

Old Games vs. New Games

Indira Martínez

BEFORE YOU READ: “Vs.” is an abbreviation for “versus,” which means “opposed to.” In a soccer game, for example, we might say U.S. vs. Mexico. Looking at the title and the photo, what do you think this article will be about?

I used to live in a little town in Honduras, where we did not have the internet. I really loved walking to school, and being in school was like being in a movie for me, where all the happy scenes were in slow motion. It was the best part of my day. I was a mediocre student—neither the best nor the worst. My favorite part of school was recess. Yes, I think all of us got excited about that part. (Even now, I enjoy break time when I come to English class, though the differences in my responsibilities are obviously huge.)

When I was a kid, recess was complete happiness. I loved to socialize with my friends, we would talk about what to play, and all of us would

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yell at the same time, “Policías y Ladrones” (Cops and Robbers)! OMG, how I loved this game! I have to confess this game marks a shift in my childhood. At a certain point, the game gave me an excuse to interact with my crush. I used to love being a Robber while my crush was a Cop, because he had to catch me, which was definitely my favorite part.

These days are so different. I have a 14-year-old daughter who is growing up in a different time. She loves technology, and I made the mistake of giving her a phone. Nothing catches her attention like technology does. I have to force her to exercise. I try to do activities with her, and sometimes for a week or month, I take away her phone. When I do that, all she thinks about is getting her phone back. She and all teenagers are



Indira Martínez with her daughter.

similar. When they are at a gathering or a party, it is not fun to be with them because they are all on their phones. We have to pay attention and wake up and see how technology is affecting our kids!

I’m very grateful to God for giving me a childhood away from technology. When I was a little girl, I was very happy. In contrast, it is very hard for me to get through this part of my life where everyone is acting like a zombie on tablets and smartphones.

Indira Martínez is a student at the Community Learning Center in Cambridge, MA. She has a teenage daughter who loves to be on her cellphone. She is an active person who enjoys helping others.

AFTER YOU READ: What does OMG mean? Do you ever use it when you are speaking or texting? What does the author mean by crush? What other meanings does it have? Read another mom’s story on p. 27.