

How To Determine Which Is the Best Game Console for Your kids Learning Process, Xbox 360 or Playstation the "411" Guide for Moms and Dads Vol.1



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Introduction:

With the holidays quickly approaching the odds are you will be purchasing some type of video game system. The majority of U.S. households currently have at least one of these systems. With the ever changing technology in the video world it is hard to keep up with the newest systems. There is basically a system designed for every child's needs, ranging from preschool to young adult. This can be overwhelming for parents to choose a system that not only meets your child's needs but also gives us the best quality system for our money.

With the holidays coming that means many retailers will be offering specials on video game systems and of course the release of long awaited games. Now is also the time you can purchase systems in bundles with games included.

Inside you will learn about all of these topics as well as other necessities and games to accompany to recent purchase.

What you'll find here:

In this ebook you will learn about console and portable video game systems, along with the accessories available. You will also find how many games each system has to offer.

You will get an in depth look at the pro's and con's of each current system available in stores today, and the upcoming systems available in the near future.

As a concerned parent you should also be aware of the rating label of the games and what the rating exactly means.

You will find a different chapter for each system. This will make it easier for you to decide which system to purchase for your child.

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Chapter 1: Choosing a System for Your Preschool Child.

If your child has older siblings he or she most likely sits and watches the other children play their video games only to wonder why they can't participate. With a video system based towards learning and creative play, your child can feel like a big kid and learn a thing or two while doing so.

The VTech V-Smile is geared towards children between the ages of 3 to 8 years of age. This educational video game system can easily connect to any television in your home. It has fairly good graphics that seem to look better on a small television set rather than a larger screen. This system would work great set up in your child's room and would not take up a lot of room. The less clutter the better. V-Smile approaches learning with a unique ability that is sure to attract even the most reluctant children. You could go as far as saying it tricks them into learning. This is the first of its kind that allows early school age learners to play several imaginative and exciting games.

It uses popular characters to guide the children through age appropriate skill levels and master their developmental skills. They will learn essential skills to help them with their teachings in school, such as:

- Math
- Spelling
- Problem Solving
- Memorizing the Alphabet

· Color Recognition

The creative jumbo sized joystick is designed for right or left handed children. This will ensure no child will feel left out. The joystick also has four flashing buttons with a huge enter button in the center of the pad that is created especially for preschoolers' little hands and fingers. The four buttons are a great way to teach your child their colors while learning to play their games. A second joystick can be added for two-player games, although the second joystick would have to be purchased separately.

If your preschooler is able to recognize letters, then the starter system should be enough to keep them interested for a while. If your child is just beginning to learn their ABC's, then you may want to purchase some other games that will teach them their alphabet rather than simply reinforcing it. There are several other games you may want to consider to reinforce their other skills and developments.

If your child is on the younger end of the age group you may have to help them insert and eject the cartridges until they are familiar with the system. This may also be the case with the games they play. Some of the games will need your initial instructions, but after one or two times your preschooler should get the hang of it.

The basic system comes complete with the game console and one jumbo joystick. The joystick is a wonderful way to have your child learn their basic hand-eye coordination. The control is easily adjusted for left or right handed children.

The package also includes one game called Alphabet Adventures. This game does require your child to know some letter recognition to play. Alphabet Adventures focuses on the reinforcement of the alphabet and simple spelling words. This game has two different modes to play.

One is going to the adventure park and trying to help grandpa build toys. There is also a free play mode that lets your preschooler pick what games they want to play.

One nice feature of this system is how easy it is to set up. There are no extra wires that need to be hooked up to your television. You don't have to worry about your television being compatible, which is great if you have an older television for game playing. The console can be plugged into the wall

or can be battery operated.

The games or (smartridges) are labeled with age recommendations on them. This makes it easy to pick out the perfect game for your child. This is also nice for relatives when purchasing a game for your child's birthday or special holiday. Most of the games come with two different levels of play, so once your child masters the easier level they can advance to a more difficult level. The two different levels make the games more useful and less of a chance of them getting tired of the same game.

