

NEWS FLASH !

Too Much Television

Has anyone ever really wondered why children behave differently today than they did before the invention of television? According to the *CQ researcher* "The average child watches 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence before finishing elementary school" (Charles Clark, 002). This would most definitely have an effect on both the emotional and psychological well being of the child. Thus despite the contrary beliefs, television can have a negative affect on children when it comes to family harmony, academic achievement, and violent behavior.

Television can have a negative affect on children in the area of family harmony. Have you ever been watching T.V. with a young child and the commercials come on? Commercials like "My little pony" for girls, or "Power Rangers" for the boys. If you have, then you probably got the look that was saying "Oh mommy can I have that?" Well that's fine if you come from a well-to-do family with plenty of greenbacks. But if you don't this can definitely present a problem. According to Richard Adler:

Consumption requests by children can cause strain on parent child relations. This is greatest among economically disadvantaged family's causing frustration, guilt and resentment. In the case of children advertising, the purpose is to use the child as a surrogate salesman to the parent, pressuring the parent to buy the product and thus damaging the parent-child relationship. (007)

Given the above information, it is safe to say that television indeed can cause strain on the harmony of a family. When a parent is bombarded with the requests of their children and cannot produce, conflict occurs. This is one, but by far the worst negative affect created by television.

Another negative affect that television has on children is in the area of academic achievement. A child can hardly be doing her homework if she is too busy watching her favorite cartoons. You might get the argument that they can do both simultaneously, but check the quality and it will be obvious. The mind is an incredible thing but lets face it, if you concentrate you do better.