

# Video Game Systems Uncovered

"Discover Which Video Game System  
is Right for Your Children's Present  
This Holiday."

## 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 smartriges 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 L-Max 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 V-Smile, 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 L-Max 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

- Madden NFL 07- release date: 8/22/2006
- Lego Star Wars II The Original Trilogy- release date: 9/12/2006

Nintendo always seem to know when it is the right time to release their newest high tech game systems. Whether you decide to purchase to GameCube or the Wii, you will get your moneys worth.

## Chapter 4: The Popular Playstation 2.

The Playstation 2 was first introduced back in the fall of 2000. Since then it has been redesigned to include online gaming and it not the big and bulky system it used to be. The Playstation 2 is the most trustworthy system, being known for the PS One as one of the hottest video game systems of its time. So why wouldn't you trust the Playstation 2?

The only thing holding the Playstation 2 back is its successor, the Playstation 3. If you or your children are not ones that have to keep up with all of the latest systems the Playstation 2 is perfect for you. And with all of the endless games available there is a game out there for every member of the family.

The Playstation 2 can be purchased at a bargain price of \$150.00. This is nearly half of the initial selling price. This game system has the most units sold and the most games available. It can play both DVD's and the original Playstation 1 games. This is definitely the most popular system out there.

One of the downfalls to the Playstation 2 is the inferior graphics and the ability to only allow 2 players to play at a time. Whereas the newer game systems allow for up to four players at one time.

If the little things like the newest graphics don't bother you, then you will enjoy the readily available accessories and thousands of games that await the Playstation 2 gamers.

One extra perk for PS2 owners is the early release of some game titles compared to the other systems. In general PS2 has exclusive titles and other titles that get published up to

a year before the other consoles. The prices of games are usually a bit less expensive and cost anywhere from \$10.00 to \$50.00.

The Playstation 2 offers a 300 MHz processor, 128-bit, Dolby Digital 5.1, and unbelievable sound and realism as you play the games.

As stated before the accessories are endless, but here are a few to make your gaming experience more enjoyable:

- PS 2 eyetoy-usb camera
- USB headset- offers voice recognition and online chat for compatible titles
- Multitap for PS 2- allows you to plug in extra controllers and memory cards
- DVD Remote- allows you to play movies without wires
- Memory cards- save your game progress and other information with 2 8MB memory cards
- Logitech NetPlay Controller- chat and play at the same time on your PS2
- Logitech Cordless Controller- play anywhere you want with this 2.4GHz cordless controller
- DUALSHOCK 2 analog controller- this controller has pressure sensitivity on every action button

The Playstation 2 console system includes one black video system, adapter, cables, and one controller. Generally the Playstation 2 does not come in a bundle pack. Although you can purchase games, especially the older edition, at a very low cost. Below is one list of the top ten games in the past year. It doesn't include games released in the past couple of months.

- Psychonauts- This is a very original game with bizarre imagery and humor that will bring a smile to the most sarcastic face.

- God of War- This game has awesome graphics and intense game play. This game also has a very compelling story, but should warn you about the gore and violence throughout the game. This should only be played by adults.
- Soulcalibur III - This game has a deep character creation that unlocks countless artifacts and other items for your fighter to use.
- Gran Turismo 4- This game is rated E for Everyone, so let the whole family join in on the fun. There are several race courses and cars available for every player and the graphics are out of this world.
- Dragon Quest VIII - This game is comparable to Final Fantasy and is full of good humor and quirkiness.
- Shadow of the Colossus- This game puts you in a colossi where you battle to save your one true love.
- Socom III - You have to maneuver through Morocco and other areas with your troops.
- Guitar Hero- This game offers loads of licensed music for you to play the guitar, and participate in a battle of bands.
- Peter Jackson's King Kong- This game has top of the line graphics and allows you to play as King Kong.
- Madden NFL 2006- Madden has always been on the top ten list year after year and keeps getting better with age. Madden 07 is sure to replace Madden 06 on this list next year.

For families with younger children who want to keep the games rated for everyone to play there are some favorites

among the several available. Most of the sport games are rated E with popular titles like;

- Fifa 06- a great game for any soccer fan with amazing graphics
- Madden NFL 05 & 06- sure to attract fans of all ages with the realistic player control
- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban- basically all of the Harry Potter games are on the top of the lists for children's favorite game
- NFL Street- this game gives football a new twist and different rules to the game

Deciding on which video game system is right for your child is a big decision, but with Playstation keeping up with the other console systems it looks like they're not going anywhere for quite some time. With over 2000 videos games available and more releases coming soon the Playstation system proves to be the most popular after all of these years.

## Chapter 5: Playstation 3- What You Need To Know.

With the long awaited release of the Playstation 3 due out On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006, it's sure to have gamers all around scrambling to purchase this new system.

Everyone will want to know the changes in the system and how comparable it will be to the XBOX 360. In this chapter you will learn the high tech issues as well as the games that will be launched along with the system.

Similar to the XBOX 360, the Playstation 3 will offer two different consoles. Each console will have something different to offer and different price tags as well.

The first version of the Playstation 3 is the 20GB version and will retail at \$499.99. The next Playstation 3 is the 60GB version and will retail at \$599.99.

