



Media and Information Literacy in Kindergarten

Information Literacy in kindergarten

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- The Study in General
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Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood

- Early Childhood: Young children aged from three to six
- Media consumption of children is widely discussed nowadays
- We know: Media influence does not start in school, but with birth



Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood



- The need for information and media literacy is increasingly important – even at a young age
- Children's media use has to be guided to support a responsible, competent and critical handling

Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood

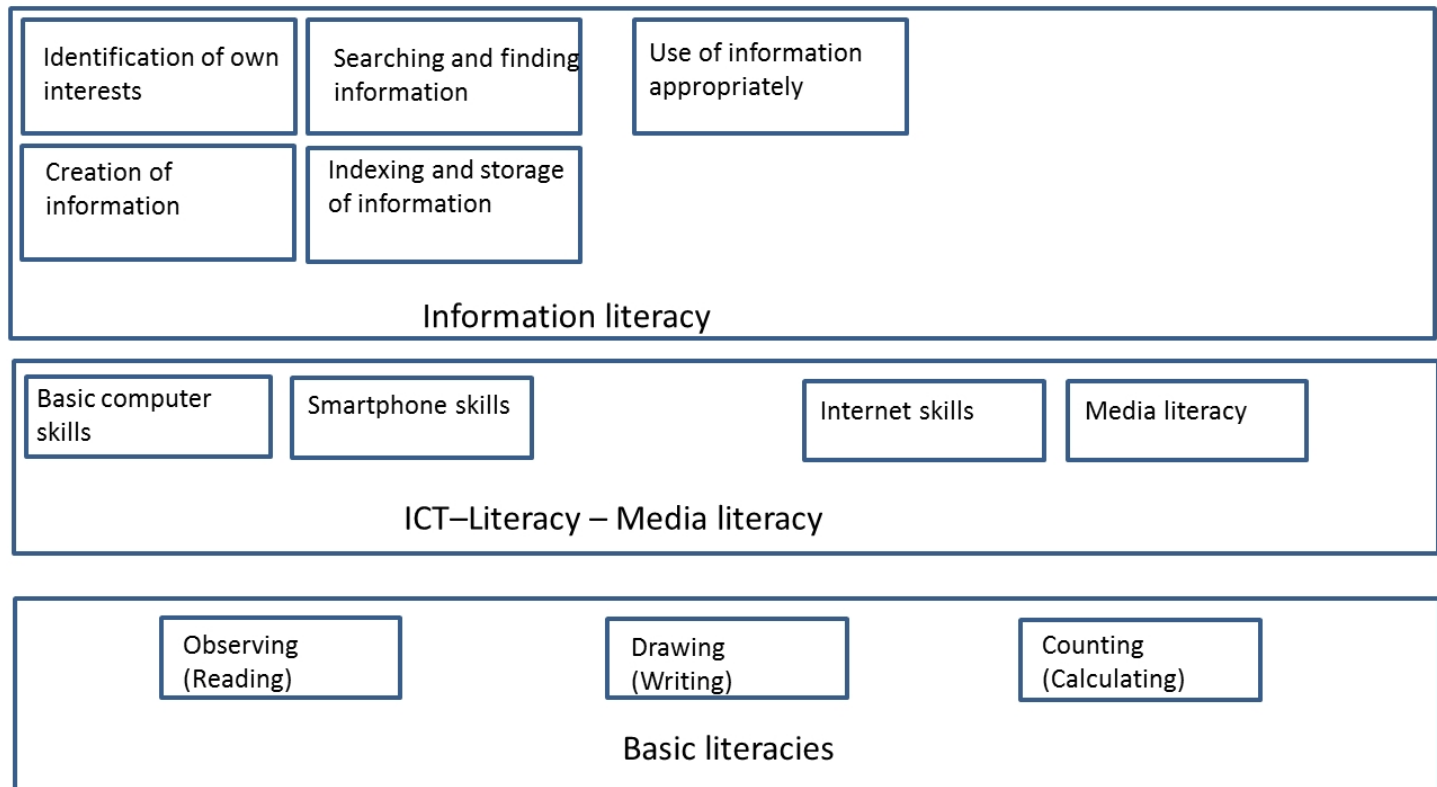
Two sides of media use:

