

PHILADELPHIA, PA, September 17, 2013 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- The professionals at [Hoopla.com](#) are proud to offer some of the finest charitable gaming experiences that the Internet has to offer. While some people may falsely believe that playing video games is just a waste of time, the team at Hoopla.com is excited to read articles that prove otherwise. A new [piece](#) explains that regular video game play can actually strengthen the bonds between family members.

Professors from Arizona State University and student researchers set to work recently, hoping to show how video games can positively impact children and strengthen family connections. Elisabeth Hayes, ASU's Delbert & Jewell Lewis Chair in Reading and Literacy, explains that many parents view game play as something they must control, instead of something that can be used to strengthen the family.

"There is a lot of interest in understanding why video games engage children to the extent they do. A lot of scholars are realizing games have complex problem solving skills, and give children skills in designing, eye-hand coordination, and spatial reasoning. Part of our goal is to help parents understand that aspect of gaming and learn to engage in productive conversations with the games," notes Hayes.

The study, called Play2Connect, involves a series of focus groups. They also come in the form of intergenerational gaming events in Phoenix, Mesa, and Tucson, Arizona. The events are focused on getting kids to participate in video game play with older siblings or parents.

After studying how families interacted during these sessions, Hayes notes, "We found that parents engage in different ways with their kids. Some are already playing games with their kids, while many find it hard to find out why their kids are so caught up. Parents need guidance and support on how to talk with their children about video games. Fathers don't quite get their daughters' interest and moms don't get why their sons like shooting games. We want to build bridges across gender divides."

The researchers note that parents can open up lines of communication simply by talking with their kids about the games they enjoy playing. Children often delight in showing their parents what their favorite games are all about which, in turn, creates a bonding experience between family members.

The research team highlights the goal of the study noting that they hope that video game play "becomes a point of conversation, not a point of conflict."

"It's important for parents to understand that video games are becoming an increasingly popular educational tool. Kids work on their problem solving skills, hand-eye coordination, and teamwork as they play their favorite games. Instead of seeing them as a negative thing, parents who see them as a positive and valuable hobby may find that they are able to connect with their children on a much deeper level. Kids love when Mom or Dad is interested in their hobbies, so discussing video games can promote some quality bonding time," notes a representative from Hoopla.com.

ABOUT:

Launching fall, 2013, Hoopla.com will offer the very best in online gaming with a charitable twist. They will provide plenty of support for those who delight in playing a wide variety of games as well as opportunities for players to donate points earned playing free games to charitable causes around the globe--without spending a dime!