

Let kids be kids! Part 1

As a great-grandad, I share in our extended family's seaside vacation.

First, desk-top technology doesn't isolate or distract the youngsters from ongoing family interaction and fun. Time is spent making sandcastles, pondering why crabs live under rocks, enjoying swims. My great-granddaughters, aged 7 and 5, already snorkel!

Second, at our camp site we have games - monopoly, cards - reading and sharing books, or being intrigued with stories about our family history. And time at the playground brings contact with new friends.

Third, there's more! Learning skills from their parents - casting a fishing line, how to meet and greet adults, solving sibling conflict, how to grow 'self control' when upset.

Fourth, my son-in-law - a school principal - said that all this is so different from many children's normal lives where everything is hurry and rush - lives crowded with activities that leave no time to play or communicate and have fun.

He said that because kids want quality time from their parents, making such time available amounts to parental love. Parents who recognise this don't let television or other impersonal technology do their parenting for them.

Instead of just saying, "Go and play!" how wonderful when parents themselves join in the play.

*

*

*

We are rich according to what we do rather than what we have.

Ken Packer