

The Expression

Swing

By Maraya Ito-Dyck

School: Rutland Middle School

Teacher: Tanya Groetchen

Email: marayaitodyck23112@gmail.com

Phone number: 250-765-5444

As the years go on, technology has been getting more and more advanced. There are people who are 'addicted' to their phones or their computers, and you have probably seen kids who are under the age of 3 using electronics better than even some adults do. Ten years ago, parks would be full of people with young kids having the time of their lives, but because of all the devices we now have, the parks have been getting emptier and kids are becoming more obese. When there are people in parks, the kids will be playing by themselves while their parents are on their phones almost ignoring them. Not only is it affecting kids physically but also mentally, causing them trouble with speech from lack of communication and also causing a short attention span.

My idea is to place swings called expression swings in parks to increase communication between the child and parent. The expression swing has a child swing connected to a normal swing for the parent to sit on and pump by 2 metal bars allowing parents to face the child while swinging. Something that seems so simple actually has a lot of science behind it. When the eyes of the child and parent meet it causes social attunement or put simply makes both people happy and causes social mixed age play helping kids' speech and increasing attention spans.

To complete this project would be very simple. The swings would need to be purchased and then, you would need permission from the city council to place the swings. These swings don't just need to be in Kelowna, but all over the Okanagan Valley or even around Canada. This swing could benefit parents and especially the younger generations. The parents and children would have an unbreakable bond instead of with their ipads and games. With this swing, parents

would talk to their kids instead of letting them sit on the couch playing games by themselves.

I chose this project because the change in kids since all these electronics came out is astounding compared to when our parents were young. I would consider myself addicted to my phone because I spend a majority of my spare time on it. So if people can get addicted so easily, it would just be best to never even start, kind of like smoking. After the first try you just can't stop yourself. Young kids would not be the only ones that would benefit from this; the parents would turn off their phones and actually spend time with their kids instead of spending all this money on things that can go to better causes.

With the world becoming more advanced and people becoming less social and lazier, we need something to keep kids and parents bond strong in the years to come. It would be amazing to drive by a park and see people in it having fun and playing no matter how old they are. The swings are something that I believe can truly help the new generations and hopefully many more generations to come. All you need to do is turn off your phone, go to a local park and use an expression swing.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDonCMdzOQ8>

<http://www.gametime.com/product/Expression-Swing-5128/>