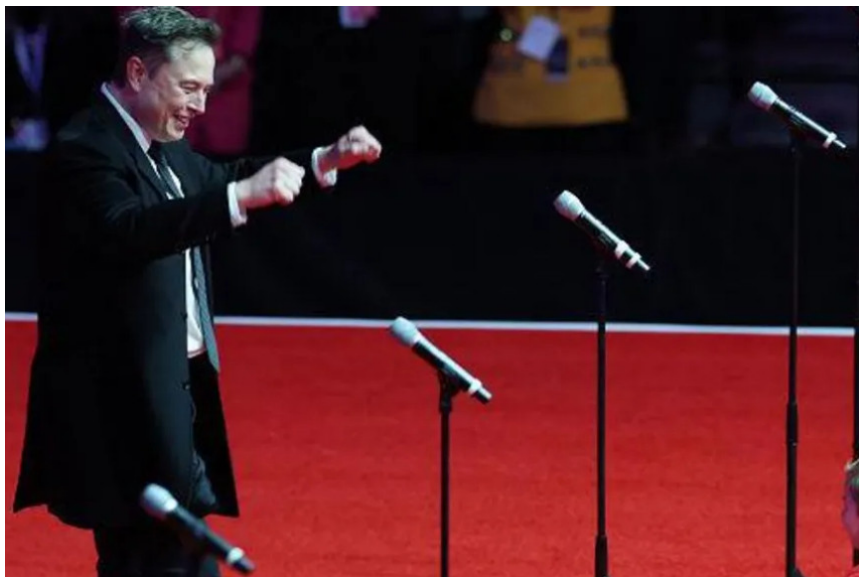




What it means when Elon Musk brings his children to work What it means when Elon Musk brings his children to work



Elon Musk's children have been to places many will never see. From meetings with foreign leaders to the control room of a SpaceX launch, Musk's children have debuted as constant sidekicks to their father's endeavors in tech, business and now, politics

They have made frequent appearances in the nation's capital since President Donald Trump tapped the tech billionaire and Tesla co-founder to lead the newly-formed Department of Government Efficiency. Musk's four-year-old, "Lil X", hung on the corner of the Resolute desk in the Oval Office on Wednesday sporting a tan pea coat and a collared shirt.

On Thursday, X and two of his siblings exchanged gifts with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi while their father discussed technology and innovation with the foreign leader. Musk has frequently been seen with his children even before coming to Washington - at a meeting with the president of Turkey, a memorial service at Auschwitz concentration camp, and a Time magazine ceremony where he was named the 2021 person of the year. But why do Musk's children tag along? "The inclusion of the kids in many public appearances is very much a politician move or a political move to make him seem a bit more personable (and) take a human approach to how the public views him," says Kurt Braddock, an American University professor of public communication.

Still, Mr Braddock thought the decision to bring Musk's preschooler to the Oval Office was unusual.

X appeared bored during the 30-minute press briefing as he mimicked his father, sat on the floor and received the occasional side glance and smile from the leader of the free world. At one point, it appeared he told someone in the room to "shush" their mouth.

Mr Braddock said he believes their inclusion is intentional - a distraction that benefits both Musk and Trump. "I do think that there is a bit of a strategy here trying to draw attention to some things while diverting attention to other things," he said.