

Tuesday Sharing 29 November 2022

Anson, 3B and Simon, 3A

Simon:	Hey Mr West, we want to ask you some questions about video games.
Mr West:	Sure guys.
Anson:	Do you think video games are good for your kids?
Mr West:	It's not the games that's not good for them, it's the amount of time spent on them that's the problem. They should be playing outside most of the time like I was when I was a kid. But sometimes it can be good if there is some sort of reading or some sort of communication in the games, problem solving, for example.
Simon	Do you think they're addicted to them?
Mr West	I don't think they are completely addicted but sometimes I think my son can play them a bit too much and can't control his behaviour as well. So that's why I have parental controls on his phone and his laptop.
Anson	Oh yeah, I have heard about those monitoring apps for kids
Mr West	That's what I use because he often can't stop and only when he's been told to stop and can't stop. Sometimes he is naughty and does bad things I will confiscate his computer or phone.
Anson	What games do you think are good for kids?
Mr West	Some games can be good, like puzzle games, strategy games, problem solving games. But it's all about moderation, so playing games for just a short period of time and then doing their schoolwork is fine. In the old days, games could be paused or whatever but now if it's online and you've got other real players there you have to keep going, you can't pause it. It's frustrating because it just encourages addiction.
Anson	Would you ban your kids from video games, like what they did in China?
Mr West	My son has a complete ban on games on his phone, so he can't install any games. But he can still play games in a browser such as .io games and simple old-school games like Pac Man. In the end I wouldn't totally ban them to protect our relationship.
Simon	Do your kids play some popular games like Minecraft or Roblox?
Mr West	My kids loved playing Minecraft when they first got their iPad minis and on the PlayStation. I thought it was a good game as it was quite

	educational. Roblox was fun for them too. Sometimes they like to play them again to remember their childhood.
Anson	Do you play games, or did you when you were young?
Mr West	Since I am old there were not many games when I was young but I remember playing my first game which was Pong. It was a very simple game like a tennis game in black and white and other arcade games like Space Invaders and Pac Man so you needed to go outside to an arcade or fast-food shops. I got my little computer when I was about 12 years old which I had to program the games myself from magazines where you have to type in all the code and then the game would work. That was always interesting to do but I don't really play any games because I'm very bad at them or I get bored. How about you guys? Do you think you guys are addicted?
Anson	No, I'm not, I don't even play video games at all, I prefer expressing opinions on Twitter than playing games
Simon	I don't think I am that addicted though, but I am definitely addicted to the internet.
Mr West	That sounds like another topic to explore next time. Thanks guys!

