

ANTENNA

Mobile devices as 'calming tools' for children

Parents are more likely to use mobile technology to calm children with behaviour difficulties, a new study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association for Paediatrics* has shown.

Children with social and emotional difficulties are more likely to be given mobile devices, such as iPads, to calm them down, according to the study of 144 children aged 15 to 36 months in low-income families.

The study was led by a child behaviour expert at the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan.

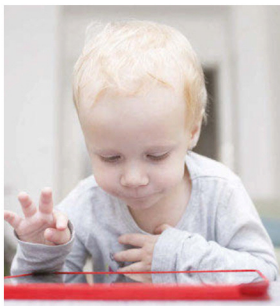
A link has previously been established between parents of babies and toddlers with difficult behaviour and disproportionate use television as a calming tool.

The new evidence indicates the same is true of mobile technology.

"We need to further study whether this relationship between digital technology and social-emotional development difficulties applies to a more general population of parents as well, and what effect it might have on kids' longer-term outcomes," lead author Jenny Radesky said.

Other studies have shown that increased television use can hinder language and social development in young children.

Radesky aims to research further the ways in which mobile devices "interfere with family dynamics", as well as how they can be used as "a tool to increase parent-child connection".



Study links asthma with fertility

Asthma is associated with fertility problems, a new clinical observation study has found.

The paper, published in the *European Respiratory Journal*, showed that women who experience asthma have on average an increased time to pregnancy and a lower birth rate than those without.

The study looked at 245 women with unexplained infertility for a minimum of 12 months while they went through fertility treatment. The women, aged between 23 and 45 years, also underwent asthma and allergy testing and questionnaires during their treatment.

Just under 40 per cent of the women had previously been diagnosed with asthma or received a diagnosis when they entered the trial.

Results showed that the median time to pregnancy for non-asthmatic women was

32.2 months and 55.6 months in those with asthma.

It was also found that women with asthma had fewer successful conceptions and only 39.6 per cent achieved pregnancy compared to 60.4 per cent in non-asthmatic women. The trend was more apparent as the women got older.

Dr Elisabeth Juul Gade, lead author of the study, noted that the connection between asthma and fertility problems could be dependent on different types of asthma, psychological wellbeing, asthma medication and hormones.

"Given this new evidence, we believe that clinicians should encourage women with asthma to become pregnant at an earlier age and optimise their treatment for asthma pre-conception," she said.

Help needed

Refugees At Home is a matching service to find generous hosts for recent refugees and destitute asylum-seekers.

The service aims to ensure this is done safely and with the support of the whole household. It arranges a home visitor to assess, against a set of criteria, each potential host before we assign a guest to them.

The charity is looking for people across England and Wales with experience of home-based assessment and a background in health visiting, district nursing and other community visiting to carry out this essential work.

If you can help, email: info@refugeesathome.org