

“There was no respect for youth when I was young and now that I am old, there is no respect for age—I missed it coming and going.”

J.B. Priestly



Intergenerational Communication

Carol Quade



TODAY'S AGENDA

01

Generations

Timelines and
stereotypes

02

IG in families

Family as a system
Generational
relationships

03

Technology

Connecting and keeping
pace

04

Solutions

Dialogue and Listening

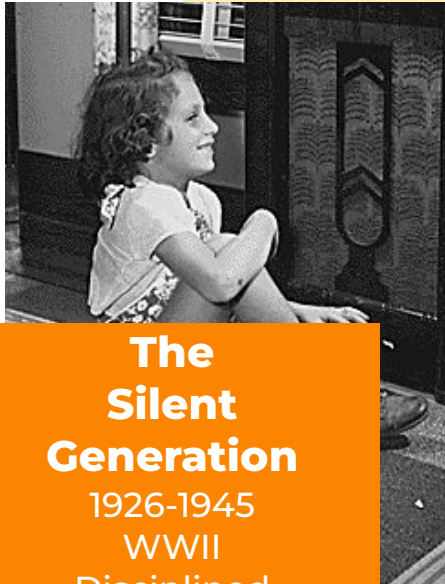
What is Intergenerational Communication?

Interactions between different individuals from different age cohorts or age groups.

- *Monumental events*
- *Technological advances*
- *Language*

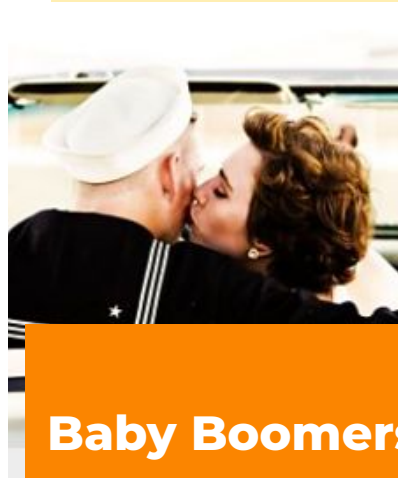


Generational cohorts



The Silent Generation

1926-1945
WWII
Disciplined
Value-oriented
Direct face-to-face
communication



Baby Boomers

1946-1964
Large population
Committed
Self sufficient
Competitive
F-t-F & Phone



Generation X

1965-1980
Resourceful
Logical
Problem-solvers
Digital immigrants
Phone & Email

Cohorts, continued...



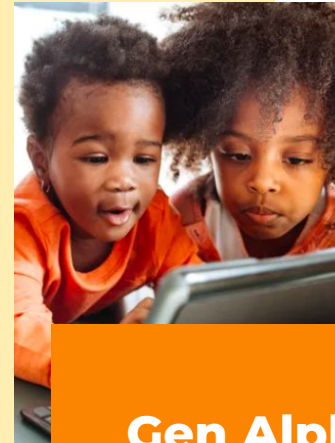
Millennials Gen Y

1980-1995
Digital natives
Confident
Curious
Question authority
Texting



iGen/Gen Z

1997-2010
Ambitious
Digital natives
Confident
Facetime & text



Gen Alpha

After 2010
iPhones not rattles
Global
Mobile
Visual
Socially connected

Impact of historical events

Silent gen

WW II
9/11
JFK Assassination
Vietnam War
Moon landing
Obama election

Baby Boomers

9/11
JFK Assassination
Vietnam War
Obama election
Moon landing
Civil rights
movement

Gen X

9/11
Obama election
Berlin Wall/End of
Cold War
Tech revolution
Iraq War
Challenger disaster
Columbine
shooting

Millennials

9/11 Obama election Iraq War Gay marriage Tech revolution
Orlando shooting Hurricane Katrina

iGeneration (Gen Z)'s influence

iGen's future

- Technology is normal
- Most diverse generation
- Most connected



Language differences

- Language habits change over lifetime
- Young people are most innovative
- Social media: adoption rate high



- Early childhood- linguistically conservative
- Adolescence- rebellious and formative
- Adulthood-standard English, career-driven
- Late adulthood- less conservative (rebels again!)

Gen Z Slang: Urban Dictionary

Bussin'... food tastes good

Stan...to stan is to be a stalker and a fan

Ghosting...ignoring someone

Snack...a person one finds attractive

TFW...that feeling when

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FAMIL

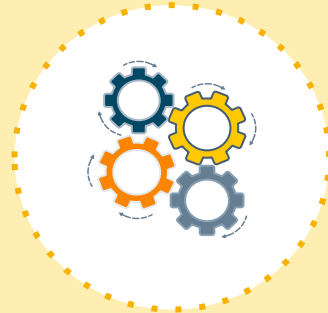
Y

The family as a system...linked and impacted by any change in the system.

