

# My Tamagotchi Taught Me...

Federica Ruozzi

**BEFORE YOU READ:** What's a lesson you learned from a certain toy or game? Do you notice your children learning any lessons through their games?

When I was about 13 or 14 years old, there was a very popular game called Tamagotchi, which was from Japan. But it was quite expensive, so not all of us could have it. My mum bought me one when I insisted on having a dog. She told me, "If you can take care of Tamagotchi for two months, we can speak about you getting a dog."

I was very excited about that because I was pretty sure I could do it. Tamagotchi was a kind of

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video game that you could hold in your hand. The game consisted of raising and taking care of a chick. Once you start the game, you can't stop playing, because your chick depends on you. If the game ends, it is because your chick died, which is your fault, so you lose.

When you start the game, one egg appears, and you have to take care of it. For example, you check the temperature to be sure the chick can

hatch. After three or four hours, the chick hatches and you become a "parent" of this little toy. That means you have to feed him, clean him, read to him, let him play, help him fall asleep, turn on the light for him, and so on. You need to take care of him all day and even during the night. A sound signal warns you when you need to do something.

Sometimes when you are at school, you can't take care of your chick, or you don't hear the sound during the night. When you have the chance to check on him, you find him dead or very sick and dying. You can reset the game, but you have to start from the beginning again. That's why it was a very dramatic moment. And what it meant for me was...no dog!



## Toys as Teachers?

What did her mom do when Federica asked for a dog? What do you think of her mom's plan?

What lessons does Federica learn from her Tamagotchi?

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