Mobile Phone and Children in Japan

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How do Japanese children use mobile phone?

Many children use mobile phones which can access Internet.

Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, 2007

Many children use mobile phones which can access Internet.
How do Japanese children use mobile phones?

Functions of Mobile Phone Children Use (unless talk)

Japan PTA, 2007
How do Japanese children use mobile phone?

E-mails

Japanese children feel they must return to received mails soon, ordinarily in a few minutes.

At home, they type mails anytime, during dinner with family, during studying, or in the bed.

In Japanese children’s relationship, heavy peer pressure had functioned. E-mails through mobile phone have made peer pressure heavier.

Children using mobile phone tend to stay up late and to be short of sleep. And they may be stressed through continuous e-mail communication under heavy peer pressure.

“Chotto matte, keitai” (Wait a moment, mobile phone), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, 2008
How do Japanese children use mobile phone?

Mobile Web Site (1) Moba-Geh-Town(mobile game town)

This site provide free games for mobile phone. All Japanese mobile phone careers have fixed data communication plan, so children can get many games without additional cost. Many children spend much hours with mobile phone games.

This site has SNS (social networking service). Many children use this site’s SNS, and many adults who want to communicate with children use it as dating site. Some troubles occurred. Now this site’s manager strictly monitor this site.
There are “profile sites”. In those sites, every user makes his/her own profile page easily. Profile pages are quickly searched by key words (handle name, school, area, and so on).

Many children make profile pages, they rewrite articles frequently, and they watch their friends’ page often.

Various troubles occur.
- Facial photos and contact addresses are post.
- Slandering other persons on it. (A murder case occurred.)
- Identity thief.
Mobile phone’s bad influences for children

Life style
  Time and space
    Shortage and interruption of other activity
    Shortage of sleep
  Relationship with friends
    Peer pressure

Injury
  Harm by adults
    Scam site, Sex crime, Sale of personal information
  Injury by children
    Bad-mouth, Chain-mails, Misleading notice of crime
How can we do?

Technology and Institution
- Improvement of mobile filtering service
- Evaluation and monitor of mobile sites by independent organization
- Setting up meetings by teachers, careers, volunteers, governments, specialists, and so on

Education
- Promotion of media literacy education about mobile phone in and out of schools
- Development of teaching materials ordinary teachers can use easily
- Promotion of education for coexistence (ex. debate, discussion, critical thinking)

Local community
- Making opportunities for parents and local volunteers to learn about mobile communication.
- Making opportunities children can directly communicate various adults.
How can we teach media literacy?
What is the purpose of manager of this site?

「無料エントリー」 means “Free Entry”. Being free is only on entry, using after entry may be not free.
This site collects personal information, and may sell information to other agents. If a child entry, he/she will get many spam e-mails.
We should pay attention small letters. If you scroll, you can read an article about fee. If you entry this site, you will be charged a expensive fee.
All Japan Network Safety Meeting
by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology since 2007

Members
PTA, Schools, Specialists, Communication Companies, Governments (16 people)

• National Forum (2008 Mar. at Tokyo)
• Leaflet “Chotto Matte, Keitai” (Wait a Moment, Mobile Phone) (2008 Feb.)
• Research on children’s usage of mobile phone (2008 Jan. – Mar.)
• Meetings (3 or 4 times a year)
• National Campaign with local consortiums (2008 summer)
Leaflet “Chotto Matte, Keitai”
(Wait a Moment, Mobile Phone)
For 6th grade students
Leaflet “Chotto Matte, Keitai”
Troubles about mobile phone

Community Site
Internet Scam
Chain-Mail
Bad Mouth
Leaflet “Chotto Matte, Keitai”

Mobile Phone Danger Level Check

Manual for Mobile Phone Troubles