Electronic Media for Children; Beneficial or Negative?

LECTICIA SALAZAR
JOHN GAFFNEY
BIANCA MADRIGAL
STEPHANIE GARCIA
RUBI PEREZ
Are there good reasons to allow infants/toddlers to consume electronic media, such as TV?

• Many studies have reported that the media plays an important role on many aspects in children’s lives such as obesity, inactivity, attention problems, aggression, and sleep patterns.

• Research has shown that non-educational programs have proven to have negative effects on infants’ cognitive outcomes, and how prepared for school they are.

• Infants and toddlers watch more and more television every day, which is mostly non-educational shows.

• There are also reasons to believe that the effects of television may in fact be different by different levels of parental education and work abilities.
Parents’ role in media effects on children:

- It is possible that parents who allow their children to watch large amounts of television, especially at early ages, are different than parents who do not. This may lead to different learning outcomes for these children.

- If parents with a higher education and work ability are more likely to monitor what their children watch, than the educational outcomes for their children will be different than those who do not monitor their children’s television shows.

- Another fact of parents’ who allow their children to watch whatever they want is whether the child’s parents were native speakers of Spanish or some other non-English language, since this has been shown to be related to the type and amount of television the children watch and is somewhat also associated with the individual school performance of the children.

- Parents have very little time to interact with their children due to the fact they work so much. So they rely on media to keep their children occupied. Parents have no time to teach their kids about letters and numbers; so they allow a TV show to teach their kids the things they do not have the time to teach them.

- It keeps their children busy while they are doing work around the house.
Parents own media habits also relate a lot to their kids.

• There is a pattern between how much time a parent spends using media and their kid. Kids follow what their parents do.
• 6 months to 6 years old have watched TV (94%)
• Videos or DVDs (87%)
• More than 4 kids in 10 have used a computer, due to the amount of computer time their parents use. (43%)
Negative Effects of media on children

- The power of electronic media exposure
- A violation to the protection of children's cognitive, social, behavioral, and physical health occurs.
- Children become obese and lethargic due to lack of physical activity, and increase in the amount of media they consume.
- They focus on TV more than their natural surroundings.
  - Social behavior is affected
  - They don't interact with others as well as children who do not use so much media in their every day lives.

Kids do what they see, copying the things that they are
Technology in and activities out

• Expert’s worry that kids will do less physical activity due to media. Kids might rather stay in and watch TV, then go outside and explore.

• Children begin to become lazy, choosing to stay in, sitting in front a TV or computer, rather than going out and using their gross motor skills. Media also keeps kids from using their imagination more.
• Kids who watch TV and those who watch videos or DVDs spend an average of about one and quarter hours on each.

• While those who play video games and use computers spend an average of just under and hour each.

• Electronic media has a negative impact on toddlers because they influence violence and aggressive behavior, on sexuality, on physical activity, obesity and nutrition, on substance use and abuse and addiction, on anxiety, depression, irregular sleep, and attention deficits, on cognition, language and reading.

• National survey states TV mostly helps 38% and or mostly hurts 31% children learning and 22% say it doesn’t effect in either way.

• There is no doubt that television and other electronic media negatively influence children's mental and somatic well-being.

• Media has deeply changed the life of children and exposed them to a powerful experiment with irregular and possibly irreversible outcomes in many different aspects.
Typical day of a kid today:

- 83% of children age 6 months to 6 years use some form of screen media
- 32% children watch videos or DVDs
- 3.16% use the computer
Same habits as they get older

- As they get older an average of 6 hours and 21 minutes is watched per day.
  - 68 percent of kids, and teenagers have TV’s in their rooms.
  - 1 in every 5 adults ends up having diabetes due to the lack of exercise.
Media effects on children Pros:

• Some articles believe that media made for infants/toddlers is more beneficial, rather than negative.
• Many shows have been proven to be very educational to kids. Some programs in TV also help kids learn about sharing and being good.
• Infants and media learn new things
  ▪ Developed their minds into thinking straight
  ▪ Long-term concentration
  ▪ Experimenting with baby video

Possible Beneficial of Infant Videos
**Violent Video Games are not linked to Real-World Violence**

• People are wrong to blame video games linked to children being or becoming violent.

• “Based on numerous studies and statistical analysis, violent video games don't turn children into emotionless, trained killers.” Violent video games don't make our culture they say something about it.

• The statistics say that violent crimes
Results from studies

- The number of hours per day of television viewing was 2.2 for children younger than 3 years. Children aged 3 to 5 years watched an average of 3 and a half hours per day.
- Television viewing before age 3 years was associated with a harmful effect on both reading recognition and reading comprehension.
- Short-term memory skills are reduced due to the amount of TV watched by children at the age of 7.
- Mathematics test scores are lowered due to the amount of TV children have watched by the age of 6.
We chose parents vs. students because we wanted to see the different opinions, if any, that each different group had. We wanted to know whether or not having a child would affect the way that people viewed electronic media. Whether they thought that electronic media was more beneficial, or negative for their children.
• We had asked the survey takers “does electronic media have an impact on obesity, inactivity, and aggression in infants and toddlers” as well as “do you believe that electronic media is more beneficial or negative for toddlers/infants”. For the first question more non-parents, as well as parents agreed that electronic media does impact these negative outcomes. For the second question non-parents still agreed that electronic media was negative, however parents seemed to somewhat change their answers. Parents indicated that they see electronic media as more beneficial for infants rather than the opposite. Most parents stated that they limit screen media.
Results

• 60% of men said yes, while 40% said no
• 67% of women said yes, while 33% said no
• 60% of parents said yes, while 40% said no
• 65% of non-parents said yes, while 35% said no
Results

• 50% of men said that it was beneficial, while 50% said it was negative

• 53% of women said that it was beneficial, while 47% said it was negative

• 80% of parents said it was beneficial, while 20% said it was negative
Results

• 60% of men said yes, while 40% said no

• 73% of women said yes, while 27% said no

• 20% of parents said yes, while 80% said no

• 80% of non-parents said yes, while 20% said no
Results

• 52% of the survey takers were men
• 48% of the survey takers were women
• 22% of the survey takers were parents
• 78% of the survey takers did not have children

As a group we surveyed 50 people by Internet, handing out surveys in person, and through friends. When asked, more than half of the people surveyed said that electronic media does impact obesity, inactivity, and aggression in toddlers and infants. More than half of each group, males, females, and parents, agreed that electronic media does impact
References:


• "Violent Video Games Are Not Linked to Real-World Violence" by Torrey Meeks. Popular Culture. David Haugen and Susan Musser,