

ABSTRACT:

Background: The number of preschool children using modern technologies and the Internet is growing rapidly, but the consequences of this behaviour on individual development are unknown.

Aim: The aim of this research is to map the issue of the use of modern technologies and the Internet by preschool children and to focus on problematic, addictive behaviour and risks related to these technologies based on the statements of the children's parents.

Methods: The data were collected through qualitative research using a semi-structured interview with the parents. In total, 8 interviews were conducted, rewritten into text and further modified using coding and categorization methods.

Results: One of the main findings of the study is that watching TV and YouTube videos dominates preschool children's media use. More than half of preschool children own a tablet. Problematic or addictive behaviour is more commonly caused by using tablets or mobile devices other than different technologies. Parents underestimate risks of the use of modern technologies and the Internet. They set rules based only on their own beliefs and the rules are often inadequate and lead to children's undesirable behaviour.

Conclusion and recommendation: It is necessary to continue the research in the field of use of modern technologies and the Internet by preschool children. Parents should set the time and place restrictions on the use of modern technologies and the Internet for preschool children and a united recommendation should be defined for parents and the general public.

Key words: modern technology, Internet, addictive behaviour, children, preschool age, parents