



YOUR BRAIN ON COMPUTERS

The Risks of Parenting While Plugged In

WHILE waiting for an elevator at the Fair Oaks Mall near her home in Virginia recently, Janice Im, who works in early-childhood development, witnessed a troubling incident between a young boy and his mother.

The boy, who Ms. Im estimates was about 2 1/2 years old, made repeated attempts to talk to his mother, but she wouldn't look up from her BlackBerry. "He's like: 'Mama? Mama? Mama?' " Ms. Im recalled. "And then he starts tapping her leg. And she goes: 'Just wait a second. Just wait a second.'" **Finally, he was so frustrated, Ms. Im said, that "he goes, 'Ahhh!' and tries to bite her leg."**

Much of the concern about cellphones and instant messaging and Twitter has been focused on how children who incessantly use the technology are affected by it. But parents' use of such technology — and its effect on their offspring — is now becoming an equal source of concern to some child-development researchers.

Sherry Turkle, director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Initiative on Technology and Self, has been studying how parental use of technology affects children and young adults. After five years and 300 interviews, she has found that feelings of hurt, jealousy and competition are widespread. Her findings will be published in “Alone Together” early next year by Basic Books.....

For further readings consult the following website

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/10/garden/10childtech.html?ref=yourbrainoncomputers&_r=0