- Risks
- Positive impact

→ enhance learning process and
improve cognitive and linguistic skills



Media and Information Literacy in early Childhood



Information Literacy in Kindergarten



- It does not really exist in Germany
- The focus in Germany still lies on the use of television
- The responsibility for media education lies in the hands of parents only
- 93% of children between three and five are attending kindergarten

Information Literacy in Kindergarten

- Education in kindergarten offers the possibility to combine MIL with aspects like
 - Health promotion
 - Physical education
 - Family activities



Information Literacy in Kindergarten



- A media hostile attitude is described as pedagogically irresponsible → children from low educational backgrounds make inconsistent experiences (Theunert & Demmler, 2010)
- Media education is part of the curricula of kindergarten, but you will not find any detailed information

Information Literacy in Kindergarten



- The work with media depends on the kindergarten
- Media:
 - Digital media → Internet, Tablet- PC, PC, Smartphone, Digicam
 - „Traditional media“ → Book, Journal, Newspaper

Information Literacy in Kindergarten

Questions in the context with MIL:

- Why do we need Information literacy?
- When does information literacy become interesting for children?
- When does the behavior of children to information change?
- When does an information assessment take place?
- What influence does media have in the social contest?



The Study in General

Research questions:

- *How do young children use media?*
- *How can media and information education be integrated into kindergarten curriculums?*



The Study in General

Different levels:

- Children → significance of media for children, which media do they use and what do they do with them?
- Parents → What media does the child use and what are the wishes from parents for media education?
- Nursery nurses → their educational background for MIL, what do they do in the kindergarten?



The Study in General

- Study with children
 - Participant observation → For getting a natural result what media are used by children
 - Puppet interview → One possibility to get information in a playful way what children can do with media



The Study in General

Study with children

– Play for MIL:

- Consists of several stations, the child can reach by fulfilling tasks
- Stations are conducted by a storyline → Problem must be solved together with the interviewer



The Study in General

- Study with parents and nursery nurses
 - Parents: Online Survey, Interviews in order to compare the statements made by their children
 - Nursery nurses: Questions about their own kindergarten and media education → Does the kindergarten use media, what media do they use?, Do parent-teacher conferences deal with the topic etc.



First step: Online Questionnaire

- Survey for parents
 - as a preparation for children interviews
 - information about the media- and information behaviour of children and their parents
 - Information about wishes of parents



First step: Online Questionnaire

- Target group: Parents of children aged between one and six years
- Opening of this anonymous online survey for two months (June to August 2014)



First step: Online Questionnaire

- Shared through social media and parents of kindergartens
- 28 questions included
- Completed by 231 people

