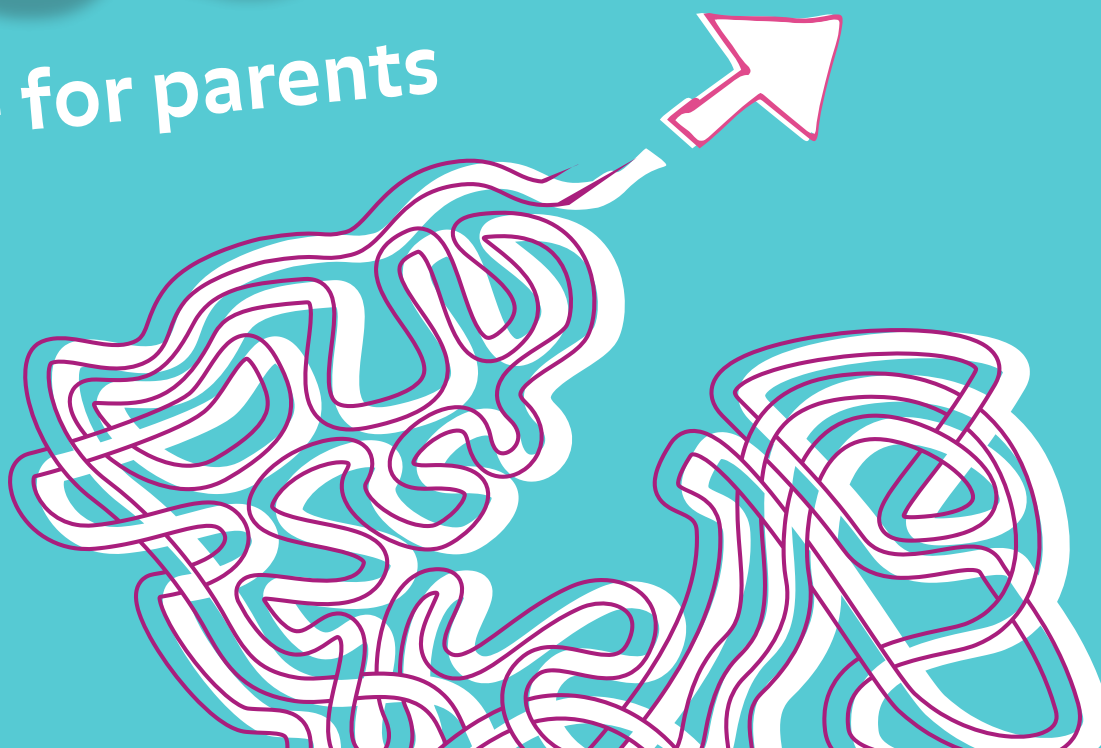


Media education

Babelbox

A guideline for parents



Dear parent or caregiver,

While discussing media consumption with your child is important, it can also be quite tricky. The Chatbox provides conversation starters for discussing media consumption and media education with your child.

By discussing this, you both become more aware of the impact of media consumption and how to approach this best. The box contains nine premises and dilemmas about media consumption and media education. You can use the box to discuss media with your child, but also with other parents. What is their take on media education and why?

What's so nice about these premises and dilemmas is that there are no good or bad answers. Instead they are ice-breakers or conversation starters. Having a conversation about this can be tricky at the best of times.

That is why we have also formulated some follow-up questions, which you can use in addition to the premises. We have also added some information and reading and viewing tips.

Have fun!



