



K-KIDS



BUILDERS CLUB



KEY CLUB



CIRCLE K



AKTION CLUB



MORE!



# The K-kids are alright

Story by Matthew Gonzales  
Illustrations by Jonathan Carlson

**Y**ou've been thinking about sponsoring a K-Kids Club. There's only one thing holding you back: You're not sure you know how to talk to today's video-game-obsessed elementary school students.

Your concern is understandable. Kids can be intimidating—especially if you're relatively new to interacting with 21st century children. The good news is you don't need to be a child expert. You only need to care. We can help with the rest.



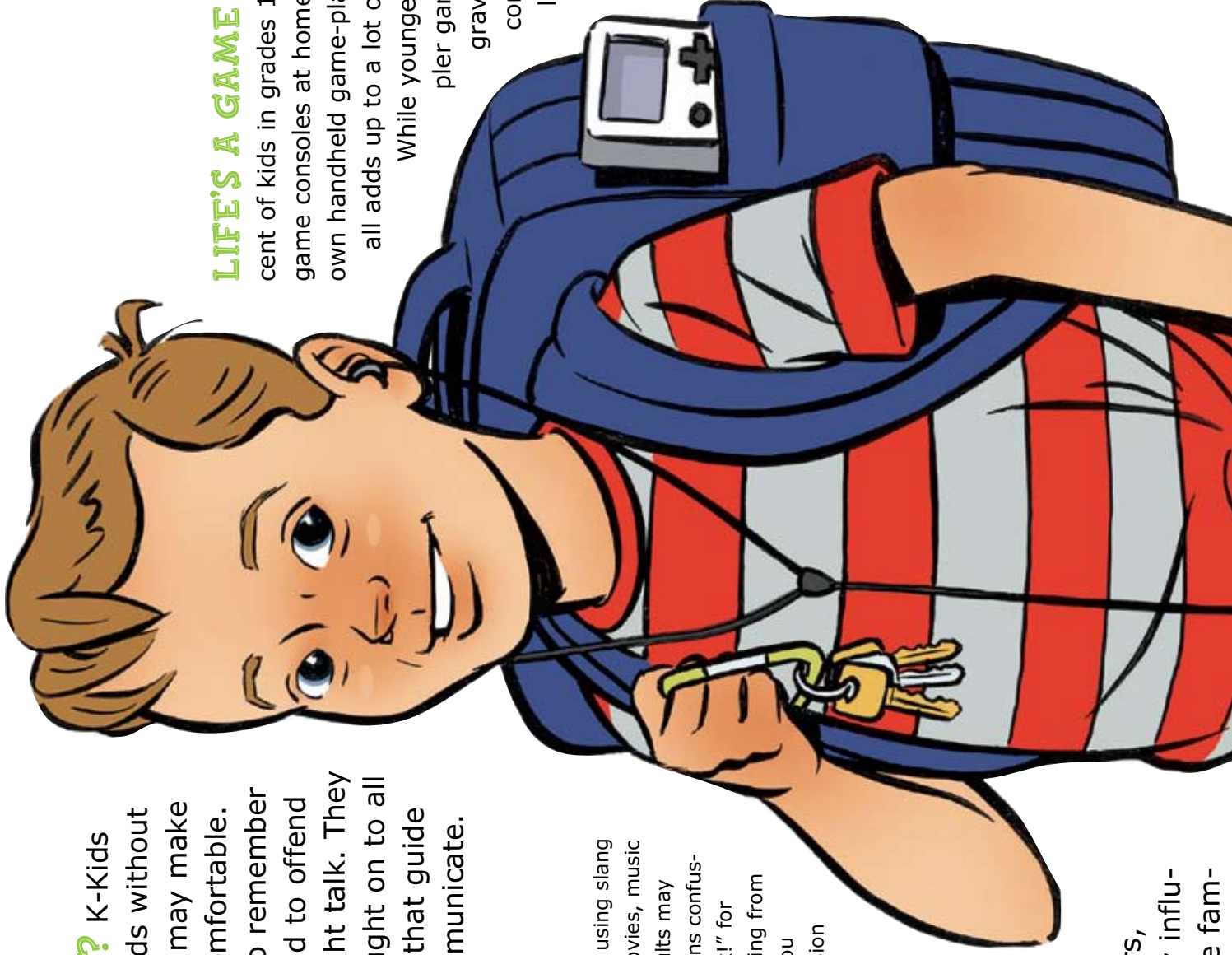
**SAY WHAT?** K-Kids speak their minds without hesitation. This may make adults feel uncomfortable. It's important to remember they don't intend to offend with their straight talk. They just haven't caught on to all the social rules that guide how adults communicate.

