



TELEVISION AND YOUR CHILD

develop language with TV

It is important to be sensitive to what your child is watching on television.

Television programs for young children appeal to the senses. Bright colours, fast action, fantasy, age-appropriate language and engaging music all add to the attractiveness of the medium. But this means that television is sometimes mesmerizing. How often have you seen a young child sitting in front of a television with a glassy-eyed look? Clearly television is a passive activity. Even though television for children has improved, it remains a one-sided communication that provides no opportunity for children to ask questions or make responses.

There are things you can do to make watching less passive and more of a language-learning activity. Just as you have a conversation about a story that you have read aloud, you can have conversations about television programs.

ASK QUESTIONS LIKE THESE:

- * What did you like about the show?
- * Which character did you like the best? The least?
- * If you could be a character, which one would you pick?
- * Did you like the way the program ended? Why?
- * Can you think of a different ending?



Even when a child watches television alone, he needs to know that some adult will talk about the program, either immediately after the program, or if that's not possible, at a special time set aside for talking about things done during the day.

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