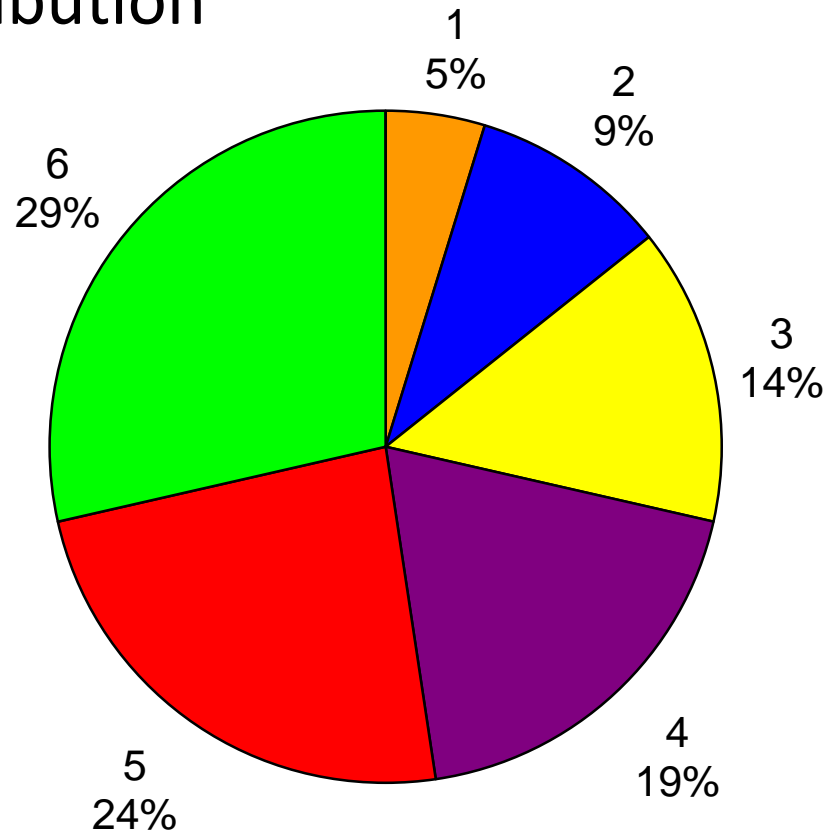
Questions:

- Which programs/devices are being used by children and for how long?
- How is the media usage of parents connected to their children's information/media competencies?