Another great perk to the V-Smile is the accessories that are available for purchase. As stated before, you can purchase an extra joystick and let their friends join in on the fun. They are retailed at a very reasonable price and sound at many retailers. There is a 9-volt adapter, which is great for taking it on the road with you. A V-Smile art studio is a nice accessory to accompany your child's system.

If you decide to purchase a V-Smile learning system the one thing you won't have to worry about is the price. The price of the system generally ranges from 65 to 50 dollars. It can be found at Toys R Us, Target, Wal-Mart, and many other retail stores. Prices usually drop closer to the holidays. And if you are willing to shop the day after Thanksgiving many stores will have their lowest prices on gaming systems.

The variety of games available for the VTech V-Smile continues to grow rapidly. Many of your preschooler's favorite characters are featured in the smartridges. Here are just a few titles you may be interested in;

- **Aladdin's Wonders of The World**
- **Barney's Land of Make Believe**
- **Blue's Clues: Blue's Collections**
- **Bob the Builder: Bob's Busy Day**
- **Cinderella's Magic Wishes**
- **Dora's Fix-It Adventure**
- **It's Wiggle Time**
- **Scooby-Doo Funland Frenzy**

- **Spider-Man & Friends Secret Mission**
- **The Lion King: Simba's Big Adventure**
- **The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Majestic Journey**
- **Thomas the Tank Engine**
- **Toy Story 2: Operation Rescue Woody!**

As you can see the variety of games is endless. No matter what your child's interests are there is something for everyone.

All of the games are in the same basic price range, which is about \$18.95. A pretty fair price considering the range for some other games on the market.

For children on the go, you may want to consider a V-Smile Pocket. This system also combines a video game platform with fun time learning. This is a portable system that can go anywhere and can also be connected directly to your television at home. The portable system is geared toward a slightly older group, ranging from age 5 and older. The Pocket features a full color high resolution game play for an amazing screen for playing your games.

The V-Smile Pocket operates on 4 AA batteries or you can purchase a rechargeable Power Pack from VTech. The best perk about the Pocket is it plays all of the smartridges from the basic console system.

There are some accessories available for the portable system as well. There is a V-smile Pocket Car Charger for purchase around \$10.00. To protect your child's system you could consider the Pocket Case. This is a great accessory to protect it from any damaged from dropping it or scrapes. As stated before, a Pocket Power Pack for nonstop playing. This is great for long car trips and not having to purchase batteries.

The V-Tech Pocket tends to cost a little more than the console system. The average price for the portable system is around 80 dollars.

The Pocket version of the video learning system comes in a package similar to the console system. This includes;

- **Connector Cable which allows you to directly hook up your portable system to your television in your home or anywhere else.**
- **Full-color LCD screen with 320x240 resolution**
- **Zayzoo, My Alien Classmate (smartridge included)**
- **Headphone jack (you will have to purchase headphones separately)**

The controls can also be adjusted for right handed or left handed players.

After reviewing the VTech V-Smile Learning System, hopefully this will help you in making your decision on when it is the right time to purchase your child's first video game system.

Chapter 2: Learn More About the L-Max Leapster.

If your child is preschool age, but you want a system that has a broader age group, you may want to consider the LMax Leapster from LeapFrog. This learning game system is designed for children between the ages of 4 to 10 years old. The average retail price runs around \$100.00. The games for this learning system do run a bit more than the VTech VSmile, at \$29.99.

This system is a great way to allow your child to play action packed games while learning the essential skills and developments all the way up to a

fourth grade level. This product with other software can teach your child a wide variety of skills such as:

- **Reading**
- **Math**
- **Science**
- **Spelling**
- **Language**
- **Logic**
- **Social Studies**
- **Problem Solving**
- **Money Concepts**
- **Writing Skills**
- **Art & Music**
- **Patterns**

The Leapster basically revolutionized the video game with allowing young children to learn on a handheld system that teaches educational skills while having fun doing so. You can take this system virtually anywhere and play it at anytime. You can plug it into your television and play on dual screens.

The dual screen is a great advantage to parents, since it allows you to view what games your child is playing and watch their progress. Another nice feature of the dual screen mode is for your child. When he or she writes on the handheld screen they will view the larger image on the television. They can also learn to write letters on the Leapster L-Max handheld screen and the letters they write appear on the television and star in an animated story.

