

# National Association for Children and Safe Technology

## Newsletter | October 2015

Dear Members:

**October** is Sensory Processing Awareness Month. In the U.S. it is estimated that 1 in 20 children has sensory processing issues. Children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) have difficulty processing information they receive through their senses. They will either under or over react to sensory input. Everyday tasks can become very challenging for these children. Their behavior is often misunderstood because of a lack of knowledge regarding SPD.

Technology puts children at risk for developing SPD. If you would like to learn more about this correlation, we recommend Cris Rowan's book, *Virtual Child | The Terrifying Truth About What Technology Is Doing To Children* as an excellent resource.

The NACST website has a new "Instant Messaging" section where you can access NACST graphics to download and share - <http://www.nacst.org/instant-messaging.html> This section is located directly under the "Alerts" tab. Please note, these resources are in pdf, not jpeg format. You may also consider taking screen shots instead or downloading them from the NACST Facebook page. In advance, we thank you for getting the message out!

### Wi-Fi In Schools

#### **22 October 2015**

Maryland – WUSA\*9

Parents Worry About Wi-Fi Health Risks (News Video)

<http://www.wusa9.com/videos/news/local/2015/10/20/parents-worry-about-wifi-health-risks-/74311318/>

Montgomery County parents worry about health risks that can come from Wi-Fi used in school.

#### **19 October 2015**

WeeksMD

Have Wi-Fi, Lose Students

<http://weeksmd.com/2015/10/have-wifi-lose-students/>

Dr. Bradford S. Weeks

#### **16 October 2015**

Safe Tech for Schools

MCPS Wi-Fi: Get the Facts and Decide for Yourself (Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tChklBpjo6k>

**28 September 2015**

SBWire

First U.S. Public School District Limits Wi-Fi Radiation Exposure to Students and Staff  
Environmental Health Trust

<http://www.sbwire.com/press-releases/first-us-public-school-district-limits-wi-fi-radiation-exposure-to-students-and-staff-628735.htm>

"Ashland Massachusetts Public Schools have implemented Wi-Fi Device 'Best Practices' which include turning the Wi-Fi off when not in use and keeping devices on a table."

**Please note:** While NACST affirms this policy as a step in the right direction, we must reiterate that a safe and healthy learning environment does not allow for wireless devices to be turned off and on at will, continuing to expose students and teachers to copious amounts of wireless radiation. NACST stands firm in our commitment to achieve healthful learning environments for all children - free of microwave radiation.

**27 September 2015**

Natural Health 365

Parents Sue Their Son's School Because Wi-Fi Is Making Their Child Sick  
Lloyd Burrell

<http://www.naturalhealth365.com/classroom-wi-fi-wireless-1586.html>

(The story of the first federal court case regarding Wi-Fi in schools in the United States.)

### **Medical / Scientific Advocacy**

**14 October 2015**

Environmental Health Trust

Expert Docs Urge U.S. Secretary of Education: Play It Safe With Kids – Go Wired Not Wi-Fi

<http://ehtrust.org/expert-docs-urge-u-s-secretary-of-education-play-it-safe-with-kids-go-wired-not-wifi/>

Dr. Davis' original letter can be downloaded here: <http://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Letter-to-U.S.-Secretary-of-Education-from-EHT-on-Wireless-in-Schools-October-13-2015-.pdf>

**13 October 2015**

New Zealand - The Southland Times

Queenstown Community to Hear Wi-Fi Concerns

Debbie Jamieson

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/72974137/queenstown-community-to-hear-wifi-concerns>

"...Lawyer Sue Grey will speak in Queenstown on the possible health effects of the widespread use of technology, including wifi, in our community."

**12 October 15**

in-cyprus

Mobile Devices Could Harm Kids

<http://in-cyprus.com/mobile-devices-could-harm-kids/>

The Cypress National Committee on Environment and Child Health warns public that using mobile devices could be potentially harmful to children.

**28 September 2015**

Team Around the Child | Interconnections

Dear Anne Longfield, Children are in need of your protection from electromagnetic radiation - an open letter to the Children's Commissioner for England

Peter Limbrick

<http://www.teamaroundthechild.com/allnews/researchsurveys/2052-dear-anne-longfield-children-are-in-need-of-your-protection-from-electromagnetic-radiation-an-open-letter-to-the-childrens-commissioner-for-england.html>

**28 September 2015**

SBWire

EHT Lauds Israel's Ban on Wi-Fi in Kindergarten and Limits to Children's Wireless Exposures in Schools | Additionally, the Italian State of Tyrol Now Calls for Limiting Wireless in Schools

<http://www.sbwire.com/press-releases/eht-lauds-israels-ban-on-wi-fi-in-kindergarten-and-limits-to-childrens-wireless-exposures-in-schools-627333.htm>

**26 September 2015**

Independent.ie | Life

Daniel Levitin: How Information Overload is Making Us Stupid

Kim Blelenberg

<http://www.independent.ie/life/daniel-levitin-how-information-overload-is-making-us-stupid-31555657.html>

The neuroscientist Daniel Levitin warns that rapidly switching between tasks on digital media damages our concentration.

