

Name _____

Protecting Kids Online: The Case for a Minimum Age on Social Media

Short Answer Key

1. A minimum age requirement on social media can mitigate risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and potential online predators. For example, it can prevent younger children from interacting with strangers online, reducing the likelihood of encountering dangerous situations.
2. Sharing personal data on social media is a concern because young children may not fully grasp the implications of privacy and online safety. For instance, they might unknowingly reveal their location or personal information to strangers, making them vulnerable to potential threats.
3. Early exposure to social media can negatively impact children's mental health by exposing them to unrealistic beauty standards and fostering low self-esteem. For instance, constant comparison to others on social media can make children feel inadequate and less confident about their appearance.
4. Early exposure to social media can inhibit the development of essential social skills, such as face-to-face communication and conflict resolution. For instance, spending excessive time online may reduce the opportunities for real-world interactions, hindering the development of these skills.
5. Enforcing a minimum age for social media usage allows parents and guardians to monitor and guide their child's online experiences, ensuring they stay safe and make responsible choices. Parents can benefit from this by actively participating in their child's digital journey and teaching them about online etiquette and privacy.

