

absent from the home, and toward families with a single working parent, has accelerated. As a result of constant, unsupervised television viewing, many children's perception of reality becomes blurred.

121. Authorities agree on the need for an adult to be present with a child who is watching a violent program in order to interpret and provide guidance. The sad fact is that a great many children from a very early age are "babysat" by television. One of the results of this unfortunate practice is speech retardation, and another is that these children do not learn to trust other people.⁶⁴

122. There is another danger from the pervasiveness of television. Children learn some of their values from it since it is an efficient teaching method. Too often the value stressed is material success. "Crime tends to result when children learn values but not clear means to achieve them. Teaching that wealth and material goods are ultimate values but providing no plausible, legitimate pathway to achieve them, makes criminal activity highly tempting."⁶⁵

123. Television heroes have a powerful modelling effect on the young. Watching others commit violent acts, whether in sports or in crime programs, has an effect on children. They "learn to emulate their heroes."⁶⁶ In our North American society, boys "are rewarded for violent behaviour, and the media, of course, reinforce this at every hand."⁶⁷ This, too, is part of the values our children are learning from television.