

**6 Basic Benefits
Of Game-Based
Learning
by TeachThought
Staff**

Adapted with educational purposes

There seems to be a perception that online gaming has a detrimental impact on children's development. Nothing could be further from the truth, and there are countless—and complex—reasons for this, but it also makes sense at the basic benefits of game-based learning.

Of course children should not spend every single second of the day staring at a computer screen. Nevertheless, education and online gaming certainly aren't enemies either. In fact, playing online games may be something which can enhance a child's learning and development. How?

1. Increases A Child's Memory Capacity

Games often revolve around the utilization of memorization. This not only relates to games whereby children have to remember aspects in order to solve the game, memorize critical sequences, or track narrative elements.

detrimental: negative

Nothing could be further from the truth:

this is not true

makes sense: is true

staring: looking intently

enhance: make better

Increases: makes bigger

often: many times

revolve around: work with

in order to: to

solve: find a solution to

track: follow

2. Computer & Simulation Fluency

This is something which is very important because we live in a world which is dominated by technology. Playing on games via the internet allows children the license to get used to how a computer works and thus it becomes second nature to them. There are websites, such as Cartoon Network games, which provide young children with fun and exciting games which also teach them to utilize the mouse and keyboard properly, not to mention browsing, username and passwords, and general internet navigation.

3. Helps With Fast Strategic Thinking & Problem-Solving

Most games require children to think quickly. Moreover, they have to utilize their logic in order to think three steps ahead in order to solve problems and complete levels. This is great because it is something which helps children in later life as they develop their logic, their accuracy and their ability to think on their feet and outside of the box.

4. Develops Hand-Eye Coordination

Games that require children to use a *gamepad* or a *keyboard* and the *mouse* to use the games can help develop hand-eye coordination. This gets them more tuned to how a computer works and helps to develop hand-eye coordination because children have to look at the action on the *screen* whilst using their hands to control what is happening.

require: need

develop: improve/make better

tuned to: conscious of

whilst: at the same time as

gamepad: 

keyboard: 

mouse: 

screen: 

5. Beneficial Specifically For Children With Attention Disorders

Research has revealed that online games can actually help children who experience attention disorders. This was concluded by a professor at Nottingham University (CNN covered it), and is a notion which has been repeated by many in related studies.

6. Skill-Building (e.g. map reading)

A lot of games contain certain aspects which help children with specific skills. For example, a lot of mystery and adventure games contain maps which children will have to read. This obviously helps their map reading skills and practical thinking. Moreover, there are games, such as football management games, which introduce children to managing finances and general project management.

As you can see, there are a whole host of reasons as to why online games can be beneficial for children. Thus, education and gaming certainly aren't enemies; in fact many would say that they are more like best friends.

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