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Title: How does tablet usage by K12 schools impact parent-child homework involvement in Ireland?

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Abstract

With more and more primary and secondary schools in Ireland bringing computer tablets such as the iPad into the classroom to replace traditional textbooks, this thesis examines the knock on effect on parental homework assistance. Most parents today would not have used computers in their school going days so the impact on their ability or willingness to assist when these devices are used is examined. Parents of children that do not use tablets may hold strong opinions that may or may not have a bearing in fact which is also examined. Semi structured interviews were held with 15 parents across the country from various differing backgrounds to get their opinions and perceptions. Data from these interviews are examined and broken into themes. Findings suggest parents of children using tablets may have noticed an effect on retention of information. The research suggests that parents, in general, do not have great awareness of security concerns with tablet usage. Parents also have concerns regarding prolonged usage of tablets in terms of health, behaviour and social skills. Finally, schools should be mindful that parents strongly feel that traditional skills such as handwriting should still be taught. Suggestions are made for further research and limitations of the current research are discussed.