



I am currently recruiting full-time masters and Ph-D students, postdoctoral trainees, and research professionals interested in the impact of digital media use by children and its impact on health and development. My research is supported by grants from the CIHR, SSHRC, and Canada Research Chairs program. All positions and will be funded.

Current research projects in my lab aim to better understand the consequences of screen use by young children. The originality and contribution of our work to advance knowledge in the field of screen use by youth lies in our ability to address three key gaps in the existing literature.

First, an important limitation of previous work on this topic is the overwhelming focus on child screen time. A singular focus on the amount of time children accumulate in front of screens can obscure how additional features of children's interactions with screen media (ex. frequency and moment of using devices, the educational value of contents) may contribute to positive and negative developmental outcomes. As such our project will move away from a unidimensional understanding of screen use to a comprehensive approach that considers device type, screen content and nature of use, and context of use in addition to traditional measures of screen time.

Second, little is known about the development of problematic media use and its consequences on development in the preschool years. In addition to exhibiting different profiles of screen use, some children are at risk of developing problematic media use behavior, reflecting dependence and excessive preoccupation with screen media and expressions of conflict and disturbance when screens are taken away.

Third, little is known about how child-, parent-, family-, and community-level characteristics contribute to preschooler screen use habits and their consequences. As such, our project will clarify how the characteristics of preschoolers and their environments may impart risk and protective effects on their development of screen use habits and associated positive and negative outcomes.