ABSTRACT

Parents, children and educators have very different opinions about television. Children are less likely to believe the negative influence of television and more likely to believe that TV is associated with increased originality and problem-solving ability! On the contrary parents believe that TV takes away time spent on other activities causing obesity and laziness. Educators are concerns with the fact that many children are not being read to and can actually quote commercials word for word but do not know who the president is! There have been a significant number of studies done to determine the effects that television shows and commercials has on our children. We are facing an epidemic of obesity, eating disorders, lack of understanding of what is socially acceptable, and a downward spiral of violence and crime. Excessive television viewing plays an enormous role in these concerns and we should all turn off the tube and educate ourselves on what needs to be done to out s stop to it.

The fact that television is often the babysitter of many of our students raises a big red flag! The significant demographic shifts that have occurred over the years have made a huge impact on how much TV children are watching today! Over the past 20 years, parents spend 40% less time with their children. This is the result of having more mothers who are working full time and the fact that there are more single parent homes. Parents use the TV as a way to find some time to get the chores done, pay bills, and cook meals. Because the lack of attention that parent’s can
give their kids, children are actually becoming attached to the television instead of their families!