The new console design has a more sleek and simple design and weighs less than the other console systems. The first version of the model is only going to be offered in black, but some indications state in the future other colors like; white and silver will be available.

On thing that didn't change in the new video system is the ability to sit horizontally or vertically. With an AV rack it can be placed in both positions, otherwise a horizontal position would be preferred to the fact of its curved console shape.

The traditional controllers have maintained the same image and functions through out the years. This is a warm welcome for the experienced playstation gamers. The one thing that has changed on the controller for the better is the enlargement of the L2 and R2 should buttons. An enlarged titling angle of the joystick will ensure better manipulation and wider range of motion. The force feedback vibration has

been done away with, fearing the vibration might interfere with certain games that use the motion sensor.

The controller will be wireless comparable to the XBOX 360 controller. The wireless controller will operate with a Bluetooth 2.0 EDR that can transmit data at the rate of up to 3.0Mbps.

The Playstation Portable will be able to connect to the new console. The PSP can function as a remote control or as an extra controller for the Playstation 3.

The games will use a hard drive to save game and load times will be around two to three seconds.

The 60GB Playstation 3 system will offer a number of features such as;

- Four USB ports
- Compact flash and CD readers
- Blu-ray optical disc drive
- Memory stick

The 20GB Playstation 3 will not have some of these features, which is why it costs nearly a hundred dollars less. You will have to decide for yourself which system is right for your needs.

New to Playstation is the Blu-ray disc drive. This disc can hold up to 54GB and can play games and movie discs. With the Blu-ray disc drive you can play high definition DVD's without having to purchase a separate Blu-ray DVD player.

The 60GB version of the video game system will come with built in Wi-Fi, and can also function as a home media server.

The 20GB version of the Playstation 3 will come with one Ethernet port but not built in Wi-Fi.



One of the most important details to the new Playstation 3 is the ability to play most of the popular existing games with a backward compatibility. So if you currently own an older console with the same games it would be a good idea to stick with the same model. This will save you money in having to purchase new games for another console system.

With the launch of the new Playstation 3 comes the new release of a wide variety of games. There should be a game available for everyone's interest. Here is a list of the 30 titles that should launch the same time as the Playstation 3.

- 6Gun 2
- Avalon
- Dark Sector
- The Darkness
- Devil May Cry 4
- EA Sports Fight Night Round 3
- Eyedentify
- Fifth Phantom Saga
- Final Fantasy PS3
- Formula One PS3
- The Getaway PS3
- Heavenly Sword
- I-8
- Infracworld
- Killing Day
- Killzone PS3
- Metal Gear Solid 4
- Mobile Suit Gundam
- MotorStorm
- Ni-Oh
- Omikron 2
- Possession
- Project Delta
- ShadowClan
- Tekken PS3

- Vision GT
- Warhawk PS3

Many other new titles are to be released in the later part of 2006 and early part of 2007.

With Playstation being one of the most popular console game systems of all time, you should feel confident when purchasing this system. You are getting a sturdy, well designed state of the art game system that keeps you on top of the gaming revolution.

## Chapter 6: The Original XBOX.

The XBOX certainly isn't the new kid on the block, and has the experience and perseverance to prove it.

With the original XBOX launch in 2001 and the XBOX Live launch in 2002 this video game system has been gaining popularity ever since. The newest edition to the Microsoft family is the XBOX 360 which will be discussed in the following chapter.

The XBOX was first launched with a price tag of \$299, but has significantly dropped in price over the years. Now with the latest arrival the price could drop even lower.

The XBOX original is not be overlooked by any means. It is still a strong competitor in the gaming world. The XBOX live has also added a boost to sales.

With a built in 8GB hard disc drive the XBOX can be used for storing games, extra characters and CD's. The load time for this system is also very impressive with loading games in around 15 seconds. This doesn't leave you much time to waste between games.

The XBOX comes with more components than most other older consoles. This console comes with a hard disc drive and Ethernet port right out of the box.

Another nice feature for the XBOX is the ability to have HDTV support with the High Definition AV Pack, although it has to be purchased separately.

The XBOX does have a DVD drive but can not play DVD's unless you have the DVD Playback kit. The kit includes a remote control, and an infrared receiver. You would need to plug the receiver into one of the controller parts.

The XBOX controllers are a little more bulky than some other console controllers, but have unique features to make up for it. The controller has two analog sticks with one directional pad, two trigger buttons, two expansion slots, six game buttons, and two navigation buttons. All of the buttons have 8-bit accuracy. This simply means the pressure you put on the buttons is measured to a factor of eight. The six analog buttons are colored in black, blue, green, yellow, red, and white. They all have 256 degrees of accuracy and the directional pad has left, right up, down, and all diagonals.

The XBOX live opened a door for live chatting while playing your favorite games. There is a fee involved to participate in the XBOX Live. You will need to purchase a one time starter kit and then pay a monthly fee for the services. There are some games available that will offer a free trial with the purchase of that game.

There are several accessories available for purchase to add to your XBOX. There are snowboards for the snow sport games and racing wheels to enhance the realism of racing games. There are also 8mb memory cards available for game saving. It is not crucial to purchase a memory card as it is for the Playstation. The games and settings are also stored the XBOX hard drive.

You can access all of your music with its built in hard drive. You can even customize music to go along with your favorite game.

