

Video Game Recommendations

By Mr Veal

This is a list of video games that I would recommend children to play that promote learning.

The age section is a mix of PEGI ratings and my recommendation (Parents are encouraged to play test the games to decide suitability).

Game	Device	Age	Notes
Angry Birds	iOS and Android	5+ PEGI 3	A simple physics game where players have to catapult birds across the map to destroy buildings. Players have to think about the angles and power they launch the birds with.
Animal Crossing	Nintendo DS/3DS	7+ PEGI 3	Animal Crossing has a lot of reading (hence the age recommendation), children will learn about dinosaurs and animals. They can also learn about town management.
Bee-Bot / Blue-bot	iOS / Android	5+ PEGI 3	Both apps, available on iOS (bee) and Android (blue), are designed to operate the same as the Bee-Bots we use at school. Children will have to programme them to move around the maps.
Cut the Rope	iOS and Android	5+ PEGI 3	A simple physics game where characters have to slice ropes to get the sweets into om-nom's mouth. The levels increase with difficulty, adding in elements such as wind.
FTL: Faster Than Light	PC	10+ PEGI ?	A strategy game where the player manages a spaceship. They will encounter rival aliens and ships whilst completing mini-quests. Players have to think wisely about managing resources, crew and upgrades to their ship. This game has been recommended to older children as it can be frustrating as players will die a lot until they get the correct management.
Game Dev Tycoon	PC	7+ PEGI 3	In this game the player is the boss of their own game company, they decide which types of game they are going to make. They will hire and train staff to make improvements to their games, such as adding sound and improving graphics.
Hearthstone: Heroes of Warcraft	PC, iOS and Android	7+ PEGI 7	A digital card game similar to Magic the Gathering or Pokémon, each card has its own cost to play. It encourages logical thinking based around the order in which to play cards to trigger abilities.
Ibb & Obb	PC and PS3	5+ PEGI 3	A classic platformer game with a twist. It can be played with a friend in co-op mode. This game is designed to be played with a

			second player to advance the puzzles.
Kerbal Space Program	Various	7+ PEGI 3	The object of Kerbal is to build a successful rocket to blast into space. Players have to consider all aspects of building rockets such as the weight, air resistance, velocity, amount of fuel and the staging.
Lego games (Star Wars, Avengers etc.)	Various	7+ PEGI 7	Each game is up to parental discretion due to the franchises they are based around. But the games encourage puzzle solving, thinking creatively and involves money skills for buying upgrades and characters using the in game currency.
Leviathan: Warships	PC	10+ PEGI 7	The player becomes a naval officer in this strategy game. The player has to think about the direction their ships are travelling in and think about avoiding enemy attacks whilst being in range to fire at the enemies.
Little Big Planet	PlayStation 3, 4, Portable and Vita	7+ PEGI 7	The player moves around Platform Style Levels as Sackboy. They have to solve puzzles to advance through the levels. The game also allows players to create their own levels and play on other people's levels.
Minecraft	Various	7+ PEGI 7	Minecraft allows players to explore their own "world". Whilst exploring they will be exposed to risks in the forms of zombies, skeletons, creepers and others. Players are able to mine resources and use them to make either tools, or resources for building. When in "creative" mode the player is able to access every resource in the game to build anything they wish.
Professor Layton	Nintendo DS and 3DS	10+ PEGI 7	I suggest 10+ due to the large amount of reading required to play the games. A great assortment of puzzles throughout the games.
Roller Coaster Tycoon	PC	10+ PEGI 3	Children would enjoy building their own theme park and designing roller coasters. I have suggested 10+ for the management element of the game.
Tetris	Various	5+ PEGI 3	Tetris is a good game for thinking about shape and space. With the different shaped blocks and having to make lines.
Universe Sandbox	PC	10+ PEGI ?	My age suggestion is based around when the children may be aware of different planets within the Solar System. In this game players can play with the Universe. Wonder what would happen if Earth was the same size as the Sun? This game answers that question.

Where's my Water?	iOS and Android	5+ PEGI 3	A physics game where the player has to get the water to the shower. Levels advance by adding in elements such as mould that grows in water, poison etc.
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