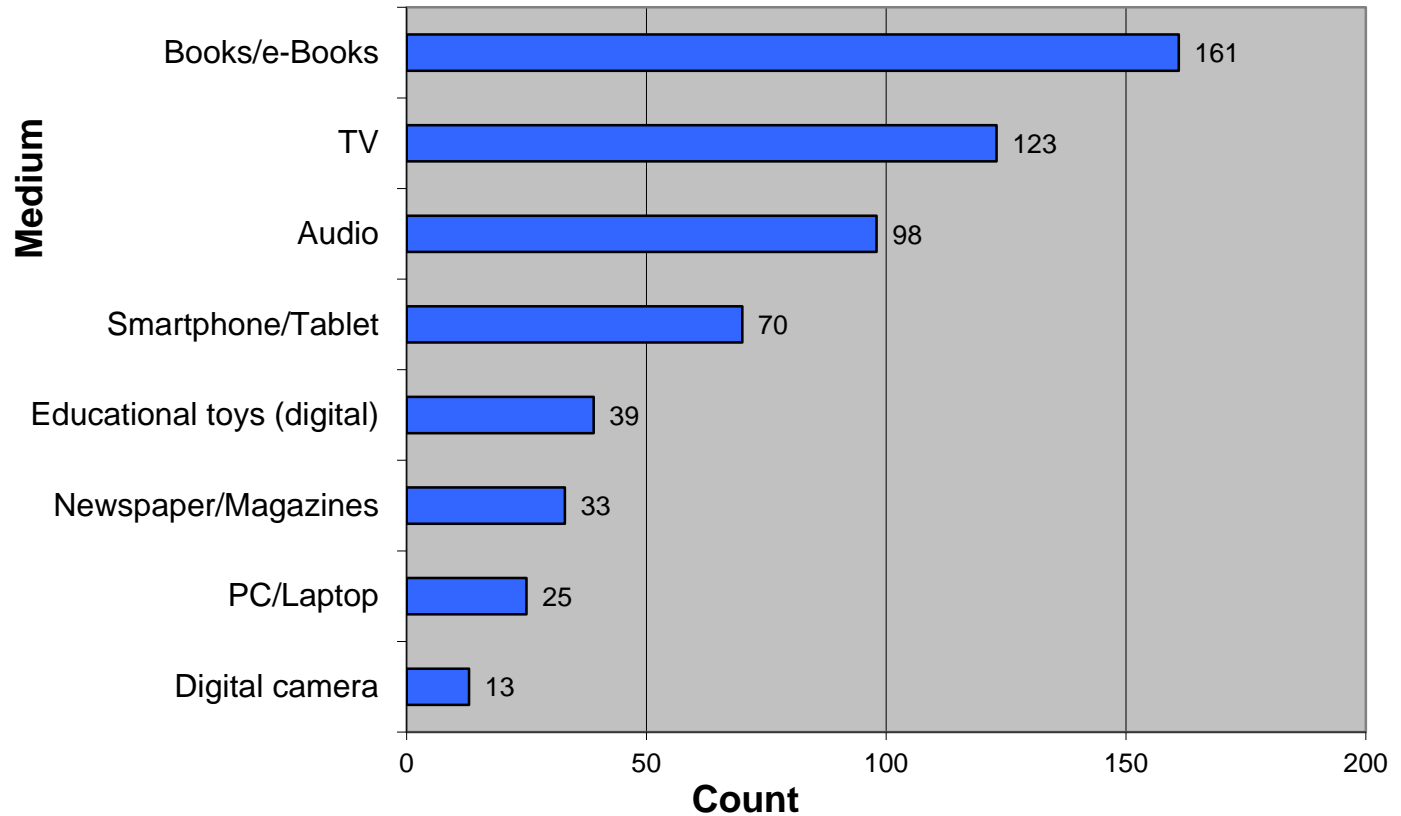
Empirical Results

Age distribution



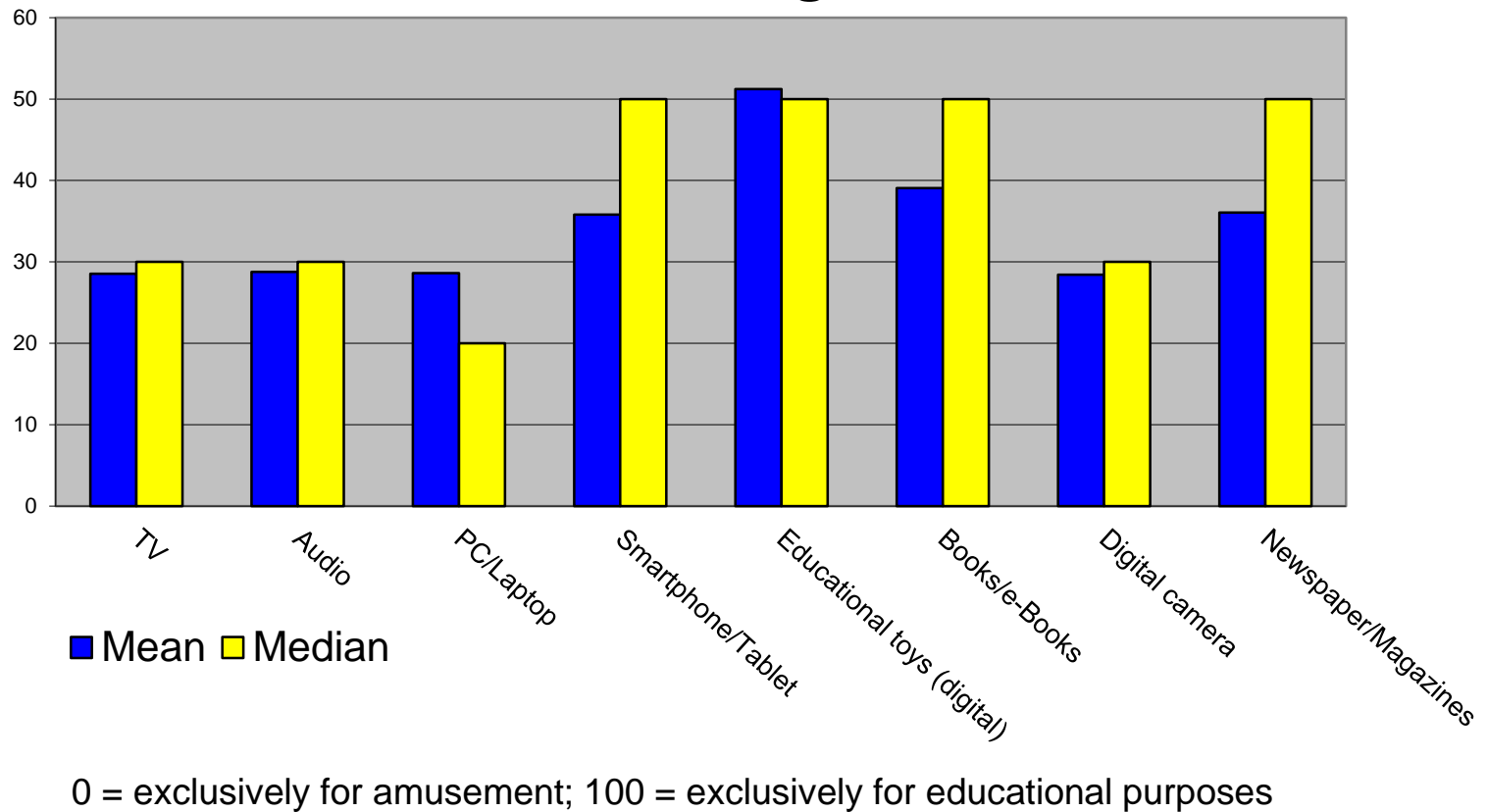
Empirical Results

Media most frequently used (Children)



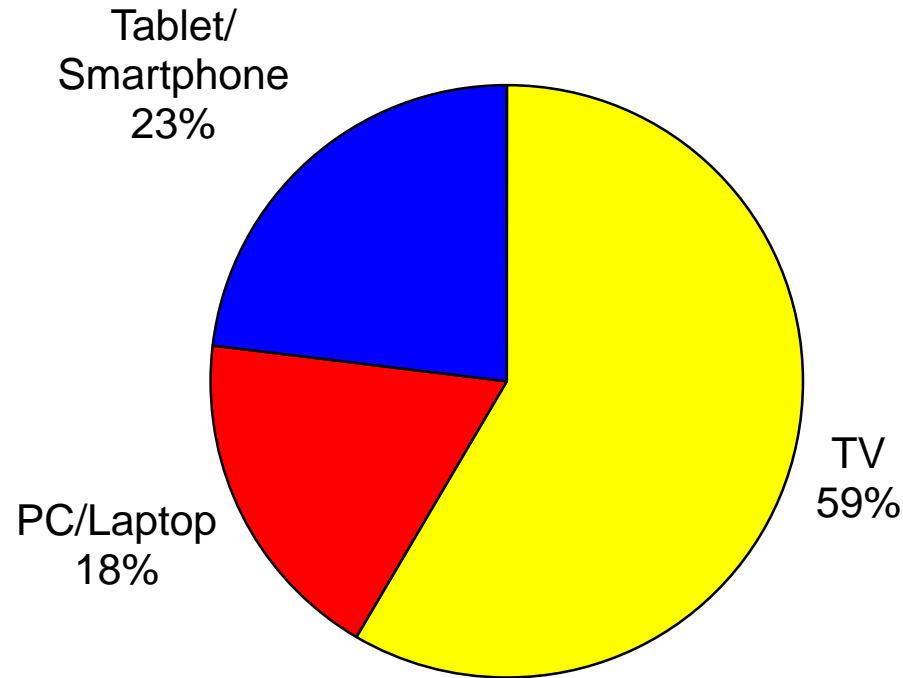
Empirical Results

For what purpose does your child use the following media?



Empirical Results

What medium does your child watch videos/programmes on?



Empirical Results

Who should be responsible for introducing children to media?



Parents

Nurses



Literature

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Thank you!



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