



Australian Council on Children and the Media

*fact
sheet*

Should my child have a television in his or her bedroom

One of the most valuable roles a parent can play in their child's relationship with the media, is to be an informal "media educator".

The evidence is that parents who comment on what children are seeing can minimise the impact of the content. For example a parent can say "What do you think would happen if you did that here in our family?" (say in relation to a violent program), or "Does this look like it did on TV?" (when out shopping) .

If a child sees something scary or that they don't understand, a parent who is in the same room has the opportunity to see the impact and to take appropriate steps to comfort or distract.

The child who is watching TV, or using the Internet, or playing computer games on their own in their bedroom, is more vulnerable.

Parents miss out on the "teachable moments" that are so important.

Keep public media public!

