

3 IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR GAMER KIDS

Raising kids who play video games can be difficult to navigate at times. Regardless of how you feel about video games, if you have gamer kids, here are three important things you can do with them.

1 **Grab a Controller.**

I played video games growing up, but I am not a big fan of them today. As the parent, you absolutely have the choice to keep video games out of your home. My oldest is pretty good at video games and enjoys them. Instead of being frustrated by his gaming, I made the choice to grab a controller and play with him. I am terrible and he makes fun of me, but when I play with him, we spend time together. We laugh, we talk trash, and we connect. I don't play with my son because I like video games, but because I want to build my relationship with him while playing. Playing with your gamer kids lets you investigate what's really going on in these games and to see any red flags you otherwise wouldn't notice. It also lets your gamers know you care about their interests.

2 **Set Boundaries and Limits.**

We need to set boundaries and limits with everything our kids are involved in—especially video games. In our house, we only play games on the weekends and never on a school night. We also make it clear how long our kids have to play, typically in one-hour blocks. When grades start slipping, they know they'll lose video game privileges. Set the boundaries that work for you and your home. Without them, anything in our kids' lives can become consuming and out of control.

What boundaries and limits do you have in place?

3 Keep Up With Trends.

I recently did some research on my son’s favorite game. There’s a new update coming with some pretty cool features that everybody who plays the game has longed to see. When my son got home from school, I pulled him aside and told him the news. His face lit up with joy—and not because of the video game, but because his dad cares about something he loves. It’s almost impossible to stay ahead of our kids playing video games, but it’s worth investing some time to learn and be on the same page with your gamers. They may talk your ear off about stuff you couldn’t care less about, but they are talking to you and that is key.

- Two great websites to help you keep up with trends:
- www.commonsemmedia.org/game-reviews
 - www.metacritic.com/game

Games You Need To Know About

Top 10 NEW Games of 2021

By metacritic.com

Reviewed at commonsemmedia.org

- Ninja Gaiden: Master Collection**
(Language, Sex and Violence)
- Deus Ex: Human Revolution**
(Language, Sex and Violence)
- Chivalry II**
(Language, Violence and Drinking/Drugs)
- Maneater**
(Violence, Blood, and Language)
- Mass Effect: Ledgendary Edition**
(Sex, Violence and Language)

1. The House in Fata Morgana - (Switch)
2. Disco Elysium: The Final Cut - (PC)
3. Mass Effect Legendary Edition - (Xbox One)
4. Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1 + 2 - (PlayStation 5)
5. It Takes Two - (Xbox Series X)
6. Super Mario 3D World - (Switch)
7. Fez - (Switch)
8. Chicory: A Colorful Tale - (PC)
9. Outriders - (Playstation 4)
10. Monster Hunter Rise - (Switch)

What Games Are Your Kids Playing?