

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.

1. Which type of TV programs or movies are most likely to make children more aggressive?

- A. Realistic violent shows
- B. Funny comedy shows
- C. Nature documentaries
- D. Educational programs

2. How long can the effects of watching violent media last for children?

- A. A few weeks
- B. A few months
- C. A few years
- D. Many years

3. What is one possible long-term effect of children watching violent media mentioned in the passage?

- A. Better grades in school
- B. More friends
- C. Becoming less aggressive as adults
- D. Committing violent crimes as adults

4. What does the passage say about the effects of watching violent cartoons on children?

- A. They have no effect on children
- B. They are less harmful than realistic violent shows
- C. They are more harmful than realistic violent shows
- D. They help children become less aggressive

5. What is the main message of the passage about the effects of violent media on children?

- A. The effects are temporary and not serious
- B. The effects are limited to aggression towards family
- C. The effects can continue into adulthood and increase violent behavior

Statements: TRUE or FALSE?

- 1. Children who see a lot of violence on TV may think it is normal.
- 2. Characters in movies who commit crimes always face punishment.
- 3. It is easy to stop older children from seeing violent content.
- 4. Discussing violent films with children can help them understand that violence is not normal.
- 5. The text suggests that society should tolerate crime.