

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR FUN AND EDUCATION

It's well known that new gadgets of technology are very strong in people's life in these last times, but how well this technology is immersed in our education for learning purposes? This is a hard question to be answered due to the variety of those equipments, products, and etc, that fills supermarkets and technology stores in the whole world; but this is not our topic. In most cases kids and young people use new gadgets for many purposes such as: having fun or learning process, due to all the applications those technologies have. Are parents supervising what their children are doing when they are connected or using those equipments? How much time do they spend with technology? What is the most used technology equipment in these last times? In this moment thousands of people around the whole globe are using their equipments to share, look for information or simply to send a message inviting a friend to go out, but this usage will give an aid in the case of doing homework, or help students to solve school or life problems.

Technology is widespread around the world due to globalization and TIC's era and every single day or hour a new equipment shows up in scene, a new mobile phone, the fastest laptop, a great tablet pc, which help in this case kids and younger's to be connected at any moment, from home, school or outside with their new gadgets, downloading music, watching their favorite artists or videos, doing homework for next class or during it. In schools the use of new technology is equal to budget due to the money schools have to have those things for learning process, but in some cases students are available to use some equipments inside classrooms for study, "Children are given laptops for the year and use them to complete assignments both at home and in school"¹. For this reason lots of curricula and schools are changing the way they thought about, the use of technology inside classrooms and open their doors and minds to TICs and to the opportunity to share information, culture and even life through technology, making the process and life so relevant in this period of time. "Educators must be involved in any such discussions of the role of technology in

¹ Online: GUTNICK. A, ROBB. M, TAKEUCHI. L, KOTTLER. J. ALWAYS CONNECTED
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/50739070/Always-Connected-The-new-digital-media-habits-of-young-children>. 2010 pag 38. June 4, 2011

school”.² Also new technology promote in students and teachers the development of new abilities, to solve problems in simulated context, promote critical thinking in selection of significant information, also well use of technology and the positive or negative impact of the use it in their lives. As teachers the work is to face and promote in our students and curriculum the best way to implement the technology we have in hands, to make it significant in every class and with the rational consumption of this technology in schools and out of them.

Lots of parents think, the use or acquisition of new technology to their children is only go to the store and buy it for them and let them free to use it, but are they supervising them when they`re using it? Most of them let their children to use it without any guidance or control, and all of them spend too much time in front of Pc, game consoles, mobile phones, surfing internet, etc. what a difficulty, because children can use technology for many purposes like: educational, having fun, and share with friends, but are those hours useful for them? Not at all because they are losing the opportunity to share face to face with friends and play, practicing sports and some others things that they don`t find in a video game or in the internet. “We need to understand how regular use of technology affects children’s cognitive and physical development”³. Due to the amount of hours they are spending with it, and less physical effort they have to do using or playing with it, (an example a young boy nine years old, spends three or four hours a day chatting, surfing internet, downloading music and some others while his parents are working), for this reason teachers and parents have to create well prepared or designed environments and strategies for the rational use of technology with parents and teachers assistance. “Parental guidance can improve young children’s learning and advance their language development”⁴, a well structured use of technology at home and schools can provide lots of opportunities to develop new and good abilities and skills in students, in favor of their learning processes, work and social life.

Every second appears a new gadget or new technology in the world such as: led, plasma, 3d televisions, video game consoles, smart phones and some

² Ibid. pag 38

³ Ibid. pag 38

⁴ Ibid. pag 37

others which make life simple and fun, but there is one that is the most special and most loved equipment in times, is the “television set” that give us the whole world into our eyes; “While virtually every household in America owns a television”⁵ and in the world is kind of similar due to the expansion of technology. TV currently remains a strong influence in people because they spend most of the time in front of the screen every day, watching lots of programs such as news, sport matches, cartoons, etc. “TV is readily available to children and for the most part, is a routine part of their day. As even use of other media rises, television persists. It is by far the dominant medium used by children ages 0 to 11”⁶, and almost children are the most avid consumers of these programs, most of the time without adults guidance.

Technology is a great tool, have positive impact in people`s life and also occupies a large part of our lives today, but how good our children are using these?, parents and teachers have to balanced into very enriched learning experienced not only use it, to keep them occupy while adults are involved in households or classroom tasks.

By: Andres Bermudez Duque

⁵ Ibid. pag 27

⁶ Ibid. pag 25