

Opportunities and risks of digitalisation for early childhood education and care

Key messages from a policy review that collected data from 30 countries and jurisdictions in 2022

Young children must be better protected in digital environments

Potential negative impacts of technology on young children include:

Physical and socio-emotional harms



Threats to privacy



Most countries and jurisdictions promote **safe and responsible use of technologies in ECEC**, rather than restrictive approaches, such as blanket bans



Conflicting and incomplete guidelines mean professionals may adopt approaches of variable quality



Digital divides need to be tackled from an early age

Introducing children to digital literacy in early education settings is key to **closing gaps in digital skills**



But, almost **50%** of countries and jurisdictions lack specific goals for early digital literacy in curriculum frameworks



Early digital literacy skills can be introduced with minimal exposure to screens, using, for example, robotic kits and puzzles



But few governments support this

Early childhood professionals and quality assurance are key to a policy roadmap

All staff need foundational training to use digital technologies safely and effectively

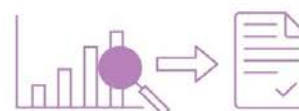


Staff with specific responsibilities can be supported to develop **enhanced or specialised digital skills**

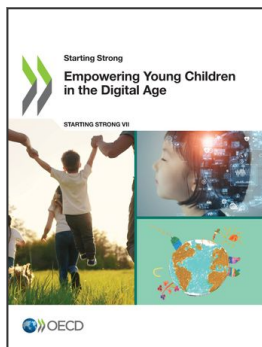
Digital tools can facilitate engagement with families, especially in disadvantaged communities, but few countries and jurisdictions provide training for staff in this area



Robust data can support policy design and monitoring



However, the current breadth of coverage of data systems varies across countries and jurisdictions



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