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Educational Videos And Your Child's Development

By Jennifer Tarzian

There is much to be said about how much television is too much television for children. As parents we are constantly reminded that our children should not be watching television at all. We hear about the risks of Attention Deficit Disorder, overall disobedience, and many other terrible consequences. I don't disagree completely, but I do believe this topic needs to be discussed in greater detail.

I have a two year old son. I allow him to watch certain television shows and/or videos. Do I use the television as a babysitter or some other form of replacement for my presence? Never. I choose these programs carefully, ensuring that what they project is in accordance with what I want my son to learn. I use the television shows as reinforcement for the tools and lessons I am already teaching him AND I always watch his videos with him in order to help clarify or repeat words if necessary. Let me share with you an example.

Ever since my son had the dexterity to be able to point to the different parts of his body, my husband and I have been rehearsing the corresponding words for him to learn. Over and over and over we repeat these words. We also use children's books to share these same words. Throw in a couple videos of kids singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" and you have a child who can put all these images and words together. I am NOT saying that the video was the key ingredient that taught my son these words. I am saying that children, just like adults, learn in a number of different ways. Why not introduce them to the world around them through various types of media. I believe the combination of books, imaginary play, music, and the right television programs can assist children in learning more than just one of these avenues by itself.

I also believe children learn by watching other children. If you don't believe me, spend a few hours at your local preschool sometime and just observe. You'd be amazed at how children (toddlers especially) imitate one another. In my case, my son is still an only child at this time. I do my best to take him to play groups, tumbling class, and any other socialization activity I can get him to. When he is around other children, I can see an increased desire from him to want to communicate with the other children - moreso than even his need to communicate with me! Having said that, he still spends the majority of his time without the company of other children. We own several children's videos (and watch special television programs) that involve children his age and slightly older. He is able to see

these children interact, communicate, dance, sing, and even display their good manners. These programs have been a positive enhancement to the social skills my son has picked up at home and at play.

The bottom line to this discussion is not whether television in and of itself is evil and should be kept as far from children as possible. It boils down to WHAT children are watching, how the programs are playing a part in the child's overall learning curriculum (is it the only source or is it a supplement to many other resources?), and the importance of having the child's caregiver nearby to interact along with the program. I take an active part in watching television programs with my son so we can learn and have fun together.

I realize everyone has their own views about watching television and I'm definitely no expert, but this has worked in my home and I hope by sharing my experience that you will be able to gain a little something from it. Best wishes in parenting!

Jennifer Tarzian provides a number of valuable resources for parents at

<http://www.youngparentsmagazine.com>

and

<http://homeschooling.youngparentsmagazine.com>

. For

information on credit cards and how to prevent identity theft, be sure to check out

<http://creditcards.youngparentsmagazine.com>

Shopping For Music Videos On DVD

By Michele Oberton

Individuals who love music videos have gone from Beta to VHS and now find their favorite tunes popping up on DVD. With each new step of technology, the pictures became more clear, the sound more defined and an improved experience overall. These qualities are all very important, especially when it comes to music videos. With crystal clear images, incomparable sounds and tons of added features, music videos on DVD are a hit.

Gone are the days when music videos were used just to promote a song. These days, they are so much more. Most music videos actually tell a story through a combination of lyrics and video. If you are looking to purchase music videos, the options are literally unlimited. Almost every retailer, both online and local, carries a wide selection of music videos from today's hottest new tunes and music superstars.

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The new music videos are generally more expensive than older titles so, if you're on a budget, check out the titles that have been released for a year or longer. You may be surprised at the bargains to be found. In addition, video clubs are a terrific way to build a nice collection of music videos and they tend to offer terrific deals every month.

If you're still in the market for music videos and haven't found a video rental store or local retailer, check out one of the many online retailers who offer a wide variety of music videos on DVD. The internet is perhaps the best way to find the widest selection of music videos with vendors around the globe. This broad reach offers shoppers with an opportunity to purchase music videos that they may otherwise not be able to find locally. With the internet, a customer's options are virtually endless. A never ending sea of music videos are just a click away.

If you are shopping for a child, you will want to make sure that the music videos you are selecting are appropriate for the child's age. When many think of music videos, they think of the latest in pop or rock `n roll when, in fact, there are actually other varieties. There are music videos especially designed for children, which feature cartoon characters and animated video for your child to enjoy. The most important thing to consider when it comes to music videos, including both their audio and video features, is that it is age appropriate.

Want to learn more about music videos? Make sure you visit our site at:

<http://www.music-videos-online.info>

for access to additional music videos tips and information.



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