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CPD Training, Resources, Books

Screen time =
Creative time
16 ideas for young kids

It's time to move away from fear of 'screens' and help your child become digitally literate and skilled. You have more of a chance of keeping your child safe online and treating technology as neutral, not something you nag them about. It is far more fun to safely enjoy all tech offers us than to clockwatch children's 'screen time'.

Screen time
can = Creative
time!



- Develop a 'Maker Mindset'. Make and send little videoclips to relatives – help your child tell a joke or a story – knock knock jokes are popular. Try 'our day at the park' – link a few photos taken at the park and help your child use language skills to talk about the adventure and send a clip to grandma.
- Make a memory book for fun times we want to be reminded of – drawings can be scanned or snapped by your mobile phone camera. Photos can be uploaded. [Sketching apps](#) like [Drawing Pad](#) or [Sketches](#) can be used on an ipad where a child can draw with a finger or a stylus wherever you are.
- Watch TV and YouTube clips together and talk about what you are watching, ask questions – try and guess the endings or make up alternative endings. Use language skills to get just the right word to describe what you each thought about what you watched. Make up other episodes together and fall about laughing.
- Reiterate the learning: Think about what you learned if it was a wild life programme. Talk through interesting facts.
- Talk about the emotions in a children's story – 'How do you think he was feeling?' What would make him feel better? Help your child use language to talk of emotion.
- Play screen-based games together, make the experience collaborative and time limited.
- Problem-solve: What could the characters in the story have done differently? What would you advise them to do now?
- Parents can enjoy many kids' games but are seldom as fast or dextrous as a nine year old, so enjoy your superior co-ordination skills while your child is still small!



- Take photos of insects when out in the garden or park, come home and look up how they change from caterpillar to butterfly. Find a video clip on metamorphosis or seek pictures on [Pinterest](#).
- Teach your child to code using [Mama Codes'](#) easy and inventive projects.
- Together you can look up things that fascinate your child – dinosaurs or spiders. Your child will begin to learn about searching trusted sources for information. [Try National Geographic for Kids](#).
- Download a few suitable apps for learning onto a tablet and let your child use it offline in aircraft mode.
- View selected games as tools to teach persistence, digital skills and improve dexterity and co-ordination. Download onto a tablet.
- Try out dances or songs you have viewed together online or TV.
- Use the internet to find out how to do things: make your favourite food, why does yeast rise? How to knit or do science experiments.
- As your child gets older use the internet for videos on how to improve in a sport – like tips on bowling for cricket fans. Research facts about a favourite footballer's technique (8 and older).



Augmented reality can give the sensation of driving a car, or help with learning about the stars. Augmented Reality apps to consider for kids are discussed on another [Tips for Parents](#) sheet from www.esafetyforschools.com

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