



Making the Most of Media Moments

Media is everywhere. Television, online videos, digital games, and even music, picture books and podcasts are all types of media. Media has the power to teach us in many ways. We can also use it to create and communicate with others. With some simple actions, grown-ups and kids can get the most out of their screen time and interactions with media.

Choose Media Together

Let your child’s interests be your guide. Look for age-appropriate media that feature their favorite characters and topics. Your child’s teacher or librarian may also have great media suggestions to extend your child’s learning and spark their curiosity.

You can say:
I noticed you’ve been interested in the weather. Let’s look for a show about that.

Set Expectations Together

Media moments spark the most learning when kids and grown-ups are engaging together. Sometimes grown-ups just need kids to be safely occupied while they get dinner ready or take a shower. Include your child in creating a family media plan to outline when and how they can have media time.

You can say:
What times of day are best for our family to watch a show or play games?

Talk Together

The more you talk about media experiences with your child, the more you can learn together. Model the habit of talking and asking questions about books, shows, and games.

You can say:
What is this show about? How did you get past that tricky obstacle in the game?

Wonder Together

When you encourage curiosity about media, you help kids become critical thinkers about what they see, hear and do with media. It’s okay not to know the answers. You might follow your child’s question with, “How can we find out together?”

You can say:
What questions would you ask the people who made this game?

Make Media Together

Media time isn’t only watching videos or playing games. From drawing pictures to taking digital photos or recording a movie, there are many ways grown-ups can guide kids to create their own media. When kids make media, they learn that devices are creative and powerful tools they can use to express themselves and their ideas. And it just might nurture a future career as a writer, animator, producer or the next big movie star!

You can say:
How can we make our own story?



Find more ways to explore media together at
pbskidsforparents.org

