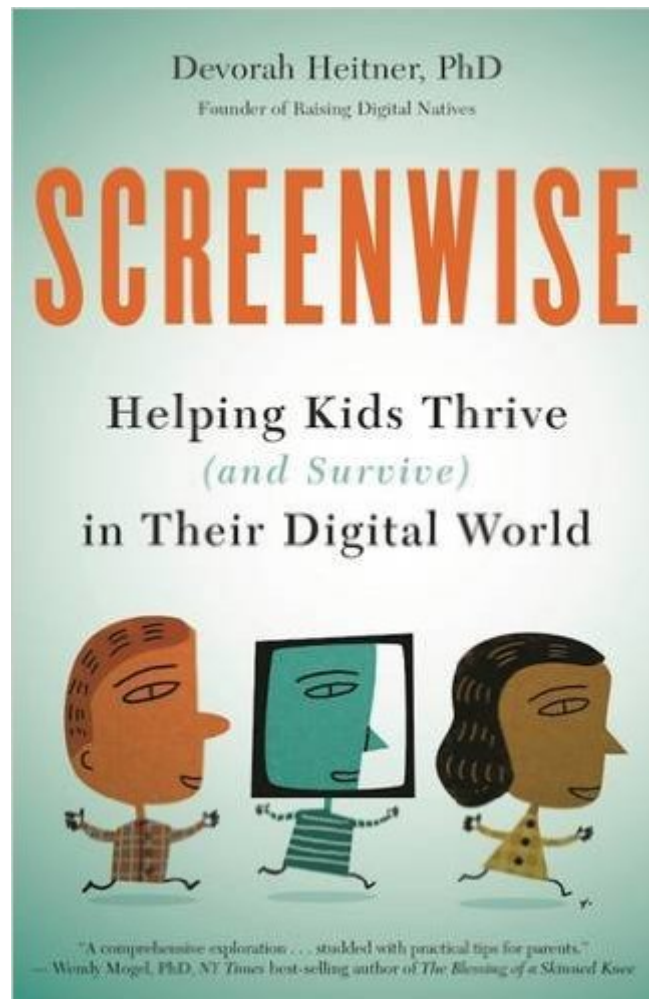


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Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) In Their Digital World



Synopsis

Screenwise offers an encouraging perspective on how to thoughtfully guide kids in the digital age. Many parents and educators worry that kids are addicted, detached, or distracted because of their digital devices. Digital Citizenship expert Devorah Heitner, however, believes that technology offers huge potential to our children--if parents help them.Â Screenwise helps parents recognize that the social wisdom they have gained throughout their lives is a relevant and urgently needed supplement to their kid's digital savvy. These skills can help set kids up for a lifetime of success in a world fueled by technology. The core message of the book is that kids need mentoring, not (just) monitoring, and that kids deserve more empathy from adults about growing up in the digital age. Texting, gaming and social media are social spaces requiring social skills. The book offers advice on helping kids navigate friendship and identity issues that are common among new texters, gamers and social media users. Screenwise is a guide to understanding what it is like for children to grow up with technology, and to recognizing the special challenges--and advantages--that contemporary kids and teens experience thanks to this level of connection. Children's school experiences, family life and friendships are all shaped by digital connection. Educators and school leaders looking to engage parents around educational technology and wishing to create a culture of digital citizenship will benefit from this volume.Â Screenwise helps parents and educators move beyond discussions of "screentime" to evaluate different kinds of engagement with technology. Screenwise presents practical parenting "hacks": quick ideas that you can implement today that will help you understand and relate to your digital native. The book empowers parents to recognize ways that wisdom that they have gained throughout their lives is a relevant and urgently needed supplement to their kid's digital savvy. Based on real-life stories from families, the latest research, and Dr. Heitner's experience working with schools, Screenwise teaches parents what they need to know in order to raise responsible and empathetic kids in the digital age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is truly a beacon in the darkness, both for parents who fear all screens and fruitlessly try to keep kids away from them, and for parents who may be worried by the amount or type of screen-based activities in which their kids engage, but remain hands-off and permissive because they don't know how to address it. Our family has screen-time limits for our school-aged kids, but so often these limits were leading to tantrums and power struggles because they were arbitrary. These limits lumped silly videos and games together with coding tutorials, historical research, and other far more useful online activities. In today's world, that simplistic approach just doesn't work. It makes kids feel bad about enjoying technology, when in fact we all use it multiple times a day (both for "redeeming" activities, and just for entertainment). Further, arbitrary limits set kids up to "cheat" when parents aren't looking-- and to lack the healthy awareness and guidance they need to navigate the online social world. It has been so helpful to approach technology in a new, more supportive way: taking an interest in the games of skill that our kids enjoy; using beloved characters from videos to discuss social skills in the real world; having open conversations about language and content that make videos and sites inappropriate for kids. I haven't even finished this book yet, and already I've had an incredible conversation with my daughter about a seemingly "silly" or "dumb" series of videos she kept talking about incessantly at the dinner table. It turns out that her interest in these videos was a way of working out an issue at school that was too hard to talk about directly. Once I took an interest in her interest, we were able to get to the bottom of things.

This is a must read for any and all parents. This is a must read for all educators. This is a must read for anyone who engages and interacts with children on any level. This current generation is being known as digital natives, a generation that has never known life without computers and the digital world. The parents of this generation are known as digital immigrants. We did not grow up with this level of technology. As parents of this generation we have of course adopted the digital realm as it has evolved into our everyday lives. Devorah Heitner does a fabulous job outlining and addressing all the nuances of raising these digital natives. While, these digital natives speak the language and

have a natural ability to navigate the digital realm, this doesn't always equate to doing the right thing. Screenwise promotes parental mentoring over monitoring. The emphasis for parents is to teach good digital citizenship just as we were raised to be good citizens. That is not something our children were innately born with :). Just as we taught them to share and take turns, we need to teach them the ins and outs of how to interact on their devices. With years of field work, she reports right from the mouths of children, parents and educators. She sources experts, herself included, on all the various parenting issues we are facing with raising our children with technology. The book is dense with talking points, ideas, tips and conversations we all need to be having. Most importantly, she addresses our children's concerns with their parent's technology use. We can't run from technology, we can't hide our children from the digital age. It is here to stay and it is only going to expand. We must get on board.

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