An important fact for parents if they purchase the XBOX for younger children is the parental control. You can easily limit the types of games your child plays.

There are many great games available for the XBOX and several new releases expected soon. Here's a list of some of the best rated XBOX games on the market.

- Forza Motorsport- A race car game that lets you tune and customize the car of your choice.
- Psychonauts- This is a 3D game with a terrific story and awesome graphics.
- Fight Night Round 2-Could be voted the best fight game ever.
- Half-Life 2- A game with evil invaders and monsters.
- Far Cry Instincts- A game that has been around for quite some time on the PC, but introduces new game play elements for the XBOX.
- X-Men Legends II - Play this game with your favorite good and evil mutants.
- Indigo Prophecy- This game involves a murder mystery that puts you in control.
- Sid Meier's Pirates! - Enjoy capturing enemy ships and building your own pirate fleet. On your adventure you can get into bar room brawls and trade at ports.
- Oddworld: Stranger's Wrath- This game is played in the first and third person play. This game also has excellent graphics with an out of this world story.
- Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory- Allows you to use weapons, gadgets, and stealth with battling.

The average game for the XBOX will run around \$40.00. The Platinum Hits are older titles and can be purchased for a bargain price of under \$20.00.

They also offer bargain games in the most popular family games called the Family Platinum Hits. With over 500 games to choose from you can satisfy every genre from: sports, racing, action, and adventure. You can also get exclusive XBOX games like;

- Halo 2
- Full Spectrum Warrior
- Doom 3
- Dead or Alive 3
- Fable

With the average retail of the XBOX around \$169 how could you not want to purchase a console system with so many features? Parents will especially like the built in parent controls.

## Chapter 7: The Long Awaited XBOX 360.

You have to wonder how they can make something that is already close to perfect even better. The XBOX 360 has done just that. This new system has everything you could want in a video game system all in one.

When any new video game system is first launched the question that comes to most everyone's mind is how much it is going to cost. Microsoft will gladly answer that question with confidence. The new system is so affordable considering all of the options you have. The XBOX 360 has two different versions and prices of the system. This way they can target two totally different groups of consumers.

The first version of the XBOX 360 is the Core System. The XBOX 360 Core System is basically a bare bones system for people that simply want to play games. For the cost of \$300 you get the following;

- XBOX 360 System
- Composite AV cable (the red, white, and yellow cable)
- Wired controller

The Core system does not include a hard drive or memory unit to save your games. It also does not come with the cable to allow you to hook it up to a HDTV. The Core system is ideal for purchasing for a younger child that doesn't care to do anything but play his or her games.

The XBOX 360 premium system comes with everything you need to get the best use out of your system. With a price of \$400 you will get the following;

- XBOX 360 System
- Ethernet cable
- 20GB external hard drive

- Wireless controller
- XBOX live headset
- Component AV cables the hook up both the HDTV and standard TV

You basically get a lot of accessories for only \$100 more than the Core System, which is cheaper than purchasing all of the extra components separately. You are getting over \$200 worth of extras for around \$100. That alone makes the premium bundle worth the extra money.

A added bonus for the XBOX 360 is the price of the new system. Compared to the Playstation 3 that will be coming out with two new versions of its console system, the XBOX 360 is nearly a hundred dollars less for each of its versions.

Many people will want to know what exactly the XBOX 360 is. The Xbox 360 is a next generation video game system that can play both games and DVD movies right out of the package. The XBOX 360 can also play some games from the original XBOX. The biggest feature is the high definition feature of the new system. The HDTV graphics are much more enhanced than other graphics.

The XBOX 360 also has the XBOX Live online service, which comes in two versions. The XBOX Live Gold service lets you play games online against other players, and the XBOX Live Silver lets you download demos, arcade games, trailers, and talk online with friends.

The design of the new XBOX is slightly smaller than the original. Another new feature of the new console model is the ability to be propped up in a vertical position. The system can also be customized with interchangeable faceplates.

Each XBOX 360 is capable of supporting up to four controllers, and also displays a green LED on the system and



the controller to show which controllers are connected. One thing you should be aware of before purchasing a new system is the old XBOX controllers do not work in the new system. You will have to purchase new extra controllers for your XBOX 360.

A nice added touch to the console is the two USB ports that are located behind the faceplate. Two memory card slots are also located here. You can use these ports for a number of things, such as,

- MP3 Player hookup
- iPod
- digital camera

The Xbox 360 now comes with an infrared port that allows you to use compatible remotes; this will assist you in turning the console on and off and opening the tray with the remote.

The new system and old system both offer state of the art Dolby Digital audio. This adds in giving a real sound field that creates the ultimate gaming experience.

The success of online gaming in the XBOX has reached it's fullest potential. Every model has a base level membership that allows you to create list of people to chat with outside of the gaming.

The XBOX 360's ability to play over 200 games of the original XBOX has really helped in its instant popularity. This catches the eyes of gamers who still enjoy their older games and can easily download the with emulation profiles. You will need a hard drive to install them.

The XBOX 360 is DVD and CD capable and can rip your CD's directly into the hard drive. The DVD ability of the XBOX 360 uses 480p progressive scan and can be controlled be a remote.

Accessories made so readily available for the XBOX 360 is a great way to make the system truly your own.

