

CHAPTER 1

Your Child's Relationship to Technology

In today's society children are growing up in a different reality. Technology is literally oozing out of their heads because large-scale exposure begins at an early age. Even education is now taught through computers and the Internet. It seems as though our children learn how to point-and-click faster that they learn their ABCs! Instead of playing outdoors, they practically live with a keyboard and mouse. Instead of picking up an encyclopedia for research, they type keywords in an online search agent. In fact, the flash cards that we grew up on have become secondary to the learning tools and sites on the web.

When kids reach their teen years, they build computers, write languages and codes, and create their own websites! What's really surprising is that they, in fact, teach us adults how to operate machines and navigate through software and hardware installations. Think about it. Have you ever had to ask your son or daughter to show you how to put together or set something up that dealt with technology? It could have been as simple as programming your cell phone or as difficult as setting up a network connection. Technology is their language and they speak it all the time. It is becoming their way of life. Actually, it is becoming the way of the world. Everything and everyone is online, which is actually a good thing. The advances we have made, as well as the knowledge and information we've acquired has been tremendous. It