**37%**);

- Much more children have their own pages on social networks (**58%**) compared to children of other countries;

- **86%** of children track likes/views/comments on their social media posts, **40%** of them do it very carefully;

- They behave openly on the Internet: **69%** of children indicate their real age. **30%** in Egypt open information on their account to everyone;

- Blogging is popular: **56%** of children watch/read/ subscribe to bloggers;

- Watch video game streams more than in other countries (**81%**);

- **36%** of children in Egypt play for 1-2 hours every day;

- **77%** played age-inappropriate games;

- **66%** in Egypt play mobile games which is more than in other countries;

- In Egypt, there is the biggest number of children who feel sad or angry after games (**45%**);

- Unfamiliar adults tried to contact children the most on the Internet (**29%**) which is higher than in other countries;

- The largest number of children watching violent videos (**23%**). Egypt also has the largest number of children who have seen violent videos by accident (**41%**);
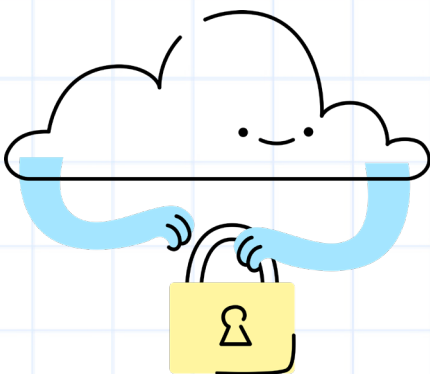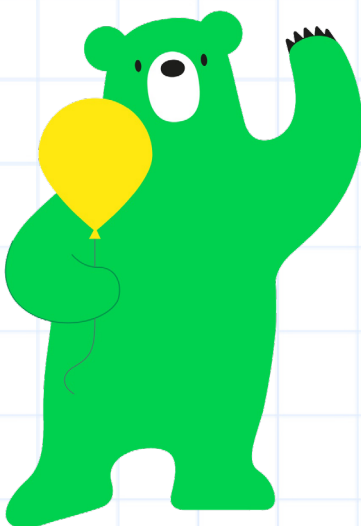
Countries' features
Egypt

- **16% of children experience cyberbullying as a victim and 18% as a witness;**

- **The consequences of cyberbullying that appear more clearly than in other countries:** decreased self-esteem (**57%**), depression is **50%**; **33%** of children face anorexia.

Parents' portrait

- **93% of parents have accounts on social networks. 69%** add additional information in posts. The children's name (**61%**) and their hobbies (**59%**) are most often written compared to other countries;

- **In Egypt, 82% of children are supported by parents in the desire to become a blogger;**

- **Compared to other countries, in Egypt there is the biggest share of parents who strongly disagree that video games can make children violent and provoke aggression (11%);**

- **Though the most popular reason of conflicts between parents and children is the amount of time spent online (59%),** it still ranks the lowest among all countries (**64-75%**). What really worries parents of Egypt compared to other countries, is the fact that children play / chat online all the time instead of doing something useful (**32%**);

- **Egypt is a country with the most widely discussed rules of ethics on the Internet (50%) between parents and children;**

- **Parents in Egypt are stricter in terms of protecting their children on the Internet** by informing children about threats beforehand (**59%**), and controlling when the child is online (**47%**);

- **Parents control the geolocation of their children more than in most other countries (77%).**

Countries' features
Saudi Arabia

Features:

- **Openness on social networks** (more additional information, fewer closed pages);

- **Popularity of blogging,** the desire of children to become bloggers for the sake of wealth without effort;

- **Parents are interested in the child's opinion when posting on social networks;**

- **There is a big discrepancy in what parents think about inappropriate games and what children say** (**81%** think they played, **24%** admit they played). Children are **14%** more likely than in other countries to erase their browser history;

- **76%** of parents track their child's geolocation;

- **20%** of children experience cyberbullying (average).

Childrens' portrait

- **Saudi Arabia (66%) has the second highest rate of smartphone dependence among countries;**

- **16%** of children get their own phone/tablet for the first time at the age of 3, which is more than for children of that age in other countries;

- **47%** have social media pages;

- **Blogging is quite popular: 51%** watch bloggers;

- **The gap between parents' and children's estimates of children's choice of age-inappropriate games is the highest in Saudi Arabia.** According to parents, **81%** of their children played inappropriate games, but only **24%** of children committed in doing this;

Countries' features
Saudi Arabia

- **22% hide what they do on the Internet from their parents.** To do this, children set passwords on devices (**25%**), go online when parents not around (**16%**), and clear their browser history after using the Internet (**14%**);

- **32% of children experience cyberbullying;**

- **In Saudi Arabia, such consequences are more common than in other countries:** decreased self-esteem (**61%**), and depression (**50%**).

