

'FIVE A DAY'

YOUR TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCREEN TIME



How much is too much screen time for children?

Studies have shown a clear link between **excessive screen time** and issues such as **delayed speech** and **language development, short-sightedness, communication difficulties, reduced concentration spans, poor sleep and mental health problems.**




VISIT HPPSS



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS

Accepted by **NHS** England Mental Health Leads



'Bedtime stories
are the best and
healthiest way
to settle your child'

Birth to 5 years

'Studies have shown that too much screen time can cause babies and toddlers to **learn fewer words** and have **slower language development**. Excessive use of screens is also being strongly linked to **behavioural difficulties** in very young children.'



0 - 24
months



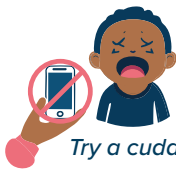
2 - 5
year olds



Slow and
simple content



Keep young children away from AI toys, smart speakers and chatbots until there's more evidence on how they affect your child.



Try a cuddle
or a game



Phones, tablets and computers should not be in any child's bedroom overnight.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1

NO screen time between **birth - 24 months** except for video chatting with family and friends.

2

1 HOUR SCREEN TIME. Children aged **2-5 years** old should not be on screens for more than **an hour** a day, **but less is better.**

3

Slow and SIMPLE CONTENT is better for young kids. Fast, flashy social media-style videos can make it harder for them learn to concentrate so it's best to avoid those.

4

AVOID using a device to **settle your child** down. Evidence shows this makes their anger and frustration worse in later life. **Instead try a book, a game outdoors, or just a cuddle.**

5

***SLEEP HYGIENE.** Under **5s** should **not use a screen** for at least **2 HOURS BEFORE BEDTIME**, to aid their natural sleep pattern.

*'SLEEP HYGIENE' is a term used for healthy habits and behaviours that help support a good night's sleep.



'Walk, run, ride a bike, anything that gets kids up, outside and off their screens'

'Try and ensure screen-free time together'

Ditch screens at mealtimes!
'Studies show that eating in front of screens leads to higher obesity risk as children consume more unhealthy food!'

6 to 10 years

'Studies show a clear link between **excessive** screen use and **difficulties with concentration, sleep, and mental health**. Children must get outside in daylight for at least **76 mins per day** to help protect their eyes from ***short-sightedness**.'



No screens

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Not more than 1-2 hrs/day						Up to 2 hrs/day



Keep active



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1

WAKING UP WITHOUT screens

It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day.

2

1-2 HRS PER DAY

is the suggested screen time in the week and not more than **2 hours on weekends**.

3

STAY ACTIVE

Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for **1-2 hours a day**.

4

SCREEN-FREE time together

Children will often mimic behaviours of the adults around them. **Consider your own social media usage/ phone checking behaviour**.

5

It is recommended that screens **should not be used 1 HOUR** before bedtime. **Phones, tablets and computers should not be in a bedroom overnight**.



Screen-free time together



Reports suggest adults touch their phones over 2000 times a day.



Sleep Hygiene.
No screens
1 hour before bedtime

*Myopia (short-sightedness) is typically corrected with glasses but may increase the risk of severe eye conditions later.

'Buy an alarm clock so that screens are not in the bedroom'

'Encourage connection with friends in person, wherever possible'

11 to 17 years

'Studies show there is a clear link between **excessive social media** and screen use and **difficulties with concentration, sleep and mental health**. There may also be distinct **physical changes** in the **developing brain**.'



No screens



Stay active.
More green time,
less screen time

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Up to 2 hrs/day				Up to 2-3 hrs /day		



Screen-free
time together



No screens at least
1 hour before bedtime



Be careful of violent or frightening content especially before bed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1

WAKING UP WITHOUT screens

It is recommended that social media/screens are **not used for the first hour of the day**.

2

SCREEN TIME

As a general rule, it is suggested that screen time **should not exceed 1-2 hours per day** in the week and not more than **3 hours on weekends**.



Watching lots of short videos on platforms such as TikTok and YouTube is being linked to concentration difficulties in children.

3

STAY ACTIVE

Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for at least **an hour per day**.

4

SCREEN-FREE time together

Children will often mimic behaviours of the adults around them. **Consider your own social media usage**.

5

Phones, tablets and computers

should not be in a bedroom overnight.



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