Learning with Technology

Make a Producer/Consumer Table

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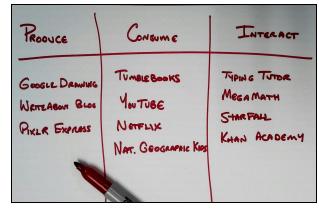
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A professor of robotics at Carnegie Mellon University recently wrote a book for parents coping with the current and future demands of technology that children will face. Parenting for Technology Futures, Part 1 (by Illah Nourbakhsh) offers many suggestions toward raising "technologically fluent" children.

One recommendation is for families to make a "**Producer/Consumer Table**." Sit down with your child and compile a list of ways she uses a computer. Then rewrite the list into a series of columns labeled with: **Produce, Interact, Consume**. Activities that involve watching shows, reading cartoons and looking online should be

placed in the **Consume** column. Activities such as writing, drawing a picture or editing a video would be placed in the **Produce** column. Other activities that require interaction, such Typing Instructor, playing games or using Khan Academy would be categorized as **Interact**.

Nourbakhsh says that "if the activities are evenly distributed between Produce, Consume and Interact, then you are doing very well indeed. If there are nearly no activities under Produce, and the Interact category lacks creative or knowledge-building examples, then there is room for mindful improvement."

Find more "Learning with Technology" information at: http://goo.gl/TY4VCM