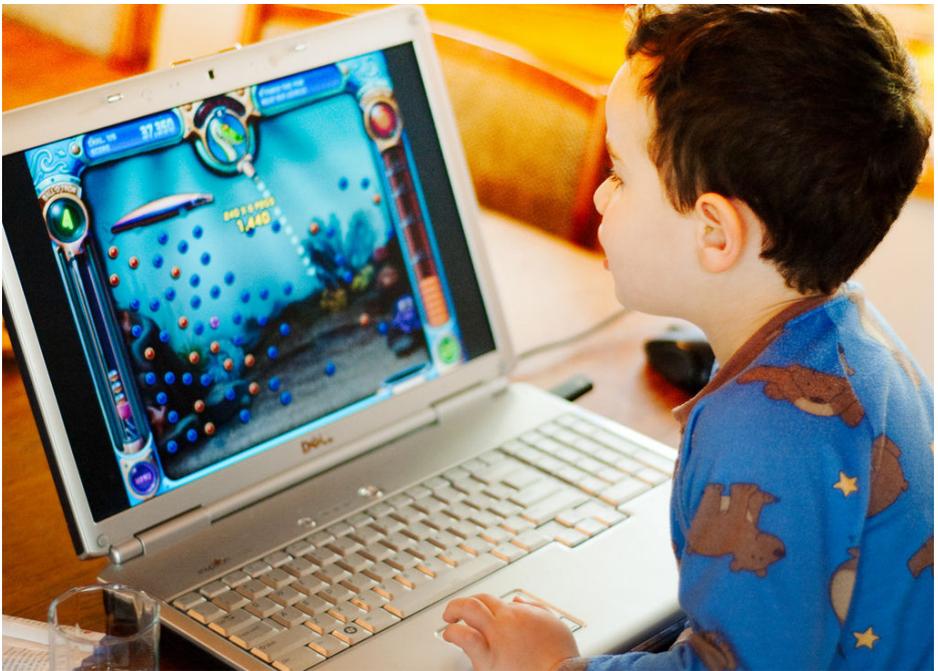


A Parents Guide to Video Games

The facts and well researched
guidance without the techno-babble!



Improving Logical thinking or playing violent game? This leaflet
shows you how to spot the difference

Introduction

Games can improve students' hand eye coordination, encourage the use of logical strategies and improve knowledge of useful topics. However there are games out there that are not suitable for children, which is why games are now rated by PEGI.



A rating means that a game should not offend anybody older than that age. However it does not mean that it is aimed at that age range. For example even though the Football game FIFA World cup is rated 3, it does not mean that a 3 year old can or will enjoy playing it, because there are quite difficult football management options within the game.



To further help parents there are also logos to show how the game could be offensive.



Use of drugs



Fear or horror



Bad language



Discrimination



Gambling



Online content



Violence

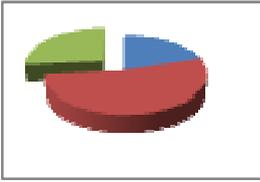


Sexual content

Further information & games ratings can be found at:
www.pegi.info

Our Survey says

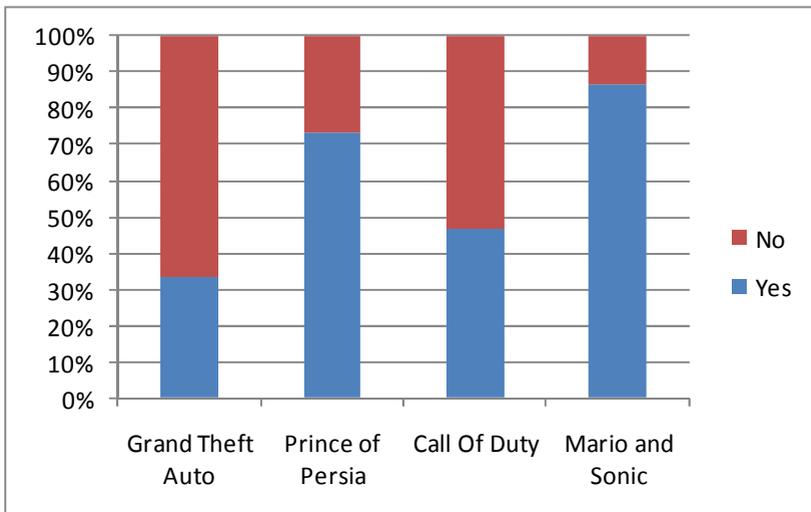
Can you receive a wireless signal in your house?



The majority of parents said that nobody could receive a wireless signal in the house (Shown in red), but rather worryingly 4 parents said that they did not know. (In green)

How to check: Use a laptop or mobile phone with WIFI to see what signals are available.

Which of these games are suitable for children?



Interestingly most parents had heard of Grand Theft Auto and recognised that it was an adult game, a number of parents did not realise that Call of Duty was intended for an adult audience and quite a large number did not realise that there were decapitations in Prince of Persia. At the other extreme a few parents felt that Mario and Sonic at the Winter Olympics was unsuitable despite having a 3 rating, encouragement of Physical activity, appreciation of classical music and an educational geography quiz within it. Be sure to check PEGI ratings and also Amazon.co.uk offer a section with family friendly video games.

What the research says

National Geographic has shown that computer games improve Hand Eye coordination, the BBC has shown that certain computer games can be used to stimulate learning and the Washington Post has found that video games can relieve stress.

There has been a lot of research into the effects of computer games and violence with mixed results, but a large concern is that parents are allowing children to play games not appropriate for their age range.

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/1879019.stm>

National Geographic: http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/05/0528_030528_videogames.html

Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/17/AR2009081702114.html>

Know your games systems

Nintendo Wii

The Nintendo Wii is the most child friendly of consoles, with a controller that is easier for younger players to use and a large number of family friendly titles. Some games such as Wii Fit and some sports titles encourage physical exercise and there are also a number of strategy games that are good for logical thinking such as Little King's Story and Sim City Creator. Please be aware that there are adult titles available for this console and so not all games are children friendly.



Playing Baseball on Wii

PS3 & X-Box 360

These consoles have better graphics and the PS3 can also play Blu-ray films. They have a large library of games including some children friendly titles, but many of their best selling titles are aimed firmly at adults.

Apple Mac & PC

Apple Mac & PCs would allow children to do their homework. However there is a large range of games available for both systems and there is the potential for children to go online and see adult entertainment.

3, 7, 12 16, 18, violence, fear, sex, discrimination, gambling, bad language, online & drugs are trademarks of PEGI.