

True, there is an abundance of good educational programming available, but the responsibility for its implementation must begin with the parents. The sad reality is that this is just not happening. 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, turn on the tube and catch an eyeful. They don't even need cable to catch the afternoon soap operas that offer anything but education. Children are like sponges or little computers. They are constantly absorbing and being programmed by everything they see. When you think about all that children are exposed to these days just on the medium of the screen, is it any wonder they are carrying guns and pregnant at thirteen? Parents must take responsibility and take action if things are ever going to change. Parents must regulate and control their children's exposure to television. They must begin doing this when their children are still young. An article from the *National Clearinghouse on Family Violence* states; "Start early in influencing your child's exposure to TV. It is easier to enforce rules on younger children than older ones."²

Another aspect of television's affect on children is its ability to influence their behavior patterns. If a child was only exposed to the programs that inspire kindness, friendship, sharing and learning, what kind of child would develop from this? That's right, a kind, friendly, sharing, caring, intelligent

² National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, The Effects of Media Violence on Children, http://cii2.cochran.com/mnet/med/home/resource/famvlnr.htm#does_tv_teach_children_violence_1977, pg. 4.

(date accessed).

Still no explanation in this about how all this affect academic achievement (the physical idea)

CON

OK
a good
book
facing
the...