The family is a system constituted, defined and managed through...communication patterns.

Communication

Family members
co-create and
share meaning
through
communication



Evolution

Family life is not
static.
Relationships
evolve, grow or
shrink, move
closer or further
away...

Patterns

Based on origins
and outside
influences, patterns
emerge and change

Intergenerational Relationships

Adult children & Elderly parents

Child-parent relationships remains strong over 70+ years

Familial accommodation

Caregiving requires change/shift in roles and communication

Grandparent & Grandchildren

Styles of grandparenting

Grandparenting styles and roles are dynamic

The Perfect Grandparent: expectations and schemas

The Sandwich Generation

Adult child navigating growing children and elderly parents.

One relationship has different perceived realities

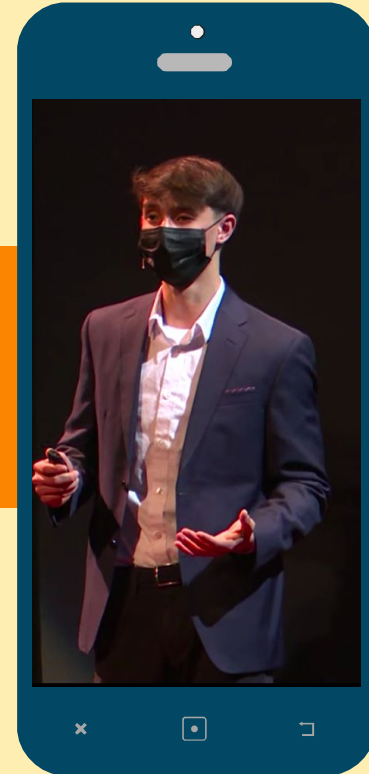
Grandparenting Styles— Communication Patterns



Technology & Intergenerational Communication

Technology is a valued component of family life for many people...

...increase in # of older adults using technology every day!



