

# Smart Use of Technology: narrowing the Divide in Education in the Digital Era



**Jeyla Nasibova**  
Parent Support Specialist and  
Educator

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# Agenda

Introduction

Education and Technological Integration

Brain Development

Finding Balance

Strategies to narrow the divide and raise  
healthy and successful humans

Q&A



# Introduction

- Secondary education and technology
- Child's development and technology
- Behind the Screens.  
Children, studies and real life skills
- How do we find a balance?



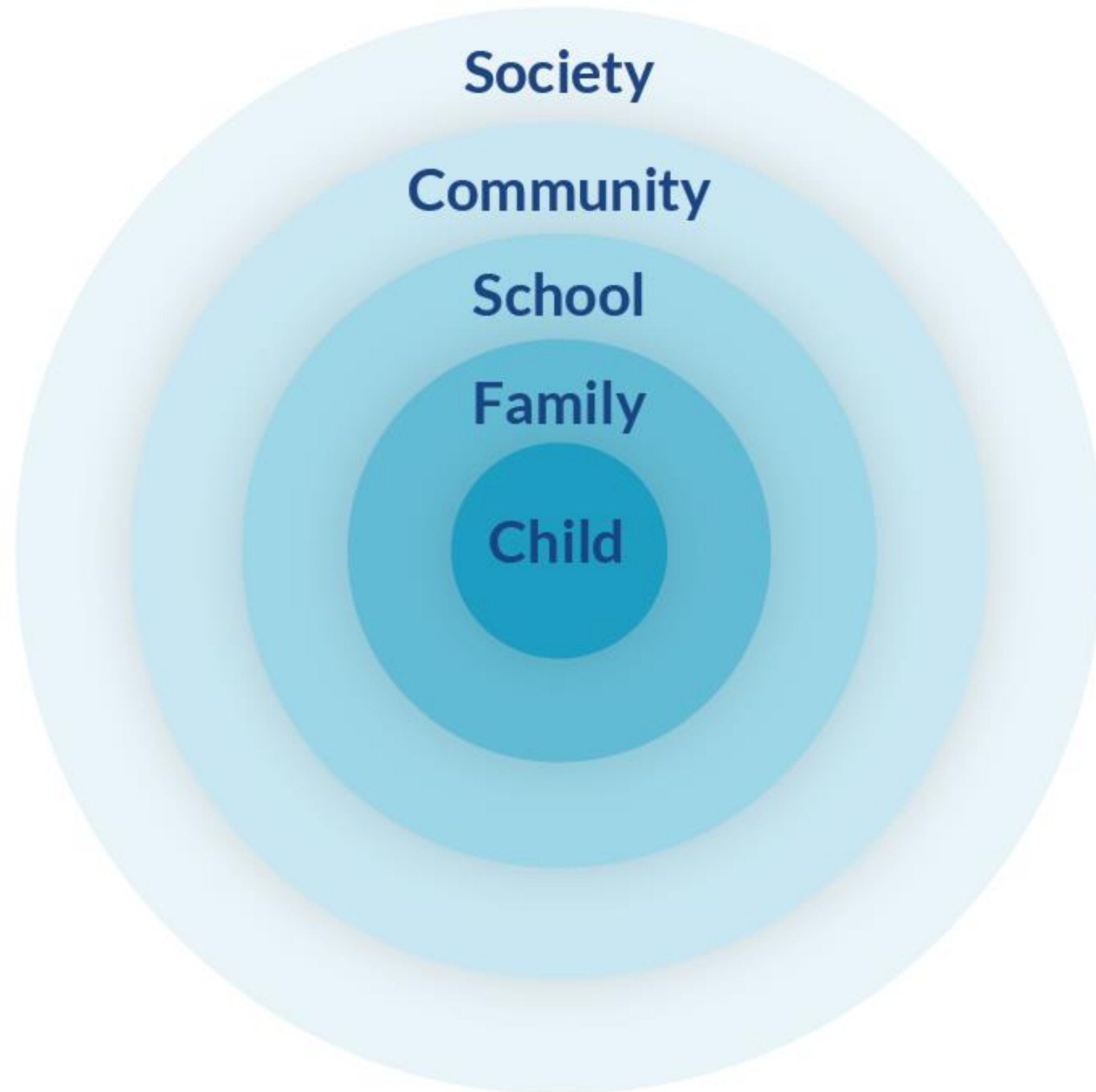




# Education and Technological Integration

- Key concepts: virtual learning environments (Microsoft, Google, etc.), on-screen testing systems, electronic portfolios, research. The role of AI in skills development of younger students
- Suggestions and demands of educational institutions on technology intergaration
- General impact on academic and social and emotional development

## Spheres of Influence for a Child's Growth



The child's sense of self-identity starts with the parent-child bond, and is held within the family. As the child grows, self-identity moves into larger, overlapping spheres of influence. From the relationships and experiences encountered in these spheres of influence, the child absorbs and chooses experiences and images of (1) what is possible to include in his/her sense of identity, and (2) what is appropriate to include.

(G. DeGaetano, 2022)

## Spheres of Influence for a Child's Growth with Mass Media Influences



Mass media impacts the child within each sphere of influence. As the child grows, spheres of influence expand, making mass media effects pervasive and cumulative, because they are amplified through relationships in each sphere of influence.

The earlier a child develops a personal relationship with mass media, the more we can expect mass medias messages to impact the child's self identity.

(G. DeGaetano, 2022)

# Brain Development

## Passive screen time limits self-talk

Children watching without any adult guidance are not saying much to themselves about what to pay attention to or explaining to themselves about what is more important than something else.

## Child cannot easily engage in a thinking process

The constant stream of the rapid changes of images do not allow for higher level thinking processes to occur. Indeed, they can't occur since the cortex, the thinking function of the brain, takes more time to respond than 3-5 seconds, usually 7-10 seconds. A constant diet of fast-paced images can, over time, actually wear out the developing attention span.

## Underdeveloped or delayed critical thinking abilities

The ability to stay with the frustration of being in uncertainty while working through a difficult mental challenge is crucial for developing critical thinking skills. Research shows that screen brains become easily agitated and frustrated when faced with a complex problem. For instance, studies indicate that young children who overuse technology at the expense of other developmentally appropriate activities become elementary school-age children who lack perseverance when faced with a challenging mental task.



# Technology and Social and Emotional Well-being of School Age Students

- **DECREASED ATTENTION SPAN**
- **INCREASED HYPERACTIVITY AND IMPULSIVITY**
- **INCREASED AGGRESSION, FEAR, INSENSITIVITY**
- **SENSATIONAL PORTRAYALS OF VIOLENCE**
- **CYBERBULLYING**





## The delay in development creates a divide in society and education

Example:

Instead of make-believe and physical outdoor play, scholars argue that children may now engage in technology-based play and leisure, which can be more solitary and less active and offer fewer opportunities to self- and co-regulate ([Arnott, 2020](#), [Moore et al., 2020](#); [Navarro & Trudge, 2022](#)). It may also negatively affect their emotional well-being and development or social skills.



# Strategies to benefit from technological progress, narrow the divide and raise healthy and successful humans



- Relevant device policies for schools as well as screentime recommendations for schools and parents based on child development research.
- Smart Use of Smart Technology
- Emphasising healthy family and social connection.





**Thank you!**