**Scientific Research**

**12 October 2015**

nature.com | Scientific Reports

Polarization: A Key Difference Between Man-made and Natural Electromagnetic Fields, In Regard to Biological Activity

D. Panagopoulos, O. Johansson, G. L. Carlo

<http://www.nature.com/articles/srep14914>

**05 October 2015**

Science World Report

Smartphone: Compulsive Texting In Teenage Girls Lowers Academic Performance

Kathleen Lees

<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/30846/20151005/cell-phones-compulsive-texting-in-teenage-girls-lowers-academic-performance.htm>

**01 September 2015**

U.S. National Library of Medicine | National Institute of Health

Journal of Biomedical and Physics Engineering  
A Challenging Issue in the Etiology of Speech Problems: The Effect of Maternal Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields on Speech Problems in the Offspring  
S. Zarei, S.M.J. Mortazavi, A.R. Mehdizadeh, M. Jalalipour, S. Borzou, S. Taeb, M. Haghani, S.A.R. Mortzavi, M.B. Shojaei-fard, S. Nematolahi, N. Alighanbari, and S. Jarideh  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4576876/>

**08 June 2015**

PLoS One  
EEG Changes Due to Experimentally Induced 3G Mobile Phone Radiation  
S. Roggeveen, J. van Os, W. Viechtbauer, and R. Lousberg  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4459698/>

Brief news report (video) on this scientific study:

**15 September 2015**

RT America  
Lindsay France, Reporter  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CbXP8HL-vk>

**02 June 2014**

The New York Times | Science  
What's Lost as Handwriting Fades  
Maria Konnikova

This article cites 3 important scientific studies that underscore the value of handwriting for children's development:

**1.) 16 January 2014**

Sage Journals | Psychological Science  
The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard | Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Notetaking  
P.A. Mueller, D.M. Oppenheimer  
<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/25/6/1159>

**2.) December 2012**

Science Direct | Elsevier | Trends in Neuroscience and Education  
The effects of handwriting experience on functional brain development in pre-literate children  
K.H. James, L. Engelhardt  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211949312000038>

**3.) 08 June 2010**

U.S. National Library of Medicine | National Institutes of Health  
Developmental Neuropsychology  
Early development of language by hand: composing, reading, listening, and speaking connections; three letter-writing modes; and fast mapping in spelling.  
V.W. Berninger, R.D. Abbott, J. Jones, B.J. Wolf, L. Gould, M. Anderson-Youngstrom, S. Shimada, K. Apel  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211949312000038>

## Legal

**21 September 2015**

California - Judge Blocks Berkeley's Warning About Cell Phones and Children

Bob Egelko

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Judge-blocks-Berkeley-s-warning-about-cell-6520282.php>

"A federal judge upheld Berkeley's authority Monday to require cell phone retailers to tell customers that carrying switched-on phones too close to their bodies might exceed federal radiation-exposure standards, but barred a warning that 'this potential risk is greater for children.' "

## Legislation

**26 September 2015**

EL MUNDO | Spain

Vitoria se 'cura en salud' frente al wifi

Belen Ferreras

<http://www.elmundo.es/pais-vasco/2015/09/26/5606c8eaca4741a7658b4590.html>

Translated text - " 'The Vitoria City Council approved unanimously by all groups limit the wifi areas in public spaces and fully restrain it in those places where children are the main users.

The Council grabs the principle of 'caution' and notes that when an activity 'poses a threat or harm to human health, (caution) must be taken even when cause-effect relationship has not been scientifically demonstrated conclusively.' "

## Articles

**01 October 2015**

Rapp News | Virginia

Letter: The Elephant in the Room

C. Price

<http://www.rappnews.com/2015/10/01/letter-the-elephant-in-the-room/144979/>

"In my opinion, the most important candidate issues in these election forums were not discussed — those dealing with technology and those dealing with our Constitution."

**30 September 2015**

Psychology Today

The Hidden Agenda Behind 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning | Public-private partnership is strangling our education system.

Victoria L. Dunckley, M.D.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-wealth/201509/the-hidden-agenda-behind-21st-century-learning>

**27 September 2015**

The Washington Post | Education

Teacher Says Smartphones Are Degrading Discourse, Hurting Students

Jay Mathews

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/teacher-says-smartphones-are-degrading-discourse-hurting-students/2015/09/27/823a3950-60c2-11e5-8e9e-dce8a2a2a679\\_story.html?postshare=4591443406277580](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/teacher-says-smartphones-are-degrading-discourse-hurting-students/2015/09/27/823a3950-60c2-11e5-8e9e-dce8a2a2a679_story.html?postshare=4591443406277580)

**26 September 2015**

Safety with E24|7: Gadget Addiction | How Kids Can Land Up With Gadget Addiction

Sneha May Francis

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/safety-with-e24-7-gadget-addictions-2015-09-26-1.604654?ot=ot.PrintPageLayout>

**26 September 2015**

The New York Times | Sunday Review

Stop Googling. Let's Talk. What have we done to face-to-face conversation?

Sherry Turkle

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/27/opinion/sunday/stop-googling-lets-talk.html?action=click&contentCollection=Science&module=MostPopularFB&version=Full&region=Marginalia&src=me&pgtype=article&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/27/opinion/sunday/stop-googling-lets-talk.html?action=click&contentCollection=Science&module=MostPopularFB&version=Full&region=Marginalia&src=me&pgtype=article&_r=1)

**Resources**

**October 2012**

Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood

Facing the Screen Dilemma: Young Children, Technology and Early Education

<http://www.commercialfreechildhood.org/screendilemma>

25 page guidebook – does not cover wireless concerns and children – but still is an excellent resource on the topic of technology and young children. It provides many other reasons to avoid screen time.

*Thank you for being a part of NACST and good luck with your individual efforts!*

