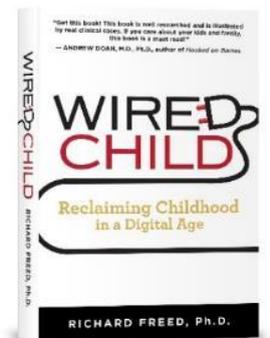


Wired Child: Reclaiming Childhood in a Digital Age

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Reading group questions and topics for discussion:

1. Most American parents believe that technology brings the family closer. Why do you believe this is?
2. In spite of increasing research that screens/phones pose health risks to kids, kids' use of these devices keeps expanding. Why is that?
3. Do you believe guiding tech and screens is the most challenging parenting issue today?
4. Why do many schools continue to allow kids to use their phones throughout the school day in spite of evidence that this hurts school success?
5. In my article, "[The Tech Industry's War on Kids](#)," I describe how hidden psychological persuasive design techniques in social media and video games are used to hook kids. As a parent, educator, or caring adult, how much are you aware of such techniques?
6. Why is the popular media more likely to talk about how social media companies invade adult privacy rather than discuss how these companies exploit children and teens for profit and hurt their emotional health?
7. While many are recognizing the costs of kids' overuse of screens, there are powerful forces pushing kids to spend even more screen time. What groups do you see in your life pushing kids' screen and phone time?
8. How can schools support parents providing a healthy, low-tech environment at home? And should schools recommend to their student's parents the importance of limiting kids' entertainment screen use at home?
9. The hallmark of any addiction is continued use in spite of negative consequences, e.g., hurting family relationships or school success. Do you see signs of addictive tech use in children or adults? Do you know of children or teens who are addicted and what does their life look like?
10. Leading tech execs, such as Steve Jobs and Bill and Melinda Gates, set strong screen/phone limits on their own kids. What will encourage more parents to do so?
11. What do you see are the benefits and challenges of setting tech, screen, and phone limits at your home?



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