Parents' portrait

- **95% use gadgets for educating children, which is slightly more than in other countries;**

- **Do not behave too openly on social media;**

- **87% have a social media page.** Less number of parents, compared to other countries post their children on social media pages (**38%**);

- **Only 41% of parents hide their photos/videos/posts** from unknown people and make them available only for friends in Saudi Arabia. This is second lowest rate among countries;

- **Parents take into account the child's opinion** when posting child's pictures: **68%** of parents ask for their child's opinion, and **39%** of them publish information only with the child's permission;

- **64% of parents do not mind their child becoming a blogger;**

- **The largest number of parents track their child's location in Saudi Arabia (76%).**

Countries' features
South Africa

Features:

- **Children spend a lot of time on the Internet,** get upset when the phone turns off;

- **Parents are more closed-minded on social media than children.** Children openly share additional information, including photos of their home, but only **16%** are friends with adults online who are not relatives and whom they know in real life;

- **Children are less interested in becoming bloggers than in other countries,** they tell their parents less about their desire to be a blogger and most often face a negative attitude from their parents;

- **Among the advantages of being a blogger, children are more interested in working from home,** while less than in other countries, children believe that they can earn more by doing this than by regular work. **14%** of parents are ready to support a child in becoming a blogger only if they are paid for it;

- **More than in other countries, children are interested in music on the Internet;**

- **The least number of children played age-inappropriate games,** little cyberbullying, the least number of parents lost money due to the child's behavior on the Internet, the least number of children send their naked photos on the Internet, the least number of adults are added to children's friends, the least watch violent videos;

- Parental control programs, setting restrictions with the help of a provider and geolocation control are popular, **75% of parents control children.**

Countries' features
South Africa

Childrens' portrait

- **Popular activities on the Internet: games (69%),** watching videos and funny pictures (**67%**), watching movies and listening to music (**41%)**. Movies and music have the highest rate among countries;

- **More than 16% of all children constantly spend time on the Internet,** while the average for the measured countries is **6%;**

- **55% of children feel sad when their gadget's battery runs out or it turns off,** which is second highest rate among countries. At the same time, the number of those who feel angry in such cases is the lowest (**17%**);

- **Only 35% of children have their own pages on social networks;**

- **They behave openly on social networks:** **62%** share information about their hobbies and interests, **28%** post personal photos, and **22%** take photos of their house;

- **Blogging is moderately popular: 52%** watch bloggers, while only **7%** do it often;

- **Children of South Africa more often than their peers in other countries agree that bloggers can work from the comfort of their homes and have flexible working hours (51%),** should be as honest as possible, sincere with his readers and love their audience (**45%**), and that in order to become a successful blogger, you need to work hard (**43%**).;

- **61% play mobile games.** Only **25%** of children play computer games;

- **24% of children replied that they had played age-inappropriate games** which is lower than in most other countries;

Countries' features
South Africa

- **South African children have the lowest rates of depression and anger caused by video games: 66%** of children do not face negative emotions after playing;

- **Only 20% of children hide things that they do in the Internet from parents,** which is lower than in other countries;

- **Only 7% of children aged 12 and older sent their very personal or indecent photos or videos of themselves in private messages or posted on social media;**

- **Unfamiliar adults tried to contact children on the Internet the least in South Africa (17%)** compared to other countries;

- **The smallest number of children watching violent videos is in South Africa – 7%;**

- **The smallest number of children who became victims of cyberbullying (7%) or witnessed cyberbullying of their friends (10%);**

- **In South Africa, special consequences of cyberbullying are less common than in other countries.**

Countries' features
South Africa

Parents' portrait

- **87% of parents limit their children time on the Internet which is slightly below the average;**

- **They are not very public on social networks:** the least amount of additional information is shared in South Africa – only **29%**. **71%** of parents in South Africa post photos/videos/posts of their children only for friends;

- **They are not very interested in the opinion of the child when posting posts with him/her on social networks:** only **31%** in South Africa ask their child for permission, of which **22%** publish information only with the child's permission;

