



Digital Futures For Children

Research at LSE and 5Rights Foundation ■

What does good look like?

All our work is reviewed by internal and external experts in child rights, digital media, and digital policy and legislation to ensure integrity and quality before publication.

For all our research we make sure that the resources we find are reliable and come from credible sources. For peer-reviewed academic publications, it is usually a straightforward process, because academic research is scrutinised at the onset in various stages. These are usually in the form of institutional research ethics reviews, peer reviews, and editorial reviews. Credible academic sources are also indexed in relevant bibliographic databases for the field. For non-academic research and publications, we need more caution. We devised a system where we assess the credibility of research based on the following criteria:

1. **Authorship:** Who are the authors? Who conducted the research? What are their affiliations?
2. **Purpose:** What is the purpose of the publication? Why was the research undertaken?
 - Has the research been adopted as the basis for design change or legal/regulatory/treaty frameworks?
3. **Funding:** Who funded the research? Is the funding from public or private sources?
 - Is the research transparent about funding?
 - Is the funding independent of commercial interests?
 - Is the funding independent of political interests?
 - If there isn't any declaration of funding, is there an institutional sponsorship? (e.g., university, private or public research centre, company).
4. **Methodology:** How was the data collected and analysed? Is the methodology sound and accurate? Does the research make use of secondary data?
 - Are the methods transparent? (i.e., sufficient information provided for others to replicate the research)

- Are the methods unique? (i.e., sufficient information to understand why it is relevant and important – e.g., whistleblower or analysis of multiple studies)
 - Are the authors clear about the limitations of their research? (and not overclaiming)
 - Is the research valid? Does it measure what it claims to measure?
5. **Ethical review:** Has the research passed an ethical review by a reputable institution?
 6. **Peer review:** Has the research undergone independent peer review?
 7. **Children's views:** Was the research consulted with and/or seriously acknowledged children's views?
 8. **Access:** Is there a freely available and open-access full-text report or publication? Is the publication behind a paywall? Can the publication be accessed via public libraries?
 9. **Relevance:** Is the research relevant?
 - Does the research focus on a specific geography?
 - Does the research focus on a little-studied group (e.g., children with disabilities)
 - Does the research cover an emerging topic?
 10. **Date:** When was the research conducted? When was the research published? Are the findings still relevant? (i.e., are they still applicable?)
 11. **References:** What types of resources does the publication refer to? Are they credible?
 12. **Bias:** Is the analysis of the research unbiased? Does the author examine more than one perspective?
 13. **Spelling, grammar, and structure:** Credible publications go through a thorough editorial process where grammar and spelling mistakes are corrected.