

# Balanced Argument

Is screen use making children  
lazy?

Since the creation of I-pads, there has been a fervent debate surrounding children's ever-increasing screen time. It has precipitated passionate viewpoints and opposing opinions from all sections of the community: children, governments, sports coaches, parents, headteachers, doctors and many more. Despite everyone having lots of different opinions, it is critical that both sides of the argument are heard. DW

The majority of headteachers, whose job it is to keep children happy, are concerned about the impact of screens on children. Miss A Lunch, who chairs the East Midlands Headteacher Association, argues, "Too much screen time can strain eyes for learning." LW

On the other hand, some headteachers argue that screen time has a superb influence on children's attainment. Researchers found that 60-80% of children were motivated by using technology. Also, online apps could help to boost up their confidence. MT

Many other stakeholders feel strongly about the issue, especially parents. Mona Lots, who is a typical parent, says, "My child refuses to do as they are told, is playing inappropriate games and becoming extremely rude." A recent BBC report states that children are spending 6 hours or more on screens everyday (that's a large proportion of the day). How can they live just looking at a screen? ET

However, some parents believe that screen time is essential. Mr. T.V. Tablet says, "My son Zak says keeping in touch is important for friends and family." Other parents think children learn new information and skills from apps and games such as TTRS and Spelling Shed. In addition, screens enable children to interact with friends and family using a range of methods: messaging, Facetime, email, WhatsApp and Facebook. TS

As children's voices are often snubbed on this subject, it is essential that they have their say. Children believe that it is more beneficial to have access to the outdoors: playing out, tree climbing, sport. A recent survey of Year 5 children showed that 25% spend more than 4 hours a day on their screens. ES

On the contrary, many children enjoy using screens for a number of reasons - catching up with friends, gaming for fun and winding down. Fall Guys enthusiast, Dontban Screens, said, "Fall Guys helps me to chill out and it is fun!" . BS



The question that remains in this age of yawning youngsters is should we scrap the screen or treasure the tech? This debate is a hurricane of opinion that consumes people and will run as long as technology continues to develop. In the end, there are many points for and against the use of screens. KP