

The Surgeon General said today that social media presents a "profound risk of harm" for kids. Yet of the 42 million people traveling over the Memorial Day weekend holiday millions will have kids in tow, sitting in the backseat scrolling endlessly through TikTok, Instagram, or another social media app. If you've ever gone on a trip with kids in the backseat, let's know a few things you can do to keep them entertained. phones and tablets are good companions on long road trips, I'm looking at a few tips to keep them happy and connected (and quiet).

If you're using anything from the Surgeon General's warning before this story, please check the anchor intro.

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STD OUT

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0-8 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv

ON-CAMERA TEASE

Maybe the only thing worse than a traffic jam is kids arguing in the backseat. I'm Jamey Tucker, coming with some travel tech tips, for a more peaceful drive. I will turn this car around

ANCHOR INTRO

THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL IS CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO HOW SOCIAL MEDIA AFFECTS CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS. IN A 25-PAGEV ADVISORY HANDED DOWN TODAY, SURGEON GENERAL VIVEK MURTHY SAID SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTS A RISK OF HARMING CHILDREN.

YET THIS WEEKEND, MILLIONS OF FAMILIES WILL TAKE TO THE HIGHWAYS FOR A MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY WITH THE KIDS IN THE BACKSEAT ON TIKTOK AND INSTAGRAM. AS OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER SHOWS US, THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS TO KEEP KIDS OCCUPIED ON EVEN THE LONGEST CAR RIDE.

PACKAGE SCRIPT

If you don't like the idea of your kids endlessly scrolling TikTok or Instagram, here's something you can do. Turn off cellular where they have no internet connection. They can still be entertained.

There are plenty of educational apps to choose from. Another great option is a digital coloring book. One of my favorites is April Coloring. It's more like paint by numbers with your finger. The free version gives you a few pictures but there are really annoying ads. So many ads and they're all loud. A subscription for endless coloring and no ads is \$9 a month. April Coloring isn't just for young kids. It's a relaxing way to pass the time for anyone.

If they're going to be watching movies or shows on a tablet or phone, download what they want to watch ahead of time. You can download movies and shows on Netflix and Amazon Prime. This is especially helpful if you have a base Netflix plan with limited screens and because internet connections can be iffy when traveling down the highway.

download books they pick out ahead of time using the app, Libby. This app makes available titles from public libraries that you can check out for two weeks for free. They can read books in the Libby app or with the Kindle app.

you need to find a place with free WiFi, and open Facebook. Under settings and privacy, there's a "Find WiFi" tab.

There used to be a few travel apps to help you find clean restrooms on your route. Most of those are gone. But there are other options. Starbucks generally keeps its restrooms very clean and the Starbucks app will show you the nearest location. And the Gas Buddy app will help you find the lowest gas prices around but also has some information on each station. They are showing their amenities and reviews of their cleanliness.

and if you've traveled with kids before, you probably don't need to be reminded to...remember their headphones.

That's a relief. That's What the Tech? I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

TRIPLE-A PREDICTS SOME 42 MILLION AMERICANS WILL BE TRAVELING OVER THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEM WILL BE IN AN AUTOMOBILE.

WEB STORY

WEB STORY

The U.S. Surgeon General and the White House issued an advisory on Tuesday that most parents already know: social media apps can be harmful to children. The 25-page report comes just days ahead of the busiest travel day in recent years. What does it have to do with Memorial Day travel? If you're going to be in the car with kids for several hours you'll notice the silence from the backseat is likely because they're scrolling through TikTok, Instagram, or other social media apps.

If that raises concern, here's an idea: turn off the cellular connection or internet on their phone or tablet. Even without an internet connection, those devices can keep them entertained for as long as you're on the road.

Look in the app stores for other apps, even educational ones as long as they're fun. How about a coloring book app? One of my favorites is April Coloring. It's more like paint by numbers with your finger. Each picture takes around 20 minutes to complete. The free version gives you a few pictures but there are some really annoying ads when you first open the app and when you select a picture to color. The non-skippable ads are loud too. A subscription is \$9 a month for dozens of pictures and it removes the ads. Mind you, April Coloring isn't just for young kids. It's a relaxing way to pass the time for anyone.

If they're going to be watching movies or shows on a tablet or phone, they'll need a consistent internet connection. That's iffy traveling down the highway. So download what they want to watch ahead of time. You can download movies and shows on Netflix and Amazon Prime. This is especially helpful if you have a base Netflix plan with limited screens. Movies and shows can be downloaded on two devices. Just look for the "download button" below "play". Download the content before you leave because it takes a long time even over WiFi.

And don't forget to delete the download and find something else before you head back home.

Download books they pick out ahead of time using the app, Libby. This app makes available titles from public libraries that you can check out for two weeks for free. Most everything the library has on its shelves can be found in the Libby app unless they've already been checked out by someone else. They can read books in the Libby app or with the Kindle app.

If you need to find a place with free WiFi, open Facebook. Under settings and privacy, there's a "Find WiFi" tab. Companies and restaurants with Facebook pages include their WiFi network name and passwords.

There used to be a few travel apps to help you find clean restrooms on your route. Most of those are gone from the app stores now. But there's another option. Starbucks generally keeps its restrooms very clean and the Starbucks app will show you exactly its nearest location.

And the Gas Buddy app will help you find the lowest gas prices around but also has some information on each station. Showing their amenities and reviews of their cleanliness.

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