

Richard Adler confirmed in a study of time children spend viewing T.V. that they spend an average of only 3-4 minutes a day in front of the tube. How wonderful that would be if it were more realistic. His source for this study was from a A.C. Nielson report in 1978 that was based on 1966-1978 data. Which came far before the “television-as-a-babysitter” syndrome of today. Back in 1966 when Ward and June Cleaver were the role model for parents, I’m sure television time was a privilege that was controlled and regulated by caring and concerned parents such as these.

Today we have our latch key kids who are basically raising themselves. They come home from school, throw their books and their bodies on the couch, flip on the tube and suck it all in. Even without cable, if they get home early enough they can still catch an eyeful. The Young and the Restless can teach them all they need to know about life, right? Yea right.

Before we go on to our final point, there is some history that would be helpful to consider. The following reflects that TV has been a culprit of violent and adverse behavior. *CQ Researcher* listed the following:

June 1952, The first congressional hearings on violence and television and it’s impact on children. In 1967 the University of Pennsylvania began monitoring television programming. 1976 house of delegates called television violence an “environmental hazard.” In 1982 the National Institute of Mental health said there is a clear consensus on link between TV violence and aggression. Finally in 1992 the American psychological Association study shows research on link to real violence is ignored and calls for federal policy to protect society (275).

So, given this information, it is safe to say that our third point is evident. Television most definitely has an effect on the behavior of a child. Common sense would tell us that if a child were watching too much violence on TV, he or she is going to behave more aggressively. According to Carl Cannon, “Virtually all independent scholars agree that there is evidence that television can cause aggressive behavior”. (Cannon 95)

In a recent study I had observed that after the film “Pulp Fiction” came to the screen, there was a major change in attitude towards drugs. Pulp Fiction is a well done film