



# 2006 MediaWise<sup>®</sup> Video Game Report Card Parent Shopping Guide

*What to buy and what to watch out for in video games and consoles this shopping season.*

## Video Game Buying Guide



**Parent Alert! Games to Avoid  
for your Children and Teens**

Title	Rating
1. Gangs of London	M
2. The Sopranos	M
3. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City Stories	M
4. Reservoir Dogs	M
5. Mortal Kombat: Unchained	M
6. Scarface: The World is Yours	M
7. The Godfather: Mob Wars	M
8. Saints Row	M
9. Dead Rising	M
10. Just Cause	M



**MediaWise Recommended  
Games for Children and Teens**

Title	Rating
1. LEGO Star Wars II	E 10+
2. Mario Hoops 3 on 3	E
3. Super Monkey Ball: Banana Blitz	E
4. Roboblitz	E 10+
5. Madden Football '07	E
6. LocoRoco	E
7. Dance Factory	E
8. Brain Age	E
9. Nancy Drew: Danger by Design	E
10. Mario vs. Donkey Kong 2	E



A rating system by parents for parents.

Go to [www.mediawise.org](http://www.mediawise.org) and click on  
KidScore for more video game  
ratings and reviews.



## New Generation Video Game Consoles

### Nintendo Wii.



The Nintendo Wii (pronounced wee) is a cheaper console than the Xbox or PS3, designed to get more people involved instead of catering to the hard-core gamer. The Wii's new controller actually encourages players to get active. The

Wii has a motion-sensitive controller, so when you swing your arm, your onscreen player does too. The Wii is also Internet compatible.



The Playstation 3 is more than a video game console, it is a media machine. It has a blue-ray player (similar to DVDs) and DVD player, internal Wi-Fi networking, and a media card reader. Sony has also made online playing free for everyone. with this new console.

The PS3 is ready for hard-core gamers with lots of memory and high definition graphics.



### Xbox

The Xbox 360 set the standard for online gaming in new generation consoles. The online component is called Xbox Live. Xbox Live is an online gaming community where players can play against each other and in teams. This is a pay-

as-you-go service. Xbox also just created an external DVD drive to compete with other multimedia consoles.

## Handheld Gaming Systems



The Nintendo DS is earning a reputation as a “clean console” because it supports so many E-rated games. The Nintendo DS is online compatible. Nintendo is planning to launch an MP3 component as well.



The PSP is designed for a more hard-core gaming audience, supporting plenty of M-rated games. It is also a mini-media machine, with Wi-Fi and the capacity to play videos and music.

### Parent Alert: Online gaming

All new generation consoles support online multiplayer gaming. Players are able to generate online friend lists, form teams, and communicate via text messaging or through voice headsets. Online games can be a lot of fun. However, it can also be very addictive because there is social pressure to keep playing. Online play exposes kids to other Internet risks as well including harassment, cyberbullying, online predators and other dangers. Use caution before letting younger kids play online and talk to your teens about [Internet Safety](#) before they play. And most importantly—get involved!

### Parent Alert: Parental Controls

All new generation consoles include parental controls, or family settings, that allow you to control game content, limit Internet connectivity, and set up specific password protected accounts for your kids. Find out about Parental Controls and use them!

## It's okay to say no.

### **A spending generation.**

Powerful messages to buy are plastered on billboards, glowing on TVs, printed in magazines, and airing on the radio. Many of them are aimed directly at kids.

### **What do our kids really need?**

When we buy our kids everything they want, they miss out on some of the things they really need to succeed - like perseverance, generosity and the ability to delay gratification. Some things you can't buy at a store. Does this mean we can't buy our kids anything, ever? Of course not. It does mean it's okay to say no sometimes.

***Spend twice as much time, and half as much money as you can afford, with your kids.***



## **MediaWise Powerful Parenting Tips : Video Games**

1. **LIMIT** video game playing time. Recommendation: no more than 1 hr / day.
2. **USE RATINGS.** Don't let your kids play age-inappropriate games.
3. **CHECK** KidScore for parent-generated reviews at [www.mediawise.org](http://www.mediawise.org).
4. **RENT** a game to preview it before buying.
5. **AVOID** ultra violent first person shooters.
6. **DO NOT PUT** consoles in bedrooms.
7. **TALK** about game content.
8. **REQUIRE** that homework and chores be done before game playing.
9. **LEARN** about parental controls and use them.
10. **PLAY WHAT YOUR KIDS PLAY!**