

# The Age of SMART

FLJ, 2014 John T. McMahan III

In this new age of SMART phones and iPads, today's children are glued to these devices especially SMART phones. These phones are doing more and more all the time and nearly anything you can do on a computer and camera can be done on the devices. Reading literacy once thought of as books, newspapers and magazines have given way to these small computers which are attached to our children and many of us as well. The good thing is that there are a plethora of programs that have been designed to engage children at levels that are hard to imagine unless you are a computer expert.

One of the best ways for children to learn now whether you are at school or at home with mom and dad are through educational games that brings any kind of curriculum right to your phone. As a parent, the hard job is to decipher which programs are both educationally beneficial and fun to keep children excited about computer applications that are learner friendly. I for one played a few games with my son that were more like Mario Party and less like the graphically amazing detail, that can help children read and write. 15 years ago there were nice programs available but I was not as knowledgeable about them as I should have been. The first thing you fight as a parent is that if you are not interested in technology as much as maybe you should be, you are not going to partake in these moments with your children like you should. This can be a barrier to your child in a couple ways. First you will not pay attention to what your child is looking at on their phone as much, which can be a dangerous thing. Children out of curiosity may get on web sites that they shouldn't which can be a problem. Secondly if you are not willing to take the time and learn more about how SMART phones work and how they can have a big educational benefit, your interaction with your child during these potential moments of learning will be less. As a parent you have to be willing to research some of the sites that could be great possibilities of fun while learning. If you don't, you miss out on some great time with your child and your child misses out on learning moments.

Exposing your child to learning videos is also a way to get them involved with their SMART phones. There are many interesting video's that challenge all levels of child techy gurus and will help elevate reading and learning. There are literature possibilities where children can watch a video or movie on a phone and read along in a book. This combination can prove to be a fun way to follow along in a book, recognizing letters and vocabulary and establishing a literacy connection in this fashion. Children love watching movies and videos and if you can make it an educational opportunity, reading literacy can have a fun face.

Looking for things that your child is passionate about and connecting them to learning is an occasion that should be longed for by you as a parent. Sometimes it takes an extra effort for

parents to step up to the plate and be a lifelong learner along with your child. Your child will begin to model your behavior and before you know it, this new learned behavior that you went above and beyond to establish will be an expectation that you have created with your child. These creations are sometimes the difference on how successful your child will want to be and actually become. These early loving connections you create and share with your most important asset, your child are forever moments of love and appreciation that you will remember for as long as you live. Believe it or not, so will your child.