

Pornography and its Effect on our Children

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Our children have access to porn because of the times we are living in. Every phone, i-pad, tablet, laptop when connected to the internet makes pornography available to its user. If its user is a child, that child is a few clicks away from explicit sexual and violent images and videos. Previous generations never had the kind of access to pornography that children do nowadays. When I was growing up pornography was in magazines sold only to adults over the age of 18 and those magazines were available in only certain stores and locations. If the magazine was sold alongside other magazines, there would be a plain paper cover over the image on the front of the magazine so the image couldn't be seen until you bought the magazine. The problem children's access to pornography is compounded by the fact that even very young children are using their tablets and phones away from adult supervision making it very difficult for parents to control access to these images and videos.

Many children find pornography by accident. Studies show that 50% of children saw pornography intentionally and 50% looked at it unintentionally. Pornography is widely available for free on-line via Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and other social media sites. It is estimated by some researchers that the average age of first viewing porn-whether intentionally or accidentally- is estimated to be 12 yrs. Anyone, including a child, who has a smartphone, has 24/7 access to massive amounts of free, hardcore porn. In fact, porn has become the primary tool for sex education of our children. Billie Eilish, a popular Grammy winning singer, has spoken openly about how watching pornography from 11 yrs of age ruined her "brain."

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/billie-eilish-says-porn-destroyed-my-brain-after-exposure-at-11.html>

Children are viewing violent degrading sexual scenarios. This is affecting how our teens express themselves sexually. They come to believe that the interactions they observe in pornography are "normal" expressions of intimacy. In our work at the Family Advocacy Center, we see how this kind of exposure to pornography can play out in families where older siblings learn about sexual acts which they then try to imitate with their younger siblings or other younger family members. This leads to harm for both the older and younger sibling.

Please supervise your child's use of electronic devices. If you are paying their phone bill you have the right to ask for it randomly to make sure they are following your "rules" about its use. As uncomfortable as it may be, talk to your children about the dangers of using pornography. Teach them about healthy age appropriate interactions to demonstrate affection and love. You can visit <https://www.culturereframed.org/parents-program-on-porn->

[hypersexualized-media/](#) to learn about how to talk to your children about this difficult subject. None of us knew we were going to have to learn how to deal with what has become a serious issue for our children. Please make use of the resource offered above, Culture Reframed, an excellent reference for up-to-date information, research and educational modules on this topic.