- **The smallest number of conflicts due to the online life of a child is in South Africa (17%).** The most popular reason for conflicts is the amount of time spent with a device (**75%**). At the same time, parents seldom argue with children on playing instead of doing something useful (**22%**) and on whom they are communicating with (**8%**);

- **18% of parents lost money due to their child's online behavior in South Africa which is the lowest among countries;**

- **95% control their child's online activity;**

- **The most used means of control are checking browser history (52%) and installing parental control (50%).** Another method which has more popularity in South Africa compared to other countries is asking Internet service provider to block access to inappropriate websites (**24%**);

- **In South Africa, only 38% track the child's location.**
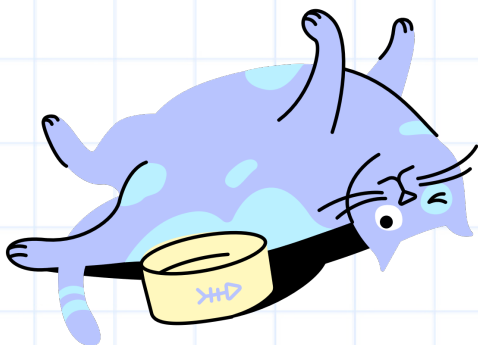
Countries' features
Türkiye

Features:

- **Children are focused on education** (they study using the Internet;

- **Academic performance decreases less often than in other countries due to bullying;**

- **There is a popular belief that special skills are needed to be a blogger;**

- **The desire to become a blogger is lower than in other countries;**

- **Parents control the time that the child does on the Internet more than in other countries,** track the child's geolocation (although only **48%** do that);

- **The most "closed" pages on social networks for both parents and children;**

- **The lowest percentage of cyberbullying,** the least number of people regretting publications on social networks, the smallest number of adult strangers who are trying to make friends with a child, few children have played games unsuitable for their age.

Childrens' portrait

- **Use the Internet for development**

- **In Türkiye, games come out on top (65%),** watching videos, funny pictures and photos (**61%**) in second place. Preparing for lessons, learning something (**49%**) come in a third place and rank the highest among the countries;

- **57% of children feel sad when their phone runs low or turns off,** the highest among countries;

- **Slightly less than in other countries pay attention to the activity under their publications in social networks. 76%** of children track likes/ views/comments on their social media posts;

Countries' features
Türkiye

- **They behave more privately on social networks;**

- **44% have a social media page.** In Türkiye, **70%** of children reveal information on their social media page only to friends;

- **Low interest in blogging.**
  In Türkiye, only **35%** of children would like to become a blogger which is lower than in other countries;

- **They watch streams a little less than in other countries (69%);**

- **Children hide what they do on the Internet from their parents;**

- **The most popular thing to hide, compared to other countries, is the sites that child visits (45%).** The share of those who would prefer to hide that they consume aggressive or adult content (**16%**) is one of the lowest among countries;

- **33% of children put passwords on all their devices**

- **They encounter attempts of unfamiliar adults to contact them, although less than in other countries (20%);**

- **44% of children have secret chats, less than in other countries;**

- **They are the least likely to regret what they posted on social networks (29%)** and the least likely to become victims of cyberbullying (**8%**);

- **Typical consequences of cyberbullying on children include strong stress (36%, the highest among countries),** decreased self-esteem (**40%**) and decreased social activity (**42%**).

Countries' features
Türkiye

Parents' portrait

- **Slightly less restrictive than in other countries:** **87%** of parents limit their child's time on the Internet;

- **Slightly less than in other countries** (**89%**) use gadgets for educating children;

- **89% have a social media page. 52% of parents post about their children on social media pages;**

- **At the same time, parents share additional information.** Geolocation is most often disclosed in Türkiye – **46%**;

- **More than one fourth of families in Türkiye sometimes have conflicts because of children's online life (31%)** which is slightly higher than in other countries. The main reasons for conflicts are time spent online (**67%**, around average) and the content watched (**35%**, higher than in other countries);

- **32% tell their children about online ethics rules,** this is less common than in other countries;

- **96% control the child's online activities.** The most spread means of control are informing about online threats (**55%**), limiting time spent online (**50%**), controlling a child when online (**44%**), and checking browser history (**42%**). All of those measures are close to the average for all countries;

- **In Türkiye, only 48% of parents track their child's location.** This is less common than in other countries.