Tips and tricks

Do you use the Media Education Chatbox?
Think about the following:

- You receive all the materials in the Chatbox digitally. Do you prefer the physical version? Print out the materials and cut out the individual cards. Even more fun: use double-sided printing to discover the fun illustrations on the back of the cards.
- Want to make a physical chatbox? Be as creative as you want to be. Have your child help you! It's a fun thing to do together. You can print and cut out the premises and place them in a fun 'chatbox'. Use a nice jar or vase. Or a shoe box decorated with fun stickers perhaps?
- There are nine premises in all. You can divide them over a number of months or weeks for a good conversation over a long period, with your child or with other parents, on media education.
- You can bring the cards to a parent café or to another place where you meet with other parents. It's a great ice-breaker for an interesting discussion on this complex, but fascinating topic.
- Use the premises to start a conversation with people. Show interest in their choices and ask follow-up questions. This will make the discussions more fun and valuable. We have formulated a number of follow-up questions for each premise. Provide additional information if you have the opportunity to do this (and if people are open to this). We have provided additional information for each premise. Explain everything in your own words and feel free to supplement where necessary.

1

I rely entirely on my Internet filter. My child can therefore go online safely.

Agree or disagree?

Follow-up questions:

- Which internet filter do you use?
- Do you supervise your child online? (for young children)
- Does your child know how to search the web? How do they know this?

Good to know:

An internet filter or app such as YouTube Kids as an alternative to YouTube is definitely a good idea for (young) children. However, always check that your child is watching age-appropriate content. Especially when they're young. Don't forget that children need to learn how to use the internet properly in the long run. How to search the web, what to look out for, and so on. They don't just learn this at school during media education classes, but also by observing you and consuming media with you!

2

A family vlog? Why not? Or: I try to shield my children from social media as much as possible.

Select an option

Follow-up questions:

- Can you elaborate? Why?
- Do you do this yourself?
- Which agreements did you make with your partner about this?
- Do you know whether your children follow vloggers? Which ones?

Good to know:

Vloggers are attracting an (increasingly younger) following. Many children want to be vloggers themselves. It can be very tempting to pick up your camera and have your children create a vlog or make a family vlog together. But remember, your children don't realise that these images will stay online until the end of time. Is it still fun in that case? Discuss with your partner whether you want to do this and explain the flip side of this to your children.

Tip:

Do your children still want to be vloggers? Make a family vlog for private use while on holiday or have your children make one. It's a great way to practice, but at least you are still the owner of the images!

3

"I post photos or videos of my child on Facebook without their consent." Or: "I don't post photos of my child on social media without their consent."

Agree or disagree?

Follow-up questions:

- Can you elaborate? Why?
- Which agreements did you make with your partner and other family members about this?

Good to know:

Children often don't realise that these images will remain online until the end of time. Is it still fun in that case? Discuss whether your partner whether you want to do this and talk to your children about the flip side of this. What do they think?

4

My child is aware of all the opportunities that media offer.

Yes or no?

What about you?

Follow-up questions:

- Explain.
- How can you tell?
- Did you manage to make your child aware of all the opportunities that media offer?
- How did you do this?

Good to know:

We are media consumers for the most part and tend to forget that you can also produce media. Both without and with a screen. You can write a story, create your own comic, make photos, videos and vlogs... Check out what's possible together and get a grip on the available possibilities.

5

My child may only consume media, not produce media.

Yes or no?

Follow-up questions:

- Why?
- How do you ensure this?

Good to know:

We are media consumers for the most part. So it's not that unusual that we forget that we can also produce media. Don't limit yourself to vlogs and TikTok videos. You can produce media with or without a screen. Create a story or a comic, make photos, videos and vlogs... Check out what's possible together and get a grip on the available possibilities.

6

"I teach my child that there is lots to learn online" vs "I teach my child not to trust anything online."

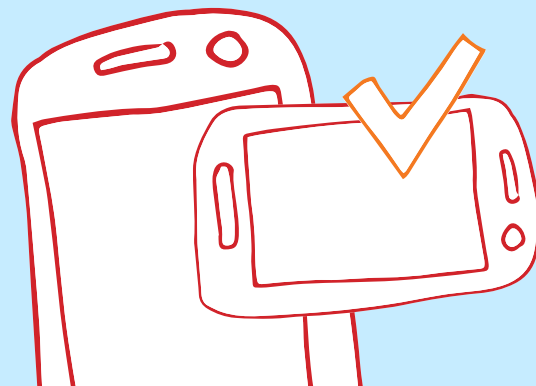
Select an option

Follow-up questions:

- Can you elaborate? Why?
- Which agreements did you make with your partner and other family members about this?

