

Parents' CLIPBOARD

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

BY THE PARENTS & READING COMMITTEE OF THE COLORADO COUNCIL, INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

Controlling Media Violence at Home

By the end of elementary school, the average child will have seen 8,000 murders and 100,000 other violent acts in the media. Parents may be surprised that the level of violence during Saturday morning cartoons is higher than the level of violence during prime time. Media violence is especially damaging to young children (under age 8) because they can't easily tell the difference between real life and fantasy. (Source: *American Academy of Pediatrics*)

Parents can reduce the effect media violence has on children by:

- Limiting the amount of television children watch to 1 to 2 hours a day.
- Monitoring the programs children watch and restricting children's viewing of video programs and video games.
- Teaching children alternatives to violence.

Additional Resource:
Remote Control Childhood?
By Diane E. Levin

- Keeping TV sets out of children's bedrooms and in a more public place.

Parents can help children develop media literacy skills by:

- Helping children distinguish between fantasy and reality.
- Teaching them that real-life violence has consequences.
- Watching television with children and discussing the violent acts and images that are portrayed. Ask children to think about what would happen in real life if the same violent act were committed. Would anyone die or go to jail? Would a person really be able to drive a car super fast, down narrow streets, without crashing?
- Selecting programs designed to promote children's positive development and learning, such as those on public television.

Parents' Q&A

Q I am often asked for help with spelling words as my second grader is writing at home. What are some ways I can respond to "Mom, how do you spell...?"

A ❖ "If you guess the first and last letters, I'll tell you the rest!" Even a couple of letters attempted can involve a child in puzzling out the word.

❖ "Write it down the way you think it is and I'll take a look." Show him how many letters he wrote correctly. Say, "Nice try! Four out of six letters right!"

❖ "I don't know, but I'll help you look it up." Your willingness to search for information sets a good example. Draw one blank for each letter in the word. Fill in the most difficult letters and let your child try the rest.

Source: *Sandy Backlund, CCIRA Parents and Reading Committee*
For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped business envelope for a free copy of *Spelling Practice at Home* to CCIRA, 10266 Rustic Redwood Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Colorado Kids' Favorite Books

Each year the children of Colorado vote for their favorite Picture Book and Junior Novel. Votes are received from over 68,000 students and the winning authors and illustrators are presented with special awards at the annual Colorado Council of the International Reading Association's Conference. Some recent winners include:

PICTURE BOOKS:

2004 – *Take Me Out of the Bathtub* by Alan Katz
2003 – *Baloney, Henry P.* by Jon Scieszka
2002 – *David Goes to School* by David Shannon
2001 – *Hooray for Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester

JUNIOR NOVELS:

2004 – *Double Fudge* by Judy Blume
2003 – *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket
2002 – *Ghosts of the White House* by Cheryl Harness
2001 – *Bunnicula Strikes Again* by James Howe