

# UC Merced

## Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

### Title

Examining Children's Applications of Privacy Norms in a Digital, Photo-Sharing Game

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3nv7s1cd>

### Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 47(0)

### Authors

Petriw, Sarah M

Nancekivell, Shaylene E

### Publication Date

2025

### Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

# Examining Children's Applications of Privacy Norms in a Digital, Photo-Sharing Game

**Sarah Petriw Ms**

University of Manitoba , Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Shaylene Nancekivell**

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

## Abstract

Children develop an understanding of privacy through experiences in both real and virtual contexts. As technology becomes central to their lives, it is crucial to explore how they navigate privacy in digital environments. This study examined children's application of privacy norms in a digital photo-sharing context and tested whether a privacy intervention could improve their understanding. In Experiment 1, 85 children (ages 5–8 years) and in Experiment 2, 35 children (ages 5–7 years) listened to a story about Sally, who appeared as a cartoon and a real person. Children decided whether Sally should allow a game to take her picture in different settings. Older children judged taking real Sally's picture as less permissible than cartoon Sally's. Experiment 2 introduced a privacy intervention, which influenced judgments equally across both versions of Sally. These findings suggest that children's privacy reasoning develops with age and can be shaped by targeted interventions.