- The vertical stand can be purchased for \$20, and allows your XBOX 360 to stand in the upright position. The vertical stand also has enough storage for ten games and two memory cards.
- The Intec AV Selector and Storage Unit have four AV inputs which easily allow you to hook up all of your systems at once. It also has component video connections to give you the best picture, and Ethernet jack so you can hook more than one system up to the internet. This storage unit also has two storage compartments to store games, memory cards, and remote controls. This extra will cost around \$40, but is worth it if you battle several players on games.
- The all time best accessory is the TFT Screen. The Intec has 8" and 9.2" TFT screens for the XBOX 360. This will give you the best graphics available and awesome sound. It easily attaches to the XBOX 360 and folds flat onto your system. The price on this extra accessory is pretty pricey at \$169 for the 8" screen and \$199 for the 9.2" screen.

Most XBOX enthusiasts will want to know the best games to purchase for their new video game system. Here a few top rated games available for purchase.

- Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter- The graphics and sound in this game are amazing. This game has one of the best squad shooters around.
- The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion- This game gives everyone an ultimate gaming experience, no matter who you are the experience, is the ultimate.

- Fight Night Round 3- As Fight Night Round 2 was an all time favorite of the original XBOX, same goes for Round 3 in the XBOX 360 era. The boxing experience in this game surpassed Round 2 with flying colors. The graphics in this game are so realistic.
- Project Gotham Racing 3- This great game delivers awesome playing online and off, with tons of tracks and numerous cars to choose from. The sound effects can not get any better.
- Call of Duty 2- This game is based on World War II and delivers the best graphics and sound for any shooting game.
- Burnout Revenge- Ultimately the best racing game ever! Top of the line graphics, cars, and events all make this game what it is.
- Dead or Alive 4- This game offers unbelievable graphics, loads of different modes, and tons of unlockable treasures. Take your gaming experience to the next level with the online gaming.
- Lord of the Rings; Battle for Middle Earth II - This game gets you the chance for building your own army, and to do real time strategy.
- Condemned: Criminal Origins- This game offers a mix of survival horror with first person game play. Your weapons of choice are; lead pipes, axes, and other blunt objects.
- Hitman: Blood Money- This game is sure to please even the hardest of action fans, and with the top of the line realistic graphics who can resist.

XBOX 360 is guaranteed to deliver the ultimate experience in the gaming world. The sleek new design and its ability to download games and other material in seconds will ensure it's success.

The new custom design and 512 MB of Ram in the XBOX 360 is eight times more powerful than the original XBOX. This system will out more pixels per second, and offers a custom ATI graphics processor.

All that is left to wonder is how long before you retire your original XBOX for the new XBOX 360?

With Microsoft trying to make even more of the original XBOX games compatible with the new XBOX 360 the only thing keeping you from enjoying this system is you.

## Chapter 8: The Nintendo Game Boy Advance.

When considering about purchasing your child a video game system for the holidays don't overlook the portable systems. They have come a long way and you rarely see a teen or child without one.

The Game Boy Advance has been around for quite a few years, and keeps adding to their collection.

The original Game Boy Advance is no longer available for resale but its games will live on. When Nintendo converted from the original Game Boy to the Game Boy Advance SP they made the original games compatible with the newer version. The graphics may not be as vibrant but are not a waste of money.

Speaking of money the average price for a Game Boy SP is around \$70. This price can vary from store to store and what deals are offered with the package.

One of the best modifications to the SP is the built in light. This can be controlled with a button on the system. The original Game Boy did not come with a light and had to be purchased separately.

The Game Boy family recently added a new member to their family, the Game Boy Micro. This is simply a pocket size version of the Game Boy SP. It does not have a flip top screen, but does let you change the faceplates to four different colors. The Micro is also capable of playing any of the Game Boy Advance games that covers over 700 games. With its sleek and stylish portability it can literally fit in the palm of your hand.

All of the Game Boy systems offer a rechargeable lithium-ion battery. This will deliver hours of nonstop game play. It recharges rather quickly.

The Game Boy Micro offers a wireless adapter to allow up to five of your children's friends to play the compatible multiplayer games without the use of cables. This wireless adapter will only work with Game Boy Micro and Game Boy Advance Game Paks that have been especially designed to use the wireless adapter.

The accessories for the Game Boy advance are what will make your portable different from the rest. The carrying case is what children like best amount the accessories. There are a couple different designs to suit your child's needs. One is a simple case that carries the Game Boy and a small pocket to carry along a couple of their favorite games. The other carrying case is a little more complex. This also holds your portable system but has extra pockets and zipper compartments for games and headphones. Both cases are light weight and cost under \$20. You can also purchase a protective cover for their game. This could be a great investment for those who children like to take their Game Boys with them.

The Game Boy SP has many different colors to offer the children a variety to choose from. They come in colors like:

- Black
- White
- Pink
- Red
- Platinum
- Blue
- SpongeBob Square Pants yellow
- Silver
- Pokemon yellow

As stated before the Game Boy Advance comes with a headphone jack. A nice accessory for those wanting complete silence while playing their favorite games.

The headphones do not have to be special headphones. They can be ordinary headphones that plug into any electronic device.

The light system is also able to change from bright to brighter with a push of a button.

