

Balanced Argument

Is screen use making children
lazy?

Since the 90's, there has been a heated debate surrounding children's ever-increasing screen time and the impact on their wellbeing. It has sparked passionate viewpoints and opposing opinions from all sections of the community: children, teachers, politicians and parents. Although it is a controversial subject, it is critical that both sides of the argument are heard.

AS

The majority of headteachers, who care about pupils' wellbeing, are concerned about the impact of screens on children. Mr Y Didn'tyougoatbreak, argues, "Children need to touch grass and face the real world." Everyday, children who spend unrestricted amount of time on screens struggle to focus, interact socially and stay awake. TS

However, some headteachers argue that screen time has a brilliant influence on children. Researchers found that 60-80% of children were motivated by using technology. As a result, online apps should help to boost up their progress. EWH

Many others feel strongly about the issue, especially parents. Miss Wash The Dishes, who is a typical parent, says, "My child hasn't had enough exercise because of technology." A recent BBC report states that children are spending 6 hours or more on screens everyday (which will cause eye strain). How could you let a child on a screen for such a long time? AW

However, Miss Screen is one of many parents who believe that screen time is essential to child development. "Screen use is good so my son can do his homework." It has also been argued that children learn new reasoning and fine motor skills as technology creates games (such as Madden 25) that require skill and accuracy. Screens enable children to interact with friends and family using a range of methods: Discord, text, Tik Tok, Snapchat and email. CY

As children's voices are often set aside on this subject, it is essential that they put forward their views. Children believe that it is more beneficial to their wellbeing to do the following: climbing trees; football; painting rocks; playing tig. The research has shown that in Year 5, 44% of people go on their technology for 6 and over hours. That's worrying! JB

By contrast, many children enjoy using screens for a number of reasons - to catch up with friends, to do their homework and entertain themselves. Online gamer, Frankie "The Roblox god" Crush said, "I'm lazy! How dare you! My thumbs get stronger everyday!" Pupils at Woodstone Primary School said that increased screen time is a natural progression. SB

The question that remains is should we delete the devices or welcome wi-fi? This debate is a sponge of opinion that absorbs interested parties. To conclude, there are many points for and against the use of screens. This debate will continue well into the 21st century. FC