**WORD UP** K-Kids love using slang expressions they hear in movies, music and from older siblings. Adults may find some of their expressions confusing. An exclamation of "Sick!" for example, could mean anything from "Excellent!" to "Gross!" If you don't know what an expression means, just ask—they'll be thrilled to explain.

**HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS** Unlike middle and high schoolers, K-Kids are more strongly influenced by their immediate fam-

**LIFE'S A GAME** Seventy-five percent of kids in grades 1–4 have video game consoles at home, and 71 percent own handheld game-playing devices. This all adds up to a lot of "screen time."

While younger K-Kids enjoy simpler games, older kids gravitate toward more complicated games, like Halo and Madden NFL.



ily members than their peers. They are intensely curious about the outside world, but find comfort and security in their everyday home life.

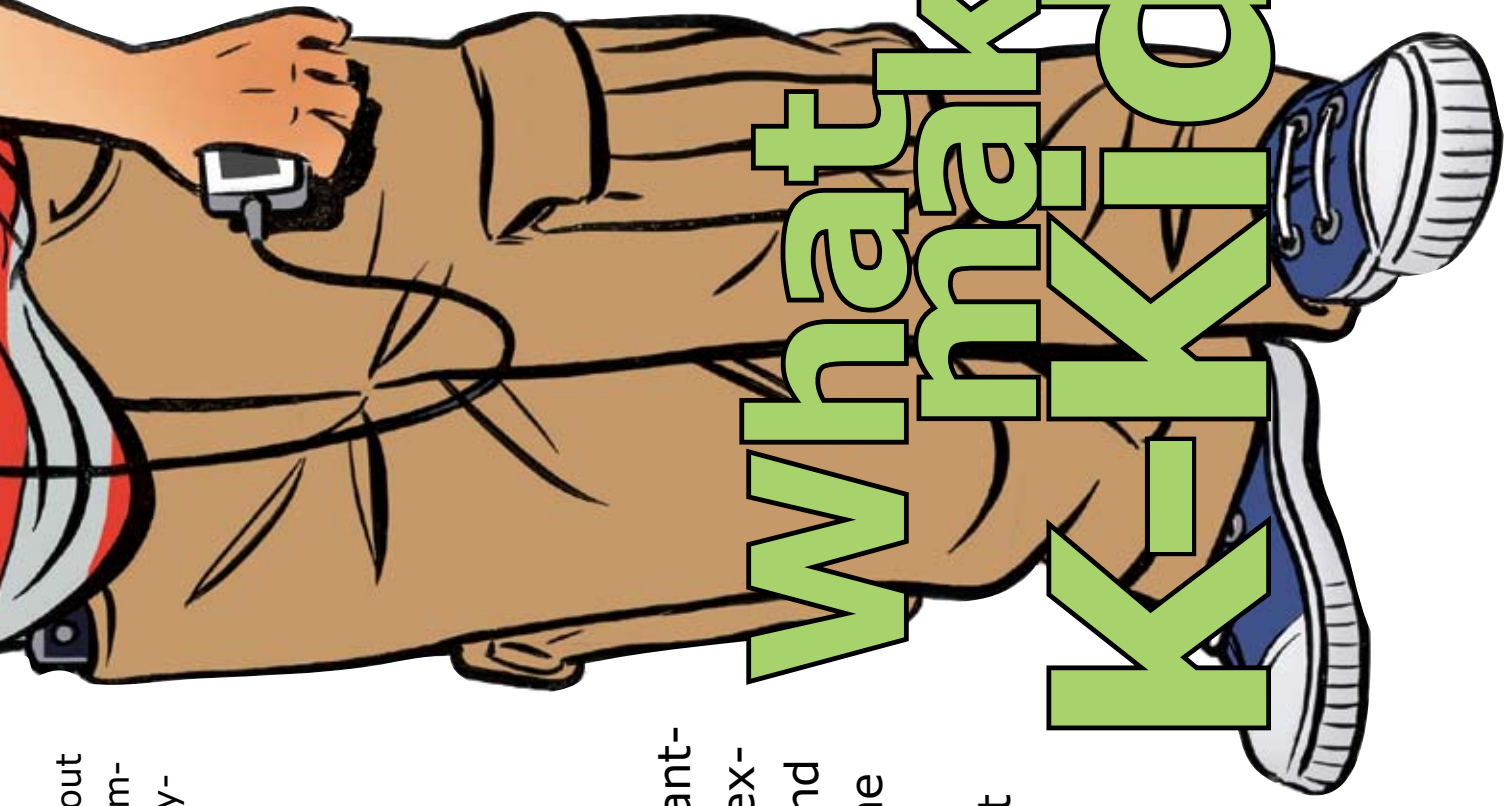
## THUMB\$TRUCK

Teenagers aren't the only ones who send text messages constantly. Some kids start texting as early as second or third grade. It's the cool thing to do. And while only 22 percent of kids grades 1-4 have their own cell phones, that number shoots up to 60 percent for grades 5-8.

## MUSIC AT THEIR FINGERTIPS

Most K-Kids are pop culture experts. Don't be surprised when even second- and third-graders know the words to the latest songs by Hannah Montana and the Jonas Brothers. They may even be familiar with more mature material (think Beyoncé and Justin Timberlake) due to their heavy exposure to TV, radio and other media.

# What makes a K-Kid tick?







I'm Zach. I'm 9.  
I'm into Nintendo  
DX. My mom's  
a doctor. I want  
to help people too.  
Let's start now!

# K-Kids

WWW.KKIDS.ORG

## What's in it for you

Sponsoring a K-Kids Club is fun, fulfilling and it keeps you young. Most importantly, it helps ensure your community's future will be in the hands of compassionate, caring adults.

