

TED TALK

Mary Joslyn

Oh, my gosh, do I want to talk about a subject I feel is way out of control. It has reached a point where it is referred to as an addiction by many experts. I'm talking about the use of the multitudes of electronic devices. I heard a segment on a news program this last week the zeroed in particularly on the young generation. It was really frightening. Often the young person is wedded to the device, even in bed at night. No amount of caution by the parents seems to help. One reason may be that the parents are addicted too!

It seems sad that we are losing our ability to communicate face to face. The joy of seeing a face light up when good news comes or show sadness when things aren't going well. All of this extra communication is lost. I can't tell you how disheartened we feel when we see two young people out for a nice dinner – and then watch one or both constantly checking their phones.

How do we get a real debate going over this issue? Somehow friendship by phone does not take the place of real touching and sharing. Yes, this electronic science is special to opening the world but to let it monopolize our lives seems dreadful. It can be particularly cruel when young people spread falsehoods about one another over the internet. And so I'm watching and waiting for the "powers that be" to call for more action on the subject. I almost seems like the 'genie' is out of the bottle and no one can put it back.