The volume control is easily accessible on the side of the Game Boy Advance and slides back and forth with little effort.

The plug in rechargeable adapter is convenient and the Game Boy Advance can be played while recharging. This is great for those in the middle of the game when the battery starts to go low. You simply plug the adapter into the wall and continue on playing. The green indicator light will alert you when the charging is complete.

Many Game Boy Advance SPs can be purchased as a bundle or separately. Many retail stores will offer certain games included in the package price. This type of deal will cost a little bit more than purchasing a system alone.

Below is a list of the top ten Game Boy Advance games available. These games are compatible with the Game Boy Advance SP, Game Boy Micro, and Nintendo DS.

- The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past:- The game title has been around for many years but none of them compare to this made over game. This game will excite many of the next generation of gamers.
- The Legend of Zelda: The Minish Cap: This version of the game offers a fresh new adventure in battling

creatures and exploring holes. This game allows you to shrink to a size that puts you in different settings.

- Super Mario World: Super Mario Advance 2:- The most popular title in gaming history has done it again. Intense as this game is, the purpose of the game is to have fun.
- Mario Kart Super Circuit: - This game offers long and short play times in this cart racing adventure. It gives you targets to hit, and the ability to run over your opponents.
- Golden Sun: - This is another game that offers endless hours of game play. This game is a classic among many gamers.
- Advance Wars: - This strategy games gives you a chance to smash armies and blow things up. You can also out wit your opponent with detailed concepts.
- Metroid: Zero Mission: - This game has a very intriguing story behind it and awesome game play. This game offers a shorter game play time for those of you who don't enjoy playing the same game for hours at a time.
- Castlevania: Aria of Sorrow: - You will be fighting off creatures in the night. This will take place in an eerie old castle of the undead.

As Game Boy Advance keeps intriguing many children with their wide selection of games and newer version of the system, this portable gaming system could be the hottest and longest portable on the market.



## Chapter 9: The Nintendo DS.

The latest version the portable system for Nintendo is the Nintendo DS. The DS stands for Dual Screen. This hand held system was first introduced in 2004. It became very popular with in a short period of time. The DS is a portable system that has two screens, a stylus pen, and the ability to play Game Boy Advance games and Nintendo DS games.

This hand held system is equipped with wireless technology, a microphone, and a touch sensitive screen. Some say the Nintendo DS has some of the same characteristics as a PDA, but you can also game play on this device.

The price of the Nintendo DS is a bit more expensive than the Game Boy Advance. It starts out at \$149.99, but may a bit lower or higher at certain stores.

The Nintendo DS also comes in a variety of colors to personalize your own system. Some of the colors it comes in are;

- Onyx
- Coral pink
- White
- Silver
- Platinum

The Nintendo DS includes are number of features that have never been offered in a handheld system before. With the dual screens running simultaneously they can be used as different points of interest. For example, one screen might be used for a map while the other screen might be used for your character. The bottom screen is touch sensitive and can be used with the stylus pen that is included with the system.

The DS comes with two incredibly bright LCD screens and offer the most interesting game play advances ever developed. Each screen is 3" in diameter and can reproduce a true 3-D view. The bottom touch sensitive screen features a tougher film cover for durability.

This portable system also comes with WiFi connection. This will allow you to chat and play with other Nintendo DS owners around the world. All you need to start playing is the Nintendo DS and a WiFi ready game. The services are free and there are no subscription fees. With the Nintendo DS being wireless it will allow multiple DS systems to play together with only one game.

You can connect with a local wireless network of up to 16 players. The wireless range is quite impressive with range between 30 to 100 feet.

The life of the battery is quite longer than other portable systems. The average hours of game play on a single charge is between 6 to 8 hours.

The graphics are a little better than the Nintendo Game Boy Advance, and are more vibrant and clear.

A wonderful added feature to the Nintendo DS is the built in microphone port. With the microphone all you need to do is tell your game what to do. The plug in has raised some possibilities of it serving as some sort of internet phone. It might eventually be able to offer in game chat features.

The Nintendo DS has awesome sound capabilities that allow for greatly expanded use of voices and music. You will also get a richer, more immersive game experience. Stereo speakers allow for virtual surround sound and a plug for headphones.

The most appreciated feature of the Nintendo DS is the separate media port for Game Boy Advance cartridges. This will allow your child to play all of their favorite Game Boy Advance games in single player mode.

The accessories available for the Nintendo DS are very reasonably priced and help with the gaming experience.

- The Nintendo DS AC adapter comes with the Nintendo DS system, but is also available for purchase if you need a new one.
- Nintendo DS Stylus set is sold in sets of three. The stylus is designed to fit into the DS system and easily snaps inside a storage slot on the back of the system.
- Nintendo DS Battery- This is a replacement battery for the one included in the DS system.
- Nintendo DS Battery Cover Kit- the Battery cover covers the battery compartment on the back of your Nintendo DS. This kit comes with the cover, a screw and a small clip which holds the screw to the cover.
- Nintendo DS Wrist Strap- This is a replacement for the wrist strap that came with the original package of the Nintendo DS. The wrist strap has a small plastic pad attached to it so it can also be used on the touch screen. This pad is designed for use of games that work better with a sliding type of control.

