

# PARENTS CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview Park

## NINTENDO RULES

BY FAITH TIBBETS McDONALD

If you can't seem to tear your 10-year-old away from the [Wii], take heart. According to researchers, a child's interest in video games surges around fourth grade, then tapers off.



While some experts have found proven benefits from video games -- improved hand-eye coordination, a mastery of technology, increased strategy skill -- many others wonder about the consequences of kids' preoccupation with electronic entertainment.

Primary among those concerns is the effect violent video games may have on children. There is still no conclusive research to determine how playing aggressive and violent video games influences a child's behavior. Evidence does indicate that immediately after playing a violent video game, a child will act with uncharacteristic, increased aggression. The effects, however, have not been found to be long-lasting.

One 1994 study linked boys' strong preference for violent games with low self-confidence. Educators point out that the standard game plot -- an autonomous individual working against an evil force -- does little to encourage cooperation or teamwork and instead fosters a sense of isolation and aloneness. And rarely do video games motivate players to depend on God for their strength and power.

While nonviolent, educational games are available, fewer than 2 percent of boys choose them. Boys prefer action-packed, violent or highly competitive sports games. (Girls rarely play video games, possibly because videogame companies don't target them.)

Until your child outgrows his interest in video games, there are ways you can keep his fascination in check:

- Limit playing time to about 20 minutes at a stretch, no more than

an hour a day.

- Know and discuss the game's content. Help your child compare what happens in the game to what Scripture says about how we should live.
- Become familiar with and use ratings to screen games (see below).
- Teach kids the difference between real-life violence and media violence. Help them understand the very real results of violent behavior.
- Always supervise your kids in an arcade or at home. Don't be afraid to set limits on what they play.

*Faith Tibbets McDonald is a writer, educator, and mother of three. Copyright © 2001 by the author or Christianity Today International/Christian Parenting Today Magazine. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188.*

- For more information on video game ratings, go to the Entertainment Software Ratings Board Web site at [www.esrb.org](http://www.esrb.org).
- For Christian video game reviews, visit [www.pluggedin.com/Games.asp](http://www.pluggedin.com/Games.asp)

## FAMILY GAME FAVORITES

**Recent winter weather has provided plenty of opportunities for indoor fun. Here are some of the games the families in our church love to play:**

### Board Games

- Clue and Junior Clue
- Scrabble
- Monopoly
- Sequence
- Scattergories
- Trouble
- Aggravation
- Sorry!
- Life

### Card Games

- Dutch Blitz
- Scrabble Slam
- Monopoly Deal
- Sorry! Card Game
- Old Maid
- Pictureka
- Uno, Uno Attack, Uno Flash, Uno Spin
- Shucks (a group version of Rook)

### Other Games

- Cranium Cadoo, Cranium Whoonu and other Cranium games ([www.hasbro.com/games/cranium/home.cfm](http://www.hasbro.com/games/cranium/home.cfm))
- Farkle (ask Karen Worsham)
- Five Crowns
- Rummikub
- Mexican Train dominoes
- Apples to Apples
- Spinner
- Balderdash and Beyond Balderdash

# family spotlight



the merrifields

Family time together

playing Life or the Farming Game

Favorite vacation

Gatlinburg, TN

## Bryce

- \* Birthday: 12/30/04
- \* Favorite Bible character: Jesus
- \* Favorite food: corn dogs
- \* Enjoys: playing with Peanut (his stuffed animal)

## Karen

- \* Birthday: 9/18
- \* Job: Molly Maid Housekeeper
- \* Church Ministry: 2s & 3s WorshipTime Helper
- \* Favorite Bible verse: Prov. 3:5-6
- \* Favorite food: Monte Cristo
- \* Enjoys: reading, playing games

## Patrick

- \* Birthday: 10/6
- \* Job: GPBS H.S. Math Teacher
- \* Church Ministry: Upward Scorekeeper
- \* Favorite Bible verse: 1 Cor. 10:13
- \* Favorite food: deep dish pizza
- \* Enjoys: watching movies, playing xbox, playing with boys

## Derek

- \* Birthday: 9/9/03
- \* Favorite Bible character: Jesus
- \* Favorite food: corn dogs
- \* Enjoys: playing basketball



Last month we focused on the importance of having dinner together as a family. If your dinner discussions amount to nothing more than: "How was your day?"... "Good", you might want to check out "100 Questions to Ask Your Kids." <http://life.familyeducation.com/communication/family-time/36021.html>



Have a daughter who is into "Twilight"? Be sure to read the review of the Twilight series in the December edition of "Seyler's Scoop," available at the literature table in the church foyer.

## READ MY QUIPS

- "Winning doesn't really matter as long as you win." -- *Vinny Jones, British soccer player*
- "I would not be bothered if we lost every game as long as we won the League." -- *Mark Viduka, Australian soccer player*
- "Sparky is the only guy I know who's written more books than he has read." -- *Ernie Harwell, broadcaster, on Sparky Anderson's autobiography They Call Me Sparky*
- "I will perish this trophy forever." -- *Johnny Logan, baseball player*
- "The only reason I don't like playing in the World Series is I can't watch myself play." -- *Reggie Jackson, baseball player*
- "People think we make \$3 million and \$4 million a year. They don't realize that most of us only make \$500,000." -- *Pete Incaviglia, baseball player, 1990*
- "[My] career was sputtering until [I] did a 360 and got headed in the right direction." -- *NBA star Tracy McGrady, after signing with the Orlando Magic*

## DUMB SPORTS QUOTES

- "Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing - but none of them serious" -- *Alan Minter*
- "Fear was absolutely necessary. Without it, I would have been scared to death." -- *Floyd Patterson, former heavyweight boxing champion*
- "You can sum up this sport in two words: You never know." -- *Lou Duva, boxing trainer*
- "I owe a lot to my parents, especially my mother and father" - *Greg Norman, professional golfer*
- *Steve Spurrier, Florida football coach, once informed Gator fans that a fire at Auburn's football dormitory had destroyed 20 books.* "But the real tragedy," he explained, "was that 15 hadn't been colored in yet."
- "Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject." -- *Shelby Metcalf, basketball coach at Texas A&M, to a player who received four Fs and one D*

GRANDVIEW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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