

T-Gator Nibbles

In our world of dependency on technology, don't forget to let our children be children.

Recently, I was talking to a group of preschool children and made reference to a very familiar fairy tale character (the big bad wolf). Only one of the five children had heard of the big bad wolf. Now, I am 60 years old but when did classic fairy tales become obsolete? I thought perhaps with all the children's literature that is written, they weren't as exciting anymore or perhaps too simple for the high tech, highly active lifestyle of our children.

I took a group of five Kindergarteners and read the story of the Three Little Pigs. THEY LOVED IT!!!! I took another group and told the story of Little Red Riding Hood (and just in case you missed it, that is the one with the Big Bad Wolf in it). They were even more excited than the first group. We had a huge discussion about both stories. One asked about walking in the forest alone (great question) and they all laughed about living in a house as a pig. It is 2011 and I feel a new world has opened up. Please read fairytales at home, the classics, the oldies but goodies, nursery rhymes. Read all the new stuff too but include this wonderful old literature and your children will be a step ahead of the game. You are too young to be asked to name the Seven Dwarfs (just for fun) but ask your parents and grandparents and see how well they do.

Just for the record, occasionally a toy company makes a fortune selling a new doll; Cinderella (recent). It made me wonder how many little girls had heard the story of Cinderella before they came out with the doll.

My charge to you, READ THE FAIRYTALES at home, even if your children are older, give them for gifts, start your library again, or pull them out of your grandparents books. Nothing is ever going to take away our wonderful convenience of technology. I, for one, don't like to lose my iphone, ipod, and I always have my laptop or ipad with me. I text to keep up with people as much as everyone (even use my thumbs) are you impressed yet?

This was a clip from Parenting.com web site this week.

Click "Off"

Turn off the TV and engage your child with low-tech toys like art supplies, dolls, kid-propelled cars, or even pieces of nature (sticks, stones, feathers, bugs). Encourage her to use them in unconventional ways—and watch her imagination run wild.

Heard this week at the drinking fountain:

"He got in trouble on the playground NOT ME"

"Chapel was sort of fun today"

"HE PUSHED"

"YOU CUTTED"

"___used the big potty today"

“I always use the big potty”

“Me too”

“Where Miss Hoover”

“Up oh, she gone”