This chapter wouldn't be complete without a list on the best games available for the Nintendo DS. You will need to remember that the Game Boy Advanced games can be played in the DS, but DS games are not compatible with the Game Boy Advance systems.

- Animal Crossing DS- The game offers real time seasons and the ability to share your town with friends. This game also gives you wireless multiplayer game play.
- New Super Mario Brothers- This game is bringing a new 2D Mario to the table, and for the first time two players will be able to play simultaneously through the wireless DS.
- Nintendogs- This unique game has become a blockbuster hit over night. It is more like a personal pet than it is a game. It allows you to take care of virtual puppies that look and sound realistic.
- Shogun Warrior (Real Time Conflict)- This is a real time strategy game that takes place in Japan. Use the touch screen to direct your troops.
- Age of Empires; The Age of Kings- Allows players to build their empires and can use the touch screen to maneuver your players.
- Mario Kart DS- This is an easy game to learn no matter how inexperienced you are with racing games. The DS combines wireless gaming, using only one cartridge. The more players you race against the more competitive it becomes.
- Metroid Prime Hunters- This game came as a demo with the Nintendo DS systems. You use your stylus to guide Samus through metroid filled levels.
- The Sims 2- The Sims is the most popular game franchise of all time. It appeals to both men and women with the never ending game play. Many say this game can become addictive.

- Electroplankton- This game doesn't offer the traditional game play that everyone is used to. It is more of a content and music creation tool. This is a game for those who are creative.
- Advance Wars (Dual Strike) - The DS has the ability to handle complex user interface with the touch screen. This game is sure to evolve with the portable system and the gamers who use portables.

The Nintendo DS has also created a new version called the Nintendo DS Lite. It basically is the same system with the same type of functions only smaller. The Lite system is very light and easy to carry in your pocket.

The longevity of the portable systems has proven to be a great asset for gamers young and old. With the systems getting smaller and more function able who knows what lies ahead for them.

## Chapter 10: The Playstation Portable.

The Sony Playstation Portable or otherwise known as PSP was first introduced in March of 2005. Since then it has been a constant battle between Nintendo and Playstation.

With a larger screen size and more powerful resolution, the PSP is a great contender in the portable world. The PSP is basically a portable system of the Playstation 2.

The graphics between the Nintendo DS and PSP are comparable. But the PSP is also the largest around in the portable systems, which may or may not be a good thing.

The cost of the PSP is also slightly higher than that of the Nintendo DS. The average cost of the PSP is between \$200 and \$250, depending on which version you purchase.

The PSP has a 4.3 inch screen, which is the largest around for portable systems. The screen uses a letterbox resolution of 480x272, and has 24-bit color, meaning that it is capable of displaying millions of colors with quality that is unbeatable in portable game systems.

The PSP uses WiFi 802.11b communication protocol to enable wireless gaming for it. The PSP is capable of connecting to existing WiFi hot spots. This system may be able to download firmware upgrades over the internet sometime in the near future.

The games for the PSP come on Universal Media Discs. These are miniature DVDs created with a certain type of laser. They are capable of storing up to 1.8 gigabytes worth of data.

The biggest disadvantage of having a DVD style media device is that accessing it is more power consuming than

the card based Nintendo DS. The battery life of the PSP is significantly shorter than the DS. The PSP runs an average of 3.5 hours per charge.

The PSP is more than just a portable game system it is also a portable media center. The PSP uses a proprietary memory stick to store data and the Memory Stick Duo cards come in sizes up to about 1 gigabyte. These cards can store everything from MP3s to movies. The neat thing about these discs is they can be plugged into a personal computer loaded with music or video and put back into the PSP for playback. This is one unique feature other hand held systems don't have. How great is it to have a portable game system that also plays music and lets you watch movies on the go.

Using the Memory Stick Duo you can easily store your digital photos, create custom wallpaper, and share your favorite photos with the image transfer feature.

There are two PSP packages available for purchase with one having accessories and the other not.

The basic PSP system is \$199 and gets you the basics like;

- The PSP system
- Battery Pack
- AC Adapter

The value Pack for the PSP gets you these items;

- The PSP system
- Headphones with Remote Control
- Pouch and Wrist strap
- AC Adapter
- Battery Pack
- Cleaning Cloth
- Memory Stick Duo (32MB)

The final option you have with your PSP is surfing the World Wide Web.

There are several PSP accessories available:

- PSP Headset- A great accessory for use with PSP titles, and the headset offers communication features for all compatible titles.
- PSP Carrying Case- This allows you to carry your PSP as well as UMD movies, games and music, along with accessories in a secure compact case.
- Extended Life Battery- This gives you even longer hours of portable entertainment
- Headphones with Remote Control- Listen to your games, music and movies wherever you are.
- Memory Stick Duo (32MB) - Downloads content, saves games, movie trailers, and other information you need for your PSP.
- Battery Charger- Charges your battery outside the game system.
- Car Adapter- Lets you take trips with your PSP and enjoy your entertainment when you are ready to.
- Accessories Pouch and Cleaning Cloth- Take this convenient PSP pouch with you wherever you go and keep your system clean and ready to play.

Here is the list of the top ten game picks for the PSP.

- Lumines puzzle game- This is what Tetris used to be to the Game Boy. You simply make four by four blocks



and more drop down. Doesn't sound too difficult, but the better you do the faster they fall.