Not only does the dual screen technology create a different look onto the larger television screen from the handheld screen, it can also be unplugged

and continue to be played from the point they left off.

Standard with all of the LeapFrog products, The Leapster uses a stylus to help the children better master early writing skills. This is the only learning video game system that also allows a touch screen to support different modes of play.

The Leapster L-Max also supports children in their individual learning process. They create this by giving a hint structure to guide their learning process. They may want to seek a step by step assistance through the math, reading, or spelling concepts. This type of practice will help them learn as they play and will also inspire them in mastering more important skills in their school teachings.

A software library is set up to work with the L-Max game system and is available for multiple skill levels. There are several game titles that will teach levels up to the fourth grade.

There are some accessories available for the Leapster LMax you may want to be aware of. The Leapster L-Max Recharging System is able to keep the handheld system charged and ready for several hours of play. This comes in very handy for long trips. The average price of the recharging system is \$34.99. You can also purchase a carrying case for the handheld system. This is to protect your child's game from getting damaged. The carrying case comes with inside pockets for extra storage.

There are several games available for purchase with your Leapster. This system is compatible with all of the Leapster software. You must make note that the only way the television features will work is with the L-Max games. Here is a list of games that might be of interest to your child.

- **L-Max Letters on the Loose**
- **L-Max Dora the Explorer Wildlife Rescue**
- **Rock the World**
- **L-Max SpongeBob SquarePants Saves the Day**
- **Numbers on the Run**
- **L-Max Madagascar**

- **L-Max Spiderman**
- **Talking Words Factory**
- **Disney Princess**
- **Mr. Pencil's Draw & Write**

This product is a great addition to any young child's learning system. The Leapster L-Max has a very unique way to allow the parents to share in their child's learning experience.

Chapter 3: Pros & Cons of the Nintendo GameCube.

The Nintendo GameCube has been around for quite some time now. It has never gained the popularity of some of its rival game systems. This should not steer you away from this game system.

The Nintendo GameCube is the predecessor of the Nintendo 64. This system would be a perfect gift for that first time gamer. This game system is on the least expensive side of video game systems currently out on the market. You can find the Nintendo GameCube at several retail stores for an average price of \$99.99.

Although this system does not have the high tech qualities of the Playstation or Xbox, it does offer some quality games and accessories to add to on once you have purchased the video game.

If your child is too old for the Vtech or LeapFrog video systems, this would be a great choice for them. It is a simple gaming system that is basically built for playing games and that's it. It does not play DVD's or CD's and is not compatible with your MP3 player. This is one of the reasons the price is so reasonable, you get what you pay for.

The GameCube is very compact and plays a unique 3.5" game disc. This provides a minimal amount of load time. This proves to be popular with anxious players. The GameCube's mini compact discs have 1.5 GB of

storage. The disc drive and the processor work together with such a fast speed the load time is hardly noticeable.

The GameCube comes with four controller ports plus expansion ports for add-ons. The basic package for the Nintendo GameCube includes:

- **Nintendo GameCube (generally comes in black, but does offer a blue system and currently out is the platinum GameCube).**

- **AV cables**

- **Power Cord/ AC adapter**

- **One controller**

There are GameCubes that can be purchased in bundles. These usually come with two games of the same background and two controllers. Presently Nintendo is offering a gamers bundle with a sports theme. The price range for the bundles can cost around \$120.00.

The Nintendo GameCube controller provides the crucial connection between the player and the game. Two analog Control Sticks, a built-in rumble feature and an awesome design will ensure the controller plays and feels perfect. There are several accessories that can enhance the GameCube.

- **56K Modem Adapter**

- **Broadband Adapter**

- **Nintendo GameCube Memory Card**

- **Wavebird Wireless Controller**

- **Different colored GameCube controllers**

With these many accessories the Nintendo GameCube can be fully capable of supporting online play. The Broadband Adapter can also be used for LAN play in games that have been designed with that feature.

Nintendo also offers a handheld game system called the Game Boy Advance, which you will be learning about in a different chapter. If you were to purchase the Nintendo GameCube and the Nintendo Game Boy Advance, you could have endless possibilities of play. The Game Boy Advance can be used as a controller with a private screen on it. This would be used with games that support this capability. The Game Boy Advance is easily connected directly into the GameCube.

