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| **#90: Top Games That Explore Empathy**It’s been a really tough summer for the members of the Taylor clan on many levels. The events that have transpired have reinforced in me, as both a teacher and parent, that empathy in our children is an incredibly precious resource that we must carefully nurture. In my opinion, empathy is not merely something we can switch on or off, it’s something that grows and evolves over time as we experience events in our lives. Empathy becomes more sophisticated and highly tuned into our relationships as we mature. Its fidelity increases as we become wise to the world. I also believe the amount of empathy we have for those around us is not inexhaustible – we have a finite amount of empathy per day. Over the course of the day little bits of our empathy ‘tank’ are siphoned off in our daily interactions with each other. When the empathy tank dries up, when we’re running on empty, we get irritable, snap at those around us, become over-sensitive to things we would normally shrug off. We can however increase the depth of our empathy tank; we can hone our empathy skills by modelling and practicing. There’s an ongoing debate on screen ***time*** that, in my opinion, particularly pertinent in the current climate, is misaligned. It should be a debate on screen ***quality***, not screen time. Common Sense Education have put together a useful list of games that explore empathy. You can find them here: [Top Games That Teach Empathy | Common Sense Education](https://www.commonsense.org/education/top-picks/top-games-that-teach-empathy?j=8085841&sfmc_sub=170956809&l=2048712_HTML&u=157837942&mid=6409703&jb=211&utm_source=edu_nl_20201117&utm_medium=email). I’m not going to recommend one in particular; every family is unique in what works for them. But I do encourage you to explore them and read the reviews. Developing our empathy is a skill. It’s a social and emotional skill that the [OECD recognises as critical](https://www.oecd.org/education/2030-project/teaching-and-learning/learning/skills/in_brief_Skills.pdf) in becoming a responsible global citizen.Have a wonderful weekend.**Brian Taylor****Assistant Principal, Campus Curriculum Technology Integration** |