Families and Technology

Increase in migration

Younger cohorts → Urban/Global

Rural/age in place ← Older cohorts



The role of technology

Geographic distance

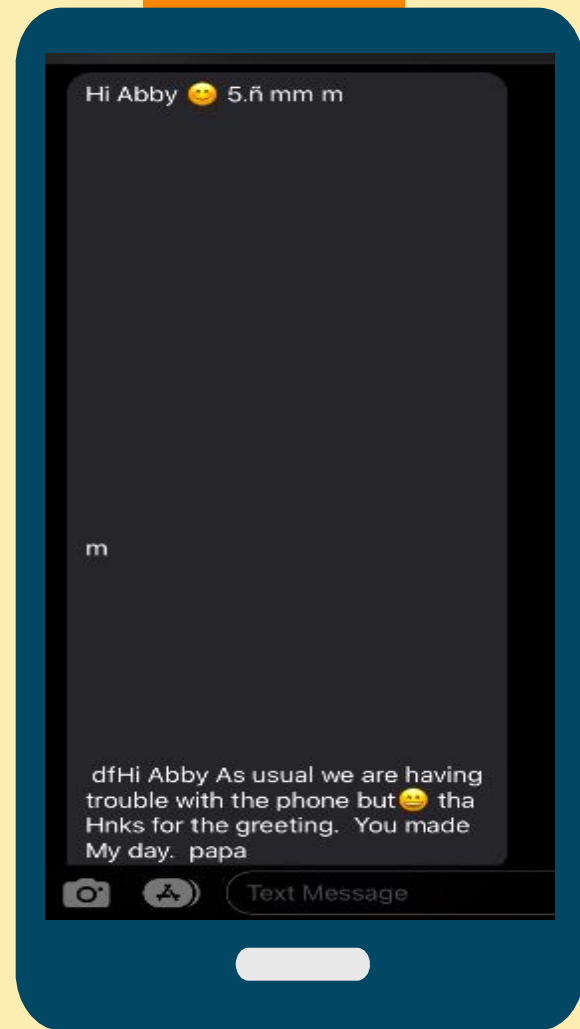


Importance of technology



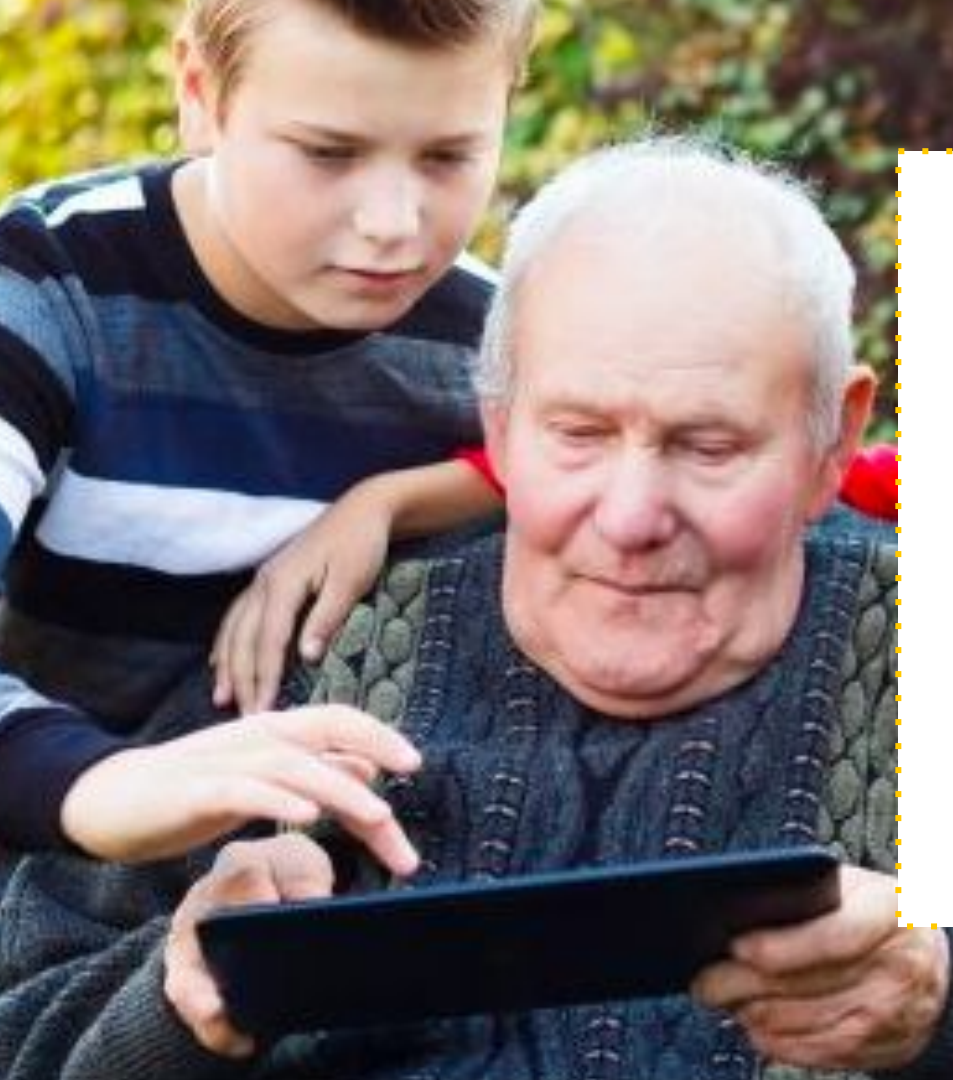
Functions of Technology for older adults

- To connect and communicate and learn about younger generations
- Safety reasons
- To appease younger family members



Solutions for Intergenerational Communication Success





Dialogue

A style of communication that respectfully encourages others to want to listen, while also listening in a way that encourages others to want to speak

Four elements of dialogue



Civility

The ability to treat the other person with respect so that we can have a lasting, peaceful, and positive interaction



Presentness

Giving the other person your undivided attention

Unconditional positive regard

Accepting others with a positive attitude



Mutual equality

Setting aside power dimensions and communicating in a way that values the contributions made by everyone



Thanks!

Comments or Questions?
Want to continue our
conversation, please email
me:

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Resources

Links to sources and videos used
in this presentation

Generational cohorts:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zf8j92p>

<https://genhq.com/faq-info-about-generations/>

Language and generations:

<https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/are-millennials-killing-language>

Jason Dorsey: GenZ Ted Talk 2015:

<https://youtu.be/4f16o9Q0XGE>

Benefits of Intergenerational exposure:

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/camping-magazine/intergenerational-communication-strengthening-connections-camp>

Families and Intergenerational Communication:

[Family Communication: Cohesion and Change](#)

Technology and Intergenerational Effects:

[Impacts of Technology Use in Later Life](#)