



Children and Violent Video Games

“Every child who plays video games is undergoing a powerful developmental experiment, the results of which we do not yet fully comprehend.” National Institute on Media and the Family.

www.mediafamily.org

We affirm that all children are a gift of God, created by God and created good. As Christians who care about children, we need to educate ourselves about the video games to which our children and youth have access, and the potentially harmful effects of viewing violent content.

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Video games have been a part of our culture since the early '70s. They have evolved from the innocuous Pong (1972) and Pac-Man (1980s) to the more ominous Mortal Kombat (1990s) - a game that was among the first to be criticized for its violent content. While many video games promote learning and healthy interaction, too many games with graphically violent content are easily accessible to children.

Researchers at Iowa State University recently reviewed 35 studies on the topic on the association of playing violent video games and aggressive behavior. A strong correlation for both boys and girls under 18 was found. <http://www.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2006/jul/vtvvvgelem.shtml>

Next Week: Who are the Gamers? A real life story.