

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

As tech-savvy as I like to be, advances in technology occur faster than I can keep up.



My children are grown, but with four grandchildren ranging in age from 3 months to 17 years old, I'm happy to have a resource like Common Sense Media.

The not-for-profit independent organization has been working since 2003 to help young people understand the power of digital media and technology.

According to Common Sense Media, "Kids today spend over 50 hours of screen time every week. The media content they consume and create has a profound impact on their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Learning how to use media and technology wisely is an essential skill for life and learning in the 21st century."

The group's Web site, www.commonsensemedia.org, provides dozens of pages to help adults with technology choices for young people.

Among those pages are reviews, top picks, family guides, parent concerns, videos, news and advice, research and a Spanish-language page.

While the group's focus is on digital media, information on books also is available. Under the Reviews tab are nearly 5,000 books that viewers can filter by age (from 2 to 18), genre and topics.

My favorite section is the Top Picks page, which provides suggestions for best movies, games, apps, Web sites, TV and music.

Like the other pages and lists, the reviews are broken down by age, from preschoolers to 13 and

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Kids today spend more than 50 hours a week in front of a screen, Common Sense Media reports.

older.

There is an overarching category, such as Fun Apps That Don't Need Wi-Fi or Data, and then a listing of multiple apps within.

Other categories include Apps That Can Bring Families Together, Best Apps and Sites for College Prep, Morning Routine Apps for Little Kids and Preschool Apps That Are Worth The Money.

Another category in the Top Picks page is Best for Character Development for Kids. Within this page are lists of movies, TV shows and books that inspire positive character traits, such as integrity, diversity, perseverance, gratitude and teamwork.

Common Sense Media also has a section for educators with pages on digital citizenship and professional development.

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