

# CAN VIOLENT MOVIES OR TV PROGRAMS HARM CHILDREN ?

## Can Violent Movies or TV Programs Harm Children?

Many people say that children have become more aggressive in recent years—that is, they are more likely to fight with their friends, sisters, and brothers. A number of scientific studies have reported that watching violence can, in fact, cause a growth in aggression.

According to the research, two kinds of programs and movies encourage aggressive behavior in young children more than others: (1) realistic violent action programs and movies, and (2) violent cartoons.

One disturbing conclusion is that the effects of violent viewing last for many years. One study showed that children who watched violent TV programs when they were 8 years old were more likely to behave aggressively at age 18. Furthermore, as adults they were more likely to be convicted of violent crimes, such as child abuse and murder.

Studies have also demonstrated that watching violent movies and TV shows can affect children's attitudes towards violence in the world around them. Children

who watch a lot of fighting and bloodshed tend to find it "normal" and may accept more violence in society. They may even begin to commit violent acts themselves.

Very often, characters in movies and on television who commit violent crimes are not sorry for their actions and don't face consequences or punishment. When children see fictional characters who are criminals like these, they learn that doing bad things is OK. For children, who are growing and developing, this is a bad message. It's important for them to see that our society doesn't tolerate crime.



So what can we do? With young children, we have the power to control the TV programs and movies they watch, so we can protect them from seeing any violence at all. However, with older children it's impossible to completely prevent their exposure to violence. But we can try to limit the number of hours they spend watching it. And when children have seen a violent film or TV show, it's important to discuss it with them, to help them understand that violence is not a normal part of life.

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD OR PHRASE TO COMPLETE EACH STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION IN THE ARTICLE.**

1. A (**realistic / an aggressive**) person is someone who is likely to fight with others.
2. Scientific studies reported that some kinds of movies and TV programs can (**limit/ encourage**) aggressive behaviour.
3. One kind of violent crime is (**murder/ bad behavior**).
4. A word that means almost the same thing as hurt is (**help/harm**).
5. It's difficult to (**permit/prevent**) older children from seeing any violence in TV ads or movies.
6. Research has suggested that (**a consequence / an advantage**) of watching violent films is aggressive behavior.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**

1. According to the article, what are some ways that viewing violence can affect children?

1.

2.

3.

2. What kind of movies or Tv shows are most harmful?

3. According to the article, some studies show that viewing violence can have effects that last for many years. What are these long term effects?

1.

2.

4. What suggestions does the article make to help parents prevent the bad effects of violent TV programs and movies in very young children? and in older children?

1.

2.

3.

THE ADJECTIVES BELOW ARE USED IN THE ARTICLE. THEY HAVE POSITIVE, NEUTRAL, OR NEGATIVE MEANINGS. PUT EACH ADJECTIVE IN THE COLUMN WHERE YOU THINK IT BEST BELONGS.

|            |            |           |            |           |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| aggressive | disturbing | normal    | impossible | violent   |
| realistic  | bad        | fictional | important  | realistic |

**POSITIVE**

**NEUTRAL**

**NEGATIVE**

