

NEWSLETTER

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MORE NEWS ABOUT TV

Sorry to keep harping on TV limits but I just came across some startling statistics.

- The average time kids from 8 to 18 years old spend reading is 43 minutes per day.
- The average time they spend watching TV including videos, DVDs, and prerecorded programs is 3:51 hours per day.
- Total computer use averages 1:02 hours per day.
- Total time playing video games averages 0:49.

In other words time in front of some sort a screen comes to more than ten times more than time spent with a book.

AND 68% of these children have a TV set in their bedroom compared to 31 % with a computer.

When I was girl my father was what was called a radio engineer (electrical engineer now). He went from vacuum tubes to cathode ray tubes to transistors and probably would now be working with microchips if he were alive. He was provided with a TV set in Boston the year TV was introduced. There was nothing on the screen because nothing was yet being broadcast. My father was alerted when a test pattern would be sent and he was to report its clarity. TV was such a novelty that neighbors came over to watch the test pattern! When programming started our living room was filled. to overflowing and my mother complained about what the crowds were doing to her furniture springs.

>From a novelty to a rarity to over two thirds of America's kids with TV in their bedroom all took place in less than 6 decades. Early TV was a community event. When my children came along TV was a family event and we watched the moon landing together.

Screen time is not only displacing kids from books but also from connections to others.

I can't for the life of me think of why any child needs a bedroom TV unless the child has just broken a leg and is confined to bed for a few months. I do know children need books and time playing with other children. What TV has created is a gigantic displacement wave that washes over all families.

Think about how you can stem this tide in your own home. Let me know if you have come up with any creative ideas to tame the TV monster so I can share them with my readers. (info@ParentKidsRight.com)