Good to know:

The internet is a tremendous source of knowledge and information, but there's also a flip side. Fake news or misleading advertising are everywhere and children (and even many adults!) find it difficult to distinguish between fact and fake. Discuss this with your child and look at ways of recognising fake news.



7

Media that get kids moving or to go outdoors may always be used.

Agree or disagree?

Follow-up questions:

- Can you give an example of these media?
- How often does your child use these media?
- Please elaborate.

Good to know:

There are various media that challenge you to exercise or go outdoors. Like music and treasure hunt apps, or games like Just Dance, Pokémon GO or RunKeeper. There are other less obvious media that get you moving or to go outdoors that you can use for this. Think of media as a tool and link the reading, watching, listening and playing to an activity. Have them create things: give children a tablet, set them an assignment, and tell them to go outside. There are more possibilities than you think.

8

Online gaming is more fun with friends than alone.

Agree or disagree?

Follow-up questions:

- Why/why not?
- Do you know with whom your child plays online games?
- Do you discuss online gaming with your child? Which information does your child share for example?

Good to know:

Parents often (wrongly) think that their children are lonely when they see them gaming alone in their room. But these days gaming online with friends is much easier and widely accepted. Previously friends used to drop by but now they also talk to each other in a game or app. like Discord.

Discuss with your child what is acceptable when gaming online with friends. What does your child find normal? Do other children also do this? What if something happens that isn't fun? How does your child respond? Show your child that you trust them and that they can always come to you.

9

I'm aware of my internet bubble and my child's.

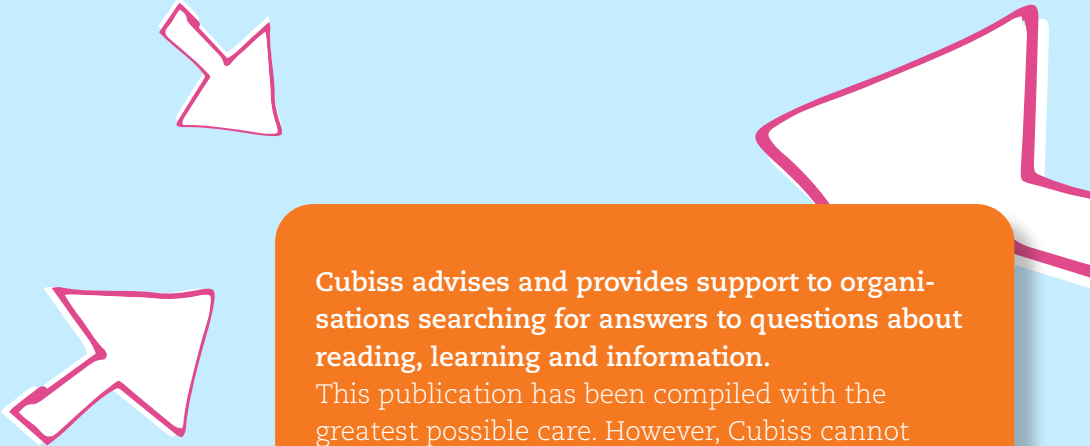
Yes or no?

Follow-up questions:

- Can you elaborate? Why do you think this?
- How do you select media for your child?

Good to know:

Everyone has their own internet bubble. There's nothing unusual about this. Before the internet, viewers selected a TV channel and watched programmes that corresponded with their religious or other beliefs. The internet, however, uses algorithms to map your user behaviour. If your child has watched one video about games, YouTube will often show them other videos about games that might interest them. The ads that you see are also related to previous internet searches. Your internet bubble is thus filled unconsciously. It's good to be aware of this and get out of your bubble now and then by reading, watching or listening to something that is not an obvious choice or approaches an issue from a different perspective. Always think critically!



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