

Parent Tip Tuesday-Play Video Games with you Kids

Each week we talk about different issues parents and kids face in today's world. There is always one constant theme in these messages-talk to your kids, be involved and know what's going on in their life. Today, we offer a fun tip that can help you do all of the above...play video games with your kids.

Video games are a lot more complex than when we were growing up, but that's no reason to stay away. As a parent it's your job to help them navigate through the world as they learn and that includes the digital world. The world continues to become more electronic and more of life is happening online. It's important that you are there with them teaching them how to live in this evolving reality. The best way you can understand and help navigate with them is to play their games with them.

Playing games with your kids presents endless opportunities for conversations about stuff in the game and their life. Why do you do this? How can we beat this boss? Why do you kill that? You can learn a lot about how they think and you can work together to problem solve. Some kids are even more comfortable talking to you when they have a controller in their hands.

A great side benefit is the connection you and your child will make while they are teaching you how to play. Let them teach you, whether you care or not, it will help build that connection. In addition, you can also model positive behavior for them. The most popular videos of gamers on YouTube frequently involve people who offer the most shock value so they can separate themselves from the pack. Play games with your kids, let them see you tell someone nice game after they beat you (and they will beat you, a lot) and have a laugh about it. The important thing is they see your composure and how to react to adversity.

One last reason to play video games with your kids, it's a lot of fun. Sure you may hear the word noob a lot, a new player who is bad, but you will learn and get better. You're never going to be as good as them, but were your parents better than you at Missile Command, Frogger or Legend of Zelda? It's about building that bond, learning what they are doing and who they are interacting with.

Have fun and get that Dub (win)!

Parent Tip Tuesday is a weekly series where the Parker Police Department talks about an issue involving parents and children. Topics will range from the latest apps and technology to building resiliency in your children. Our goal is to give parents five minutes worth of information every week that is easily digestible and educate them about new issues that they or their children may face. Please comment below if there are topics that you would like to see us cover.

You can find the previous Parent Tip Tuesday content on our website:

<http://www.parkerpolice.org/2032/Parent-Tip-Tuesday>