

Title: IT'S THAT EASY: Growing up with Technology

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/fmG9YDBiN7Q>

Video Description:

[VD: In the beginning of the video, there is a white woman with brown curly hair, Bethany, standing in a small living room with technology devices laying around. During the narration, Bethany is still standing in the main bedroom. There is a clip of a parent talking with their young kid about videogames on a couch. During the ASL lesson, a person is teaching ASL in front of a grey background while a blue column on the left side of the screen shows white text (ASL vocabulary).]

Transcript:

Bethany, signing:

Media and technology, as well as children's exposure to it, continues to evolve and change. On a daily basis, children watch TV, use the computer, communicate via texts, connect with social networks, play video games and listen to music. Media and technology provide a portal through which children and teens are entertained, educated, connected and informed. At the same time, media and its presence in popular culture, influences children's expectations, beliefs and behaviors about sex, sexuality and relationships, whether we like it or not. Yes, positive examples exist, however media portrayals of sex, sexuality and relationships are frequently inaccurate and unhealthy. They can have harmful effects on children. For instance, media messages often reinforce gender stereotypes, show unrealistic body ideals and normalize inequitable relationships, sexual violence and risky sexual activity. No wonder many parents are concerned about the influence of the media on their children and feel challenged by the latest technology. If you are one of them, you are not alone. Now you have a Deaf child. Imagine if your child is watching a video clip without any sound, captions or ASL access. There is a scene of a couple engaging in a sexual activity with no clear indication of verbal consent. Your child is taking in the subliminal messages from the media that those behaviors are appropriate. They may act based on what they've internalized and get mixed messages when those teachings are not aligned with other's expectations. Without captions on tv, access to language, or media in ASL, your child does not have the opportunity to understand what those behaviors mean. Unfortunately, that's your child's reality. Media is not accessible. What can you do about it? You can find ways to connect with your child such as having shared experience with media and technology to provide teachable moments when your child is not understanding its content. Be available to your child to help them understand what they are seeing. With your support, your child can develop a strong internal compass. Parents can use media and technology as a way to connect with their children as well as to introduce and reinforce their family values about sex, sexuality and relationships. Even when your child sees something that you don't agree with, you can use that as a "teachable moment" to start a discussion about your beliefs.

A father is sitting on a couch with his son. He is watching something on TV as his son is playing a game on his laptop.

Father: "Hey... Hold on a moment. Are you chatting with people online?"

Son: "Yeah."

Father: "Be careful. Don't reveal your personal information to those who you don't know."

Son: "What about discussing strategic planning or role playing?"

Father: "Yes, definitely. You can keep it simple such as explaining which direction you are going and where you'd want the other player to go to meet at the destination as long as it is related to the game."

Jakiya, signing:

"Hi! I'm Jakiya, here's my sign name. Welcome to our mini ASL lessons! I'm excited to teach you some signs on media and technology. In this lesson, we will learn signs that will provide your child tools to identify safety online as they explore to stay entertained, educated, connected and informed. Are you ready to learn with us? It's that easy! You got this!"