

SHARENTING



What is sharenting? It's a combination of two words: share + parenting, and this word has been added to the Collins English Dictionary. It refers to parents who share too much information about their children on social media.

Parents love to take photos of every step of their children's lives and then post them on social media. They proudly show off their children to friends and family across the world. But no previous generation of children has had so public a childhood and not all of them are happy about it when they are older. Are parents harming their children by crossing the boundaries between public and private life? Many teenagers feel embarrassed because of that and they are worried about telling their parents the truth about exams or love problems because they might post something on social media. That's the reason why teens are leaving Facebook for Snapchat, because their parents don't use it.

A typical parent posts more than a thousand pictures of their child in the first five years. The problem is that these pictures stay online and what seems appropriate now may not be appropriate in ten years' time. Some psychologists think that the idea of not differentiating between public and private is a very dangerous one.

Some parents say that they record what makes them laugh and what makes them proud and they don't think their children will mind when they grow up. But on the other hand, there are parents who don't want to put their children's photos on Facebook because they think their children have their right to privacy.

An 18-year-old Australian girl is even taking her parents to court because she wants them to take down 500 photos from Facebook. These pictures from her childhood were shared with 700 friends.

A Circle the correct answer: a or b.

1 You _____ find the word sharenting in the dictionary.

- a) can b) can't

2 Many teenagers _____ happy about telling their parents about school or love problems.

- a) are b) aren't

3 Snapchat is more popular with _____ generations.

- a) older b) younger

4 A typical parent posts _____ pictures of their child in the first five years.

- a) a few b) a lot of

5 An Australian girl wants her parents to _____ her photos from Facebook.

- a) remove b) share

B What do you think? Look at the statements below and decide if you agree or disagree.

1 Children have their right to privacy.

2 Sharenting can make children less confident.

3 Parents want to share some memorable moments with their kids and it is absolutely harmless.

4 Sharenting can be embarrassing and damaging for children.

5 When parents post pictures of children, these pictures are going to be on the internet forever.

C Have you ever been embarrassed by the photos that your parents posted on social media?