

Teacher's Guide

This guide includes:

- Standards
- Related Links
- Discussion Questions
- Activities for Students
- Reproducible Materials

Standards

This guide correlates with the following National Health Education Standards:

Students will:

- Comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.
- Analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.
- Demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.
- Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
- Demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.
- Demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.
- Demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.
- Demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

National Health Education Standards: www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/sher/standards/index.htm



Grades 6 to 8 • Personal Health Series

Screen Time

The average kid or teen spends more hours in front of a TV, computer, smartphone, and video game screen than in school. That's hours lost every day of learning, being active, and interacting face-to-face. These activities will encourage students to discover healthier, more active ways to spend their time.

Related KidsHealth Links

Articles for Kids:

Are Video Games Bad for Me?

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/video-gaming.html

Why Exercise Is Cool

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/work-it-out.html

How to Pick a Great Book to Read

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/find-book.html

Articles for Teens:

Technology: 5 Ways to Reboot Yourself

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/reboot.html

Why Exercise Is Wise

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/exercise-wise.html

Are Video Games Good for the Mind?

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/gaming.html

Discussion Questions

Note: The following questions are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

1. Health experts say too much screen time can get in the way of a healthy lifestyle. Do you agree? Why?
2. Do you think it's true that people act like they're "addicted" to their screens (phones, tablets, video games)? Name some problems with spending too much time glued to a screen.
3. If all your electronics suddenly went dead, what would you do instead?
4. What are some ways families can be more active together?



Activities for Students

Note: The following activities are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

Debunking Dr. Screen

Objectives:

Students will:

- Learn why too much screen time isn't good for you
- Identify alternatives to screen time

Materials:

- Pen or pencil and paper

Class Time:

- 45 minutes

Activity:

You've just seen the world's craziest infomercial. Dr. Screen is encouraging people to spend as much time as possible in front of a screen. He says:

- Leaving the TV on in your bedroom helps you sleep at night
- Moving a computer mouse burns hundreds of calories per day
- Playing heart-pounding video games counts as aerobic exercise
- Sitting on a couch texting is an effective way to exercise the gluteus maximus
- Texting helps build social skills

Luckily, you know better. Write a letter to the TV station explaining point by point why Dr. Screen's infomercial should be canned. Include the reasons why too much screen time isn't good for you, and some healthier activities kids and teens should be doing instead.

Extension:

Lead a classroom discussion on the pros and cons of smartphones and come to a consensus on or assign an essay on:

- The top 3 ways smartphones have improved the people's lives
- The top 3 problems with the ways people use smartphones



Grades 6 to 8 • Personal Health Series

Screen Time

Screen-Time Journal

Objectives:

Students will:

- Track and try to reduce their screen time

Materials:

- “Screen-Time Journal” handout
- Pencil or pen

Class Time:

- 25 minutes (5 minutes explaining the assignment, 20 minutes discussing the results in class)

Activity:

We’re going to challenge ourselves to adopt a screen-time budget. The goal is to spend no more than 2 hours a day in front of a TV, computer, smartphone, tablet, or video game screen (except for homework). Cut out four slips of paper from the “Screen-Time Journal” handout, each slip representing 30 minutes of screen time. Each time you use up a 30-minute interval in front of a TV, computer, device, or video game, place one slip of paper in an envelope. The slips are yours to spend as you wish, but once they’re all in the envelope, you’re maxed out for the day and need to move on to a screen-free activity. Using the “Screen-Time Journal” handout, keep a record of your experience. Was it easy or hard to stick to the budget? What did you learn? At the end of the week, we’ll talk about our experiences.

Extensions:

1. Have students invite family members to try the screen-time budget plan. After a week, lead a discussion on the results and assess the effects when people support each other’s behavior-change efforts.
2. Try to use fewer slips day by day and see if you can get to zero hours of screen time by the last day.
3. Have your class, grade or school participate in the annual Screen-Free Week; visit ScreenFree.org.

Reproducible Materials

Handout: Screen-Time Journal

KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/personal/fitness/screen_time_handout1.pdf

Quiz: Screen Time

KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/personal/fitness/screen_time_quiz.pdf

Answer Key: Screen Time

KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/personal/fitness/screen_time_quiz_answers.pdf



KidsHealth.org is devoted to providing the latest children’s health information. The site, which is widely recommended by educators, libraries, and school associations, has received the “Teachers’ Choice Award for the Family” and the prestigious Pirelli Award for “Best Educational Media for Students.” KidsHealth comes from the nonprofit Nemours Foundation. Check out www.KidsHealth.org to see the latest additions!



Name: _____

Date: _____

Screen-Time Journal

Directions: Each time you use up a 30-minute time period in front of a TV, smartphone, computer, or video game, place one slip of paper in an envelope. Once four slips (2 hours) are all in the envelope, you need to move on to a screen-free activity. Try to use fewer slips day by day and see if you can get to zero hours of screen time by the last day. On the Screen-Time Journal, record the number of hours, to the nearest half-hour, you spend with each type of screen.

Monday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Tuesday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Wednesday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Thursday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Friday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Saturday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes
Sunday	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes	30 minutes

*not including use for homework



Name: _____

Date: _____

<i>Screen-Time Journal</i>	Computer*	Mobile Devices*	TV	Video Games	Total Hours
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					
Sunday					

*not including use for homework

Was it easy or hard to stick to your screen-time budget? Write about your week here: _____



Name: _____

Date: _____

Quiz

1. True or false: How much time kids and teens spend watching screens can affect their grades and even their weight.
2. True or false: Falling asleep with the TV on at night is not a healthy habit.
3. According to the experts, kids and teens should exercise at least:
 - a) 60 seconds every day
 - b) 60 minutes every day
 - c) 60 hours each week
 - d) once every 60 days
4. When you exercise, your brain releases chemicals that can make you feel happier. These chemicals are called:
 - a) endorphins
 - b) bile
 - c) electrolytes
 - d) plasma
5. True or false: Kids and teens who spend lots of time sitting in front of TV, video, and computer screens and using their smartphones or are more likely to be overweight.

Extra credit:

7. True or false: Texting doesn't count as screen time.
8. True or false: Walking or biking to school counts as exercise.



Quiz Answer Key

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