

Safe and Cognitively Appropriate Environments

To keep in mind when working on this document

Liaise with Coga Taskforce W3C

Link with Ethics of interface

- How do we ensure online environments are safe and respectful for all children in terms of neurodiversity and mental health protection.
- Information/ Awareness about risks (predatory scheme, vulnerable children, children who have not been informed, no 'one size fits all'...)
- Proposal: Certifying or labelling good practices
 - [Benchmarking systems](#) exist for children's rights but we would need to define the level of protection for cognitive vulnerability.
 - Children can be empowered to protect themselves and this usually gives good results as they will ie.: share pictures only with people they know, talk to people they know, ...
[Publication Denmark](#)
 - Legislations help protect children like the [Digital Services Act](#) in Europe.
- Possible Actions
 - Our Accessibility for children Group can start providing use cases (begin 2024) to see how to cover remaining gaps and cognitive vulnerabilities.
 - In a second step: link with research and criteria for good practice
 - Liaise with COGA group and funding organizations
- Dark Patterns
 - 'dark patterns:' deceptive designs exploiting the vulnerability of children, who lack the full cognitive abilities to discern or resist such manipulations.'
[Protecting Children from Dark Patterns and Deceptive Design](#) (article selected for definition)

- Examples: exploiting vulnerabilities to buy goods, exploiting fear of missing out, shaming, and increasing the possibility of accidentally clicking,...
- User case: Earth science project :

Where do students find scientific, safe and verified information?

Cross-check verified websites .edu, .org, National geographic?

What about the safety of the content?

What about the interface?

Could safety be made visible by a symbol, or label covering different aspects (safety, content, self-certified, appropriate learning activities for developmental stage, cognitive load, misinformation, reading level, design...)

Possible example (but the structure should be clearer) [Teachers pay teachers](#)

Agency: Empower children to tag and rank

Provide opportunities for metacognitive awareness.

- New legislation to protect children internationally but very difficult to understand and identify dark patterns in sociotechnical systems (AI).
- Children with disabilities are more at risk.
- Ethical measures and risk mitigations should protect them.