

# 3D Video Games not for Children under Age 6

Created: Jan 3, 2011

Children under age six shouldn't use Nintendo's 3DS gaming system in its three-dimensional viewing mode, the company says.

The handheld gaming system displays games in 3D without the need for special glasses. Games can be played in regular 2D — an option that should be used for young children whose eyes are still developing, according to an advisory posted on Nintendo's Japanese-language website.

A Google translation of the advisory suggests adults protect young players by setting a code to block the 3D function, a view that "has a potential impact on the growth of children's eyes."

In May, Nintendo CEO Satoru Iwata told the Associated Press that health concerns related to "children's eyesight" were a key factor in the decision to make a 2D mode available on the 3DS.

All players should discontinue 3D use if they do not feel well, Nintendo said.

For older players, the company's advisory suggests taking a break after 30 minutes of playing in 3D mode.

Game manufacturer Sony's terms of service also notes people "may experience discomfort (such as eye strain, eye fatigue or nausea) while watching 3D video images or playing stereoscopic 3D games on 3D televisions. If you experience such discomfort, you should immediately discontinue use of your television until the discomfort subsides."

Sony recommends consulting a doctor before allowing young children to watch 3D video images or play 3D games.

Both companies emphasized 3D games at the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles in June.

In April, television manufacturer Samsung Electronics Canada issued a warning to children and pregnant women to be careful if they start to feel dizzy when watching its 3D television.

If eye muscles in young children become fatigued by 3D viewing "because they haven't developed strongly enough," headaches, discomfort or disorientation can occur, Dr. Daryan Angle, an optometrist in Kitchener, Ont., said at the time.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2010/12/29/gaming-3ds-children-eyes-nintendo.html#ixzz19b9sDIRv>