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Are we there yet?

Use today's new technology to keep kids entertained

Let's face it, kids just don't want to be stuck driving in a car for hours with nothing to do, and playing "I Spy" just doesn't seem to cut it anymore. Today's tech savvy kids have become accustomed to "here and now" video games, instant messaging and even cell phone text messaging. Here are just a few ways to keep your kids entertained on that long drive to the next party— whether 40 minutes or 40 hours away:



- **MP3 players:** While you may love rocking to the "oldies" your kids likely won't. What's more, you probably don't really want to listen to their music either. MP3 players offer the ideal solution for keeping the peace and tranquility. Your kids can pop on the headphones while you pop your favourite CD into the car player.

- **Video games:** A portable gaming device is perfect for long car trips. Many games are educational in addition to being fun, such as Brain Age for the Nintendo DS system, which challenges players with mind-bending puzzles, brainteasers and even math.

- **Laptops:** A laptop PC is more than just a productivity tool for work— it's also an all-in-one entertainment device. If you own a laptop, bring it with you. The kids can watch DVDs, play games, surf the web and so much more.

- **Online books:** A road trip is the perfect time for kids to read up on their favourite mystery or action novel.

Download a plethora of books your kids can read or listen to on their laptops.

Last, but not least, when it comes to porting everything back and forth, organization is the key to road trip success and backpacks, just like technology, have had many advancements in their design. For example, a backpack such as Targus' Mobility Notebook Backpack is designed to fit notebooks with up to 15.4" screens and includes additional storage compartments including an MP3 player compartment with a line out port-hole for headphones. Two mesh pockets on either side of the backpack are also perfect for storing water or juice.

—News Canada

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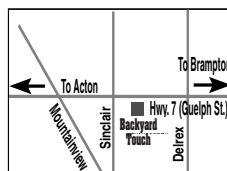


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