

Monologue Mania!

“Virtual Cooking, Anyone?” from *Ups and Downs*

By Rebecca Wright

PARENT

Perspective Two: You are excited that you finally gave in and bought your son a gaming system. You know he’s going to love it, yet you also have many concerns.

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I’m so glad that Tristan was surprised when he opened his new gaming system for his birthday! I guess after all these years of us telling him no, it was completely unexpected. He can thank his grandpa for that one. He reminded me that when I was a child, people said the same thing about television that we’re saying now about video games, and my brain didn’t go to mush. I guess deep down, I knew he was right. In moderation. And with some rules. Rule number one: Tristan can only play his video games after all of his homework is done. That’s a no-brainer. His schoolwork will not suffer because of playing silly games. Rule number two: He can only play for one hour on school nights and two hours on weekends. He is not going to be one of those kids who lives and breathes video games. He’s going to keep a balanced life and spend some time reading and playing outside. Besides, I hear there are kids getting carpal tunnel syndrome from excessive playing, and I will not allow that to happen to Tristan. Rule number three: He cannot play video games when we have family over. I will not have him being rude and ignoring our guests. I’ve been to my sister’s house, and when I walk in, her kids just grunt my way and then spend the whole time either playing a video game or on their phones! Rule number four: We will have only E-rated games in this house and absolutely

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no games with violence. There are plenty of options out there. All kinds of sports games or even this cute cooking one I found. I will not have my son shooting things up, whether it's hunting animals, aliens, or heaven forbid, virtual people!