

Mobile phones: Children (7-12 years) having fun with the mobile phone and its positive influence on their development. Nurses promoting positives uses of the mobile phone to support children's development

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Children (7-12 years) love their mobile phones. Media and research sources frequently demonstrate parents' and professionals' concerns about children using them. Yet there are occasions where mobiles are vital for children's safety and development. Without mobile phones children would not be able to enjoy many of the freedoms they experience today; helping them to discover new environments and social relationships. New play experiences can emerge with support of the mobile phone. Further, new friendships can be created and nurtured by communicating with friends via the mobile. Rather than parental concerns being the focus, parental support through the establishment of reasonable and negotiated ground rules, can help mobiles become a valuable resource within children's lives. Parents and children working together to help children use mobiles safely and competently to support their development, is important. This paper will explore some of the positive aspects of children using mobiles with particular focus on children's outdoor play and parents' support.

As a practitioner, formulating a positive understanding about children's use of these devices has been developed through researching children's (7-12 years) views and parents' views for many years. Interviewing children themselves has been vital. Nurses can have a role in promoting the positive uses of mobile phones to support children's development.

Biography

Karen Ina Moyse has experience both as a Nurse and as a Psychologist. She has worked in the UK nursing sick children and promoting children's health. She led the development of a Children's Minor Illness Nursing service in Derbyshire which was designed to support children and families at home. She has also worked as a lecturer both in the UK and in Hong Kong. Her research as a Psychologist focuses on children's (7-12 years) use of mobile phones. She enjoys writing and has written several articles and a book about promoting children's health. She has recently returned to the UK after living in Hong Kong for several years

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