- Grand Theft Auto: Liberty City Stories- This is a very controversial game, but it hasn't stopped it from gaining respect from experienced gamers. This game has great graphics with its car chases, gunfights, and other elements.
- Virtua Tennis- This game is one of the best sports simulations you can play. Outstanding graphics and gameplay make this a very interesting game.
- Burnout Legends- This game transfers well onto the small screen. This race game is one that encourages you to crash your car.
- Metal Gear Acid- This game offers a wide variety of cards and missions and can be easily figured out.
- Hot Shots Golf- This fun but challenging golf game is fun for everyone. This game also adds a bit of silliness to the sport.
- Untold Legends, Brotherhood of the Blade- this game is a fun dungeon crawl and is also a great multiplayer game.
- Madden NFL 06- The best football game out there. The best football game out there. You can transfer your season from the PS2 to the PSP and continue playing.
- Namco Museum Battle Collection- This game offers a classic gameplay with several all time favorite versions.

- Infected- The best feature in this game are the zombies. It also comes with full length music videos, commentary, and scenes.

With the holidays quickly approaching us the lists for the upcoming releases are out and the word is spreading fast on the best ones to purchase. Here are some titles that are going to be released in October of this year.

- Ace Combat X: Skies of Deception
- ATV Off road Fury Pro
- Battlezone
- Cabela's African Safari
- Carol Vorderman's Sudoku
- Dungeon Siege: Throne of Agony
- Dynasty Warriors Vol. 2
- FIFA 07
- Ford Street Racing
- Gangs of London
- Gunpey
- GUN Showdown
- Hard Rock Casino
- Mercury Meltdown
- Need for Speed Carbon: Own the City
- Over the Hedge: Hammy Goes Nuts
- Scarface: Money Power Respect
- Stacked with Daniel Negreanu
- Tiger Woods PGA Tour 07
- WTF: Work Time Fun

There is never a better handheld system just one that is preferred by different gamers. It is all what you want in a hand held system.

## Chapter 11: Learning the ESRB Ratings and Content Descriptions.

This chapter may be the most important chapter for the parents to read. After you have decided which video game system is right for your child you probably will need to purchase some games along with it.

I'm sure you have heard all about the ratings or have seen them on the cover of the game case. But do you really know what those ratings mean and what content is involved in your child's games.

As you read on further you learn the significance of those dark black letters on the games and if you should allow your child to play those games.

It is of course always up to the parent to decide if your child is mature enough to play violent or explicit games.

The Entertainment Software Rating Board ratings are designed to provide accurate information about the content of video games. This is done so the parent can make a confident purchase on their child's games. ESRB ratings have two equal parts:

- Rating symbols- suggest age appropriateness for that game.
- Content descriptors- indicate elements in a particular game that might have triggered a certain rating or may be of interest or be of concern to the purchaser.

### ESRB Rating Symbols

- EC- Early Childhood-Titles rated with the EC symbol has content that may be appropriate for children 3 and

older. This also means it does not contain any material that parents would find offensive.

- E- Everyone- The titles rated E have certain content that may be suitable for children 6 and older. The titles in this category could contain some minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence. It could also contain infrequent use of mild language.
- E10- Everyone 10 and Older- Titles that are labeled with this rating may have content suitable for ages 10 and older. These titles could have more cartoon, fantasy, and mild violence. It may also contain mild language and minimal suggestive themes.
- T- Teens- The games rated T for teens could have content suitable for children 13 and older. They may also contain violence, suggestive themes, minimal blood, crude humor, infrequent use of strong language and simulated gambling.
- M-Mature-These games with the rating of Mature have content that could be suitable for people in the ages of 17 and older. Titles with this rating could contain intense violence, sexual content, strong language, blood or gore.
- A-Adults Only-titles with this rating have content that should only be played by persons 18 years and older. The games in this category may include prolonged scenes on intense violence and graphic sexual content or nudity.

The rating symbol is located on the front of the game case, and should be easy to identify.

The content descriptors are located on the back of the game case and are generally overlooked. This should not be

the case. This gives you a more detailed description of the rating and what type of content is involved in the game.

### ESRB Content Descriptors

- Alcohol Reference- Reference to and images of alcoholic beverages
- Animated Blood- Discolored or realistic depictions of blood
- Blood- Depictions of blood
- Cartoon Violence- Violent actions involving cartoon like situations and characters. May include violence where a character is unharmed after the action has been inflicted.
- Comic Mischief- depictions or dialogue involving slapstick or suggestive humor
- Crude Humor- depictions or dialogue involving vulgar antics, including "bathroom" humor
- Drug Reference- Reference to and images of illegal drugs
- Edutainment- Content of product provides user with certain skills development or reinforcement learning within an entertainment setting. Skill development is an integral part of product.
- Fantasy Violence- Violent actions of a fantasy nature, involving human or non-human characters in situations easily distinguishable from real life.

