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Technology and kids don't mix. This will prove it

True tales of technology woes from parents who've learned the hard way. Read on and take a lesson from these kid-caused disasters.



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Nicole Madigan is a freelance journalist, writer and communications consultant. Having spent several years... [Profile](#)

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I'm sitting at my desk, typing the final lines of a lengthy feature article.

I've just finished a bowl of cereal – a snack I'm partial to when working away on my laptop.

Pushing the bowl aside, I click save and write a list of the work I need to submit that night and the following day.

All of a sudden, my son flies out of nowhere, practically dives across the table, knocks my bowl over, spilling the dregs of milk onto the keyboard.

Grumbling, I wipe up the milk, roll my eyes and decide to do a few last minute things, before shutting down.

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Within seconds, the mouse takes control of itself, the screen flickers, then freezes. And it's off.

I try to turn it back on. Nothing. The laptop is dead.

On its hard drive are hundreds of family photos, filing and household paperwork, and about half a dozen completed (but not submitted) articles and interviews. It's not backed up.

Yes, I cried over spilt milk

Being a Mac, almost every version of dial-a-nerd I could find was unable to help. Until finally one helpful tech man name Richard (from Viritek Computer Services) offered to have a look.

He couldn't promise anything but at least he was prepared to look!

Although my laptop couldn't be revived, my hard drive was saved, and the feeling of relief was indescribable.

The lesson? Children spill things. So don't leave liquid, no matter how small the quantity, next to your computer.

Here are a few other lessons – most often learnt the hard way – about kids and technology.

They know how to access photos

"I was at my daughter's school liturgy, standing and singing a hymn. I looked down at my four year old son who was sitting and playing with my phone and he was scrolling through the pics of me with my hands covering the bare backsides of the Butlers in the Buff at my friend's 40th. The mums in the row behind me found it very entertaining!" – Heidi

They know how to take photos

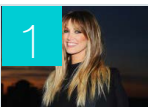




"I was flicking through my photo gallery on my phone one day when I came across about half a dozen photos of my son's doodle! I didn't even know he'd taken the phone, let alone taken photos – needless to say I deleted them immediately!" Nicole

They throw things

"So far I've had one phone thrown in the bath while it was filling up. Broke it. Then two weeks later he threw my new phone into the toilet, destroyed that one too. The third phone is still alive so far. I shouldn't let him play with it but sometimes it's the only way for me to get two minutes peace!" – Lisa.

They make phone calls

"Little Mr was up in the middle of the night with teething and we were waiting for the Nurofen to kick in. I let him play with my phone to stop him crying then I hear a panicked "hello, hello". He had rung my mother-in-law at 3am – oops, she didn't think it was

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funny. He also rang my husband's former boss – who he tries to avoid – at 5am!” – Lisa.

“When Charlie was a baby, he managed to call my old boss on my mobile. I didn't realise until I saw in 'recent calls' that he must've picked up as the call lasted 34 seconds! I remember being mortified because I was feeding him at the time and singing silly songs. I still cringe at the thought of it and dread bumping into him on George St!” – Kristen

And run up bills

“The son of a mum at school clocked up a bill of over \$7000 on her mobile. She had no idea about it until the bill arrived. Lucky for her the phone company were kind enough to reduce it to \$2000.” – Kelly.

They make mistakes

“My two year old wanted to watch *Finding Nemo*, so he found a rubber toy clown fish and stuck it into the DVD tray.” – Paul

“When my son turned six, he got a DSi for his birthday. Because it was so expensive, we stressed that he had to look after it. He took the 'look after it' message too far and 'washed it' under the bathroom tap because it was 'dirty', hence – no more DSi.” – Sally.

Share any technology woes you have suffered at the hands of your children ...

Read more on Kidspot:

- [Technology for kids 101: An introduction](#)
- [The pros and cons of small screens in kids' hands](#)
- [A parents' guide to screen smart kids](#)

More related reading:

- [Kids and Technology: When to Limit It and How](#) from About.com
- [Tech-savvy kids can't push a pencil](#) from News.com.au
- [10 Reasons Why Handheld Devices Should Be Banned for Children Under the Age of 12](#) from Huffington Post

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