

Kids & Technology



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. How young is too young for a child to have access to a mobile device?
2. Why are some experts concerned about the use of technology by young children?
3. What are some positive aspects of children using technology?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
 Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. tablet | a) a person in the same age or status group |
| ___ 2. keep someone company | b) the condition of having excess body weight |
| ___ 3. Generation Y | c) the group of people born just before the new millennium |
| ___ 4. caution | d) to prevent someone from feeling lonely |
| ___ 5. obesity | e) short for "application," a special program (often for a mobile device) |
| ___ 6. peer | f) observance or guidance to keep someone safe or on task |
| ___ 7. happy medium | g) available instantly |
| ___ 8. supervision | h) a healthy balance |
| ___ 9. app | i) a mobile computer that has a touch screen |
| ___ 10. at one's fingertips | j) to warn about dangers |

Listening

 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2012/10/31/podcast-kids-and-technology/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

KIDS & TECHNOLOGY

What will become of the iGeneration?

1. Children and teens who are growing up with mobile devices in their homes are now being referred to as the iGeneration. Some babies learn how to use _____ and smartphones before the age of two! Instead of a toy or a book, parents pass their young ones a mobile device to _____ on road trips and strolls.
2. How long is too long for a child to be engaged on a mobile device? Literacy experts believe that screens have *no* place with babies and toddlers. Even before smartphones and tablets, these experts _____ parents of _____ kids to limit the time in front of television screens and video game consoles. Many teachers agree that screen time should be restricted until a child can speak and read fluently.
3. Health experts also have concerns about kids and technology. Studies suggest that screen time can change the development of the brain. Doctors also complain that overuse of technology contributes to _____. Social skills may also suffer if kids aren't encouraged to go outside and play with their _____. Now that technology can be accessed on the go, the amount of time children spend using technology is higher than ever.
4. Technology advocates believe there is such thing as a _____. They argue that young children *should* have access to technology under adult supervision. They also believe that the Internet is a wealth of information, and that _____ can be fun and educational. How often are children with mobile devices being closely supervised?
5. Many children today have never experienced life without being constantly connected. They are accustomed to having information _____. How will this generation's dependency on _____ change the human race?