With a younger age group of children using the Nintendo GameCube you can be sure there are a number of child friendly games available. Good games without violent or questionable content are out there, but they are sometimes hard to find. These games are labeled E for Everyone. Here is a list of child safe games along with a brief explanation of them.

- **Pikmin**- This game puts you in control of a tiny alien trying to rebuild his crashed spaceship with the help of little creatures. Pikmin is simple enough for the younger children to enjoy and deep enough for an older child or an adult to play.

- **Pikmin 2**- This game is similar to the first but adds a couple of extra features. Pikmin 2 adds a multiplayer mode that does not exist in the first. This is excellent for parent and child to play the game together.

- **Animal Crossing**- This game will appeal to any age group. Animal Crossing makes a member of the town where you can send letters, fish; decorate your house, and plant trees. The seasons change is this real life game, which keeps your child interested in the different settings.

- **Super Monkey Ball**- You guide a monkey in a ball through several obstacles. The concept is easy and is available in multiplayer.

· **Super Monkey Ball 2**- This version of the game comes with different levels. This offers a different level of play and they will have fun challenging themselves through the new obstacles.

· **Mario Kart Double Dash**- This is a racing game that is very easy to control and learn. You can use turtle shells to knock your opponent off the course. This game also can be played in multiplayer mode to include parent and child interaction.

· **Donkey Kong Jungle Beat**- This game comes with a set of bongos you can plug into your GameCube. Your child must beat on the drum to play the game.

· **Super Mario sunshine**- Mario is one of the most popular figures in the video game industry. In this particular game Mario is forced to use water cannon to clean up mud at a beach resort. This game is one of the more challenging, due to the fact of Mario having to jump from one platform to another while performing his tasks.

· **Legend of Zelda- The Wind Walker**- Your child's character will battle monsters with his sword. This game has a certain level of violence, but there is no blood. This may be geared toward an older child who wants a little more depth in his gaming.

For the more experienced gamers the recent announcement of the Nintendo Wii is just in time for the holiday season. This next generation game console will officially be released in the United States on November 19th, 2006. This console is selling at a retail price for \$249.99.

The Nintendo Wii will be bundled with a copy of Wii Sports. This bundle will include:

- **One white Wii console**
- **Cables**
- **Sensor bar**
- **One Wiimote**
- **One Nunchuk**
- **Wii Sports- which includes versions of boxing, bowling, tennis, baseball, and golf**

The Wii games will sell for an average of \$49.99, and you can also purchase extra controllers for the game system.

The Wii will have up to date features to serve different purposes.

- **Wii Channels- the Wii will have access to weather and news broadcast. You can download additional game content, with a small fee.**

- **You can also send and receive messages for other Wii users. Nintendo expects to release 30 titles at the time of the launch of the Wii.**

For the parents who have older children that crave a more exciting game to dominate, there is a list of the top ten GameCube games available now.

- **Zelda: Twilight Princess-** The princess returns to a darker atmosphere during the era of Ocarina of Time. This game is said to be the best Zelda game on the market.

- **Fire Emblem: Path of Radiance**- A classic game that can intrigue even the most experienced gamers.

- **Dance Dance Revolution Mario Mix**- This is a physically active dancing game that will offer several mini games.

- **Killer 7**- This game offers distinct graphics with an unusual experience.

- **Harvest Moon-Another Wonderful Life**- This game takes you through a farming and life simulator as a female.

- **Yoot Saito's Odama**- This is a mix of pinball, puzzle games, and strategy.

- **Geist**- This game it from a rat's point of view, jumping from person to person. The graphics and concept are very well put together.

- **X-Men Legends II- Rise of the Apocalypse**- This game contains deep combat and a very interesting story. This also has a great co-op multiplayer. The game allows up to four players to play simultaneously.

- **Battalion Wars**- This game offers real time strategy with action. You can control individual units or command squads.

- **Prince of Persia 3**- This is a classic game that comes back for round three.

There always has to be long awaited new releases just in time for the holidays. Here are a couple of the hottest titles and anticipated release dates.

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