According to Jeanne Williams, a child psychologist based in Edmonton, Alberta, there's no better time than elementary school to start teaching kids the value of service. "If you can catch them at this age," she says, "it will set them on a great path."

Ranging in age from 6 to 12, K-Kids understand complex problems and have a deep well of empathy. On the other hand, they still seek guidance and approval from adults. For that reason, they're likely to remember their K-Kids mentors for the rest of their lives.

Worldwide, 30,000 kids already are learning leadership and service through K-Kids clubs. Continue the trend in your town. Sponsor a K-Kids club, and help the kids in your community become tomorrow's caring, competent leaders.

### CLICK WITH K-KIDS

# 4

## Ways to connect with kids 6–12 years old

**BE YOURSELF.** Don't try to be "cool" or act like a kid yourself. Kids respond to authenticity.

# 1

# 2

**SHOW INTEREST IN THEIR INTERESTS.**

What are their favorite music, movies or video games? Ask them.

**LET THEM BE THE EXPERT.** If you don't understand something they're talking about, invite them to explain. They love being the teacher.

# 3

# 4

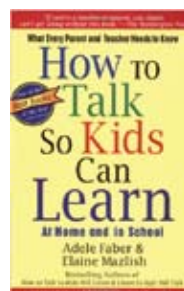
**BE PATIENT.** Don't take over as soon as they start to struggle with a problem. Offer guidance, but let them try to solve it on their own.

Sources: Registered child psychologist Jeanne Williams and elementary school teacher Jennifer Giedd

### RESOURCE

## How to Talk So Kids Can Learn

By Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish



Prepare for the joys and challenges of working with elementary school kids with this helpful book. It's written for parents and teachers, but with chapters like "Seven Skills That Invite Kids to Cooperate" and "Six Steps That Engage Children's Creativity and Commitment," it's a perfect primer for anyone looking to connect with young kids.



Interested in sponsoring a K-Kids club? Go to [www.KiwanisOne.org/charter](http://www.KiwanisOne.org/charter) to find out how. Sponsor a club already? Go to [www.KiwanisOne.org/advisor](http://www.KiwanisOne.org/advisor) for helpful tools and resources.