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Road Trips - Are we there yet?

If you're planning an road trip with your family, it's important to be prepared for a stress-free and safe journey. One way of doing this is making sure all devices are fully charged before hitting the road. Many newer vehicles come with a range of connectivity options, such as USB ports, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi, that allow you to use your devices while you travel. However, it's important to remember batteries can drain quite quickly. When a few people are in the car, and all the batteries need charging, it may cause arguments and stress.

Another crucial tip for parents is to avoid handing over their devices to their children if they have any kind of workplace connections. This is because such connections pose a significant security risk. You should avoid handing your device over to your kids for several reasons if it has workplace connections.

If your device is connected to your workplace network or email account, your children could accidentally access sensitive information or even delete important files. This could lead to a data breach, which could have severe consequences for your employer and put your job at risk. Remember that mobile device policy you signed?

Many industries have strict regulations governing the handling of confidential information. If your device contains sensitive data, handing it over to your kids could put your company in violation of these regulations, leading to legal and financial consequences.

If your device is not properly secured, handing it over to your kids could expose it to malware and hacking attempts. This could compromise your company's network, put sensitive data at risk, and provide hacker access to your bank account and health records. For example, only download games from reputable sources like Google Play and Apple Store.

Even if your device is not connected to your workplace, handing it over to your kids could distract you from the road and put your safety at risk. Staying focused on driving and avoiding any distractions that could cause an accident is important.

In addition to avoiding the overuse of devices, taking regular breaks during your trip is important. This helps to keep everyone refreshed and stress-free. A good rule of thumb is to aim for a break every two hours to stretch your legs and rest your eyes. This is especially important if you're driving long distances, as it helps to reduce the risk of fatigue and drowsiness while driving.

Planning ahead, looking at your route, and identifying some natural scenic viewpoints or rest stops is helpful. This will help make sure that everyone gets a chance to take a break. Mixing up your activities during your breaks is also a good idea. Some activities to consider include visiting local landmarks, strolling through a park, or grabbing a bite to eat somewhere new.

While devices can be a great source of entertainment during a long drive, it's important to take intentional breaks to disconnect and enjoy the moment. Encourage your kids to put down their screens and take in the scenery, and make sure you take some time to relax and recharge. Additionally, it's always helpful to have a backup plan in case your devices run out of battery or you tire of staring at screens. Some activities to consider include listening to an audiobook or playing Eye-Spy or "Spotto," a pretty simple game played with two or more people. Whenever you spot a yellow vehicle, in most cases a yellow car, you shout Spotto and keep a tally.

Have fun, and stay safe!

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