



ALLIANCE ELIANT DIGITAL MEDIA IN CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

The European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy (ELIANT) brings together 10 umbrella organizations to improve quality of life and cultural diversity in Europe in all spheres of life.

FOCUS AREAS

- Parenting
- Education
- Medicine
- Agriculture
- Economy

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DIGITAL EDUCATION

STATE OF THE ART

- Digital education is a priority item on the agenda of European institutions.
- The introduction of digital technologies to the school curriculum is an ongoing and fast developing process.
- A growing number of scientific studies focus on understanding the learning process of young children and the impact of screen technologies on their development.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

NEUROSCIENCE

- Human brain development is at its most intense during the first years of life. Its maturity depends on regular physical activity and the use of all 5 senses.
- Overuse of digital technology in early childhood leads to a less mature forebrain. This impairs abilities of function and control.

PSYCHOLOGY

- Face-to-face communication in the first years of living is decisive for the behaviour and emotional intelligence of children in later years.
- Due to regular use of digital devices and increased interference in family time, parents report increased behavioural problems in their children, such as sulkiness, hyperactivity, bad temper and frustration.

EDUCATIONAL PEDAGOGY

- Physical activity and real time communication create links between mental concepts and actions, which is the basis for acquisition of complex skills, such as making calculations, reading and critical thinking.
- Frequent use of computer at school leads to poorer learning outcomes, studies have shown.

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ELIANT'S POSITION IN DIGITAL MEDIA IN CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

MISSION

ELIANT seeks to safeguard the variety of choices in early childhood education and care, primary and secondary education.

VISION

Teachers, caregivers and parents, deserve the freedom to collectively choose the most appropriate educational setting and teaching methods and to tailor media education to the developmental needs of children.

ACTIVITIES

In 2018 ELIANT launched an international European petition campaign in support of humane education in the digital age.

More about the campaign under www.eliant.eu.

ELIANT regularly organizes public events to raise awareness on the healthy development of children.

More about the events under <https://eliant.eu/en/news/>.

OBJECTIVES

1. To further develop an independent, interdisciplinary research programme and a longitudinal study into the impact of these technologies on healthy child development and the role that education could play in providing the conditions most conducive to healthy development.
2. To implement an EU-wide awareness campaign that informs parents, schools and teachers about the impact of screen technology on a child's socio-emotional and brain development.
3. To ensure that parents, teachers and caregivers have the freedom to choose between different pedagogical approaches. These need to be accessible, affordable and include the option of a screen-free approach in ECEC and primary education, so long as pupils meet the general learning objectives of compulsory education by the end of their school time.
4. To establish ongoing dialogue with stakeholders – including CSOs, parents and teachers – to design and implement appropriate policies.
5. To develop educational policies and targets that secure the protection of human health and eliminate the potential health risks to each child. Such risk exclusion should be accepted in the general understanding of the precautionary principle, as stated under Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

