



6840 Seaview Road, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A4

www.zonein.ca

April 1, 2015

Open letter to all daycares, preschools, and schools who continue to use wireless radiation.

To all principals, staff, school boards, education government, and health officials,

In my capacity as a pediatric occupational therapist, biologist, speaker, and author on the subject of the impact of technology on child development and learning, I'm writing to you on behalf of students, teachers, and parents requesting the urgent removal of wireless radiation from all school environments. I ask that you please take into consideration the following guiding principles regarding wireless radiation, and make the decision to revert to Ethernet cabled only devices to ensure immediate and ongoing safety for your students and staff.

Guiding principles for the decision to remove wireless radiation from school environments:

1. Minimize Risk and Maximize Safety.

- Wireless radiation has not been proven safe (WHO 2011).
- Recent research indicates wireless radiation causes harmful effects to adult humans (Avendano 2012, Hardell 2013).
- Long term effects of wireless radiation on children are unknown at this time (AAP 2013).
- Children have thinner skulls, more aqueous bodies, and have rapidly developing cells, indicating they are exceedingly more vulnerable to harmful effects from wireless radiation than adults (AAP 2013).
- The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Canadian Pediatric Society recommends no more than 1-2 hours total technology use per day, including educational technology. Many schools exceed these expert guidelines (AAP 2014).

2. Weigh Risk vs. Benefit.

- Education technology is not evidence based and is laden with conflict of interest e.g. manufacturers claims are financially motivated, and are not substantiated by university level research.
- Traditional and standardized teaching methods have substantive research support and evidence, yet are being rapidly replaced with education technology.
- Risks associated with the use of technology by children are as follows:
 - *Sedentary nature* of technology use is causally related to the recent rise in obesity/diabetes, developmental delay and learning difficulties (Tremblay 2011, HELP EDI Mapping 2009/13, Ratey 2008, PISA 2012).
 - *Isolating factor* of technology use is associated with escalation in social impairments, mental illnesses (including adhd and autism), and self-regulation difficulties (Houtrow 2014).

- *Overstimulation* from technology use is a causal factor in rise in attention deficit, aggression, sleep disturbance, and chronic stress from hyper-arousal of the sympathetic nervous system (Christakis 2004, Gentile 2009, Markman 2010, Bristol University 2010).
- *Neglect* of students by teachers and support staff who are engaged in their own personal technology, is unfortunately common.
- Consequently, the risks associated with using education technology far outweigh the dubious benefits.

3. When In Doubt, Act With Caution.

- Existing research on harmful effects of wireless radiation on *adults*, indicates taking a cautionary approach when considering same radiation exposure to *children* (AAP 2014). Rapid cell turnover in children creates particular concern regarding potential DNA damage from wireless radiation, and consequent susceptibility to cancer. While rise in cancer incidence is becoming more apparent, rise in rates of cancer in children will not be observable until adulthood.
- Removal of wireless radiation and reversion to Ethernet cabled devices, will ensure immediate and long term safety to all students, teachers, and support staff.
- Defaulting to a remote authority regarding removing wireless radiation from schools, is not acting in the best interests of students and staff, and may not be defensible in a court of law.
- The implications of failure of schools to act with caution now regarding wireless radiation, are horrific in both scope and magnitude, and constitute neglect of children.

For additional research references regarding the impact of technology on children, please see below or visit www.zonein.ca, Fact Sheet under Info section. For any additional information, please contact Cris Rowan at info@zonein.ca or 1888-8zonein.

The following Globe and Mail article by Sheryl Ubelecker on May 12, 2015 “Experts urge caution with use of wireless device” provides current status of government initiatives in the area of addressing growing wireless radiation concerns.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/experts-urge-cautious-use-of-wireless-devices-as-health-effects-reassessed/article24374381/>

Respectfully,

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Book: “Virtual Child – The terrifying truth about what technology is doing to children”
Research References



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