

Factsheet



Five things to understand: Sharing photos of your child on social media

- 1. Purpose and Audience:** Photographs reflect moments in time and are shared for various reasons. Consider the purpose of the photo and who will see it when shared in different contexts.
- 2. Digital Footprints:** Every online interaction—websites visited, photos shared, comments made—creates a digital footprint that can be hard to change or erase. Think about the digital footprint you are creating for your child and how they might feel about it now and in the future.
- 3. Privacy and Consent:** Involve children in deciding what is shared about them. Children have the right to be asked for consent when their photos are taken, shared, and used, just like adults.
- 4. Protective Sharing:** Use creative photography techniques to protect a child's identity when sharing images online. Examples include photographing over the child's shoulder or blurring their face.
- 5. Role of Parents:** Parents play a crucial role in how children are represented online. Reflect on decisions and actions to make informed choices about digital presence and build awareness of the digital environment.

Consider:

- Why are you taking the photo?
- Does your child want their photo shared online?
- Who will see your post on social media?
- Are your social media followers also your child's friends?

Want to know more? Look out for the chapter from Lisa Kervin, Jessica Mantei, Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett, Dylan Cliff and Rebecca Ng entitled “Children’s Digital Literacy: Interdisciplinary insights for informed, productive, and safe practices” in the *International Handbook of Research in Digital Literacies*.



**Digital
Child.**