



## PLAY ALONE OR TOGETHER?

Raccy, Fozzy and Squilly are each in a different part of Teddy's Playroom. They are not playing together. Raccy is playing a game on his tablet. Fozzy is watching a cartoon on his smart watch. Squilly is on the bookcase shooting selfies with her cell phone.

Teddy enters the room with Bear-T. Everyone is busy on their devices and only look up when Teddy loudly says, "Hello!"

Raccy says, "Hello, Mr. Teddy!" But he keeps one eye on his tablet.

Fozzy says politely, "Nice to see you, Mr. Teddy!" But he's looking at his watch.

Squilly says "Hi, Mr. Teddy!" But she's looking at her phone.

"Hi, guys! Want to do a puzzle with me?" Bear-T asks the others.

Fozzy answers, "Not right now."

Raccy says, "Too busy."

Squilly says, "Later maybe."

"No one wants to play with me," Bear-T says sadly to Teddy.

"They are so tied to their digital devices that they have forgotten that playing and talking together is important," Teddy tries to explain.

"I guess no one wants me here. I don't fit in," Bear-T says. "My mom won't let me have a phone and I can only use my laptop for school work."

No one notices the thunderstorm outside until there is a loud clap of thunder and lightning flashes in the window. Suddenly the lights go out and screens are blank.

"What happened?" Squilly asks.

"Why is my screen blank?" Fozzy asks.

"Where are the lights?" Raccy asks.

"The lightning must have struck a power line and cut off electricity and our wireless internet," Teddy explains.

"Let's play hide-and-seek," Squilly tells the others

"Yeah, it'll be easy to hide 'cause it's almost dark," Fozzy says.

"I see a good place to hide," Raccy declares.

"Let's do rock-paper-scissors to see who's 'it'." Bear-T says.

Teddy smiles, happy to see the children playing together. "Maybe this is a lesson about what's really important – playing alone or together."

After they have been playing hide-and-seek for half an hour, the lights come back on. But the kids continue playing.

"Playing together is more fun than games on my tablet by myself," Raccy says.

"Yeah!" Squilly says. "I love hide-and-seek!"

"Come on!" Fozzy says. "Who's 'it' now?"

Teddy starts a song and everyone joins in "The more we get together, together, together; the more we get to together the happier we'll be. For my friends are your friends and your friends are my friends. The more we get together the happier we'll be."



**How much time do I spend alone on digital devices? How much time do I spend interacting with others?**