- Informational- Overall content of product contains data, facts, resource information, reference materials or instructional text
- Intense Violence- Graphic and realistic looking depictions of physical conflict. May involve extreme or realistic blood, gore, weapons, and depictions of human injury and death
- Language- Mild to moderate use of profanity
- Lyrics- Mild references to profanity, violence, sexuality, alcohol and drug use in music
- Mature Humor- Depictions or dialogue involving "adult" humor, including sexual references
- Mild Violence- Mild scenes depicting characters in unsafe and violent situations
- Nudity- Graphic or prolonged depictions on nudity
- Partial Nudity- Brief and mild depictions of nudity
- Real Gambling- Player can gamble, including betting or wagering real cash or currency
- Sexual Themes- Mild to moderate sexual references and depictions. May include partial nudity
- Simulated Gambling- Player can gamble without betting or wagering real cash or currency
- Some Adult assistance May Be Needed- Intended for very young ages
- Strong Language- Explicit and frequent use of profanity

- Strong Lyrics- Explicit and frequent references to profanity, sex, violence, alcohol, and drug use in music
- Strong Sexual Content- Graphic references and depictions of sexual behavior, possibly including nudity
- Suggestive Themes- Mild provocative references or materials
- Tobacco Reference- Reference to and/or images of tobacco products
- Use of Drugs- the consumption or use of illegal drugs
- Use of Alcohol- The consumption of alcoholic beverages
- Use of Tobacco- The consumption of tobacco products
- Violence- Scenes involving aggressive conflict

I hope this chapter has provided some parents with enough information about the games that are available for your children. Not all games the children want are necessarily right for them.

## Chapter 12: a Classic System With New Fans.

For many of you a console or portable system may be what you are looking for. Maybe you have children that are grown and want to purchase an inexpensive video game for when they come to visit. Maybe your children are not that interested in the high tech system but would rather play something simpler with no violence.

If this is the case, Intellivision may be the perfect system for you. Intellivision was in our homes before the graphic nudity or violence came out on the video games.

With Intellivision being one of the cheapest games around you really can't beat the game that has been around for so long.

The Intellivision is a perfect way to play all of your favorites without a computer or console. There are two different versions of the Intellivision.

The first is the Intellivision 10. All you have to do to set these systems up is simply plug them into your television and begin to play. The Intellivision 10 can be purchased for a low price of \$12.99.

The second version is the Intellivision 25 and can be purchased for \$19.99. A very reasonable price for all of the games you can play with it. The only extra you will have to buy is 4AA batteries. A very low extra cost.

The unit is a complete video game system with the games built in directly to the hand controller. An 8 foot cable from the controller plugs into the video and audio jacks found on the front of most TV sets. A menu displayed on your television screen lets you choose from any of the games in the unit.



The Intellivision 25 controller has a thumb stick and directional pad with 25 games built into it.

The graphics on the games are nothing to brag about, but somehow I don't think graphics are too important to the people who purchase these classic games.

The game selection interface has been a bit of a surprise. After in initial title screen the system displays the name of the first game complete with a screen shot. The thumb stick or D-pad moves between games to select and a punch on the A button brings up the game. This procedure sounds pretty simple so every child should be able to operate this system.

The games are real retro gaming greatness. They are just basic games with no violence or foul language. These are games that made their way in the mid 80's.

A lot of parents are very pleased with this type of game play and younger child seem to enjoy the simple game play as well.

These games are not the originals but the familiarity of them is unmistakable when you start the games up.

They were first reintroduced in late 2003 and have since become bestsellers in markets around the world.

A great idea for long road trips is the ability to plug it into your car's DVD player. It's great because there are no extra wires and it doesn't take up a lot of space.

Other parents have commented on the confidence they have on Intellivision for no adult content. Every game is child friendly and can be played by the whole family.

One of the downfalls of Intellivisions single player ability. All games only come in this mode. That essentially means that your children will have to wait their turn.

The game has tried to stay true to its original roots in most ways. Which is one of the reasons why it only has a 16 bit console.

Each of the Intellivision versions offers their own games.

The Intellivision offers these games:

- Astrosmash
- Baseball
- Football
- Motocross
- Night Stalker
- Shark! Shark!
- Skiing
- Snafu
- Space Armada
- Star Strike

The Intellivision offers 25 games and is much more worth the extra money it costs for the extra 15 games. You basically get 15 more games for \$7.00 more than the Intellivision 10.

Here a list of the Games for Intellivision 25, as you can see many of the games are the same as Intellivision 10.

- Astrosmash
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Buzz Bombers
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Hover Force

- Motocross
- Night Stalker
- Pinball
- Shark! Shark!
- Skiing
- Snafu
- Space Battle
- Space Hawk
- Star Strike
- Sub Hunt
- Thin Ice
- Thunder Castle
- Tower of Doom
- Vectron
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

As you can see there are games available for every ones gaming needs. This system is worth it and would provide hours for fun without the hassle of connecting the console system to a television. You just plug it in and play. It's great to bring on vacations while staying in motels.

### Conclusion:

With the game world constantly changing and always upgrading their system you never really have the latest and greatest.

You will need to think of your child's individual needs rather than what new video game system on the market. What one child likes may be too much for another. Many children like the simplicity of the older models because they can just play their games and that's all they want.

Don't spend your extra money on a system that has MP3 compatibility if your child doesn't own a MP3 player. If your child eventually out grows their system they can always sell it and get some money for the used system to purchase towards a new one. It is very common to see used console system and portable systems on EBay. Utilize your resources to get the best price for your video game system