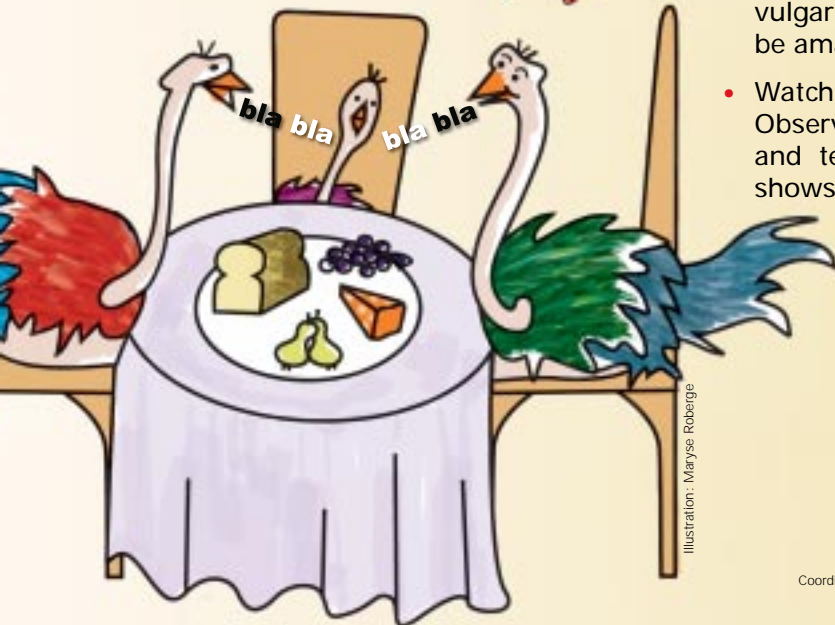


Parents also have a role to play

Protecting your children is not the sole responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. Every home also has a **family government**. Parents must protect their children against shows, games and movies that can damage their imagination. There is no shame in protecting your child against the horrors of television. You can supervise and limit your child's television watching, both in terms of quantity and quality. Some shows have a beneficial influence on children, while others only stifle them.

The School board urges parents and the general public to contact decision-makers. Proudly demand that the government protect your children during the hours they are most likely to be watching.



*Violence... Let's talk about it
so we can better deal with it!*



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Practical advice for parents

- Play with your child instead of watching television or playing video games.
- Reading and exercise are much more rewarding than television.
- Television does not have a place in your child's bedroom.
- Don't eat in front of the TV.
- Set a limit on your child's weekly television watching (suggested maximum: seven hours).
- You have to right to forbid your children from watching certain shows and playing certain video games.
- Many horrific advertisements are shown during the late afternoon or at supertime. Television is not a babysitter.
- Your children know shows that teach fear, vulgarity and violence. Talk to them. You'll be amazed.
- Watch the shows your child watches. Observe their reactions, question them and tell them what you think of these shows.

tv violence

This is what health professionals have to say on tv violence:

"Television violence exerts an undeniable influence on all children. While it does not turn all children into criminals and is not the only driving force at work, studies all point to the same conclusion: the risk to a growing number of children will someday affect the quality of life and the safety of society as a whole."

Dr. Richard Lessard, director
Direction de prévention et de santé publique de
Montréal-Centre

Mr. Brian Bexton, president,
Association des médecins psychiatres du Québec

Ms. Rose-Marie Charest, president,
Ordre des psychologues du Québec

Dr. Yves Lamontagne, president,
Collège des médecins du Québec

Mr. Pierre Gaudreault, president,
Association des pédiatres du Québec

Mr. Michel Turcotte, president, secteur orientation
Mr. Marcel Renou, vice-president, secteur psychoéducation
Ordre des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation et
des psychoéducateurs et psychoéducatrices du Québec

Mr. Louis Beaulieu, M.O.A., president and CEO,
Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec

Your children and

tv violence



tv violence

In our modern world, school is not the only place where your child gains knowledge. Television and video games take up the majority of children's leisure time, 20 hours a week on average.

Children's programming serves up (three to six times) more violence than other types of shows. Already you can see a problem.

In 1994, faced with a growing public backlash, broadcasters committed to regulating their programming. The result? In 2001, two researchers found that:

- the number of acts of violence shown on private networks in the province of Quebec had jumped by **432%**. Furthermore, over **80%** of all acts of violence were now being broadcast before 9:00 pm.

Television violence has consequences. Among other things, it stifles imagination, promotes fear, inhibits learning, causes behavioural problems, diminishes social skills, and contributes to the rising crime rate.

Tv violence is NO LONGER A QUESTION OF OPINION!

The specific negative aspects of tv violence are known and proven.

In a joint memorandum submitted to the American Congress (June 2000), doctors, paediatricians, psychologists and psychiatrists said that "at this time, well over 1000 studies (...) point overwhelmingly to a causal connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children. The conclusion of the public health community, based on over 30 years of research, is that viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values and behavior, particularly in children."



According to scientific studies ...

- Children exposed to violence on television and in video games are more likely to exhibit violent behaviour.
- In some children, consumption of television violence at an early age can have life-long consequences.
- There is a direct link between aggressive behaviour and consumption of television violence.
- Television violence desensitizes children to real violence and suffering.
- Tv violence makes violence socially acceptable, normal, and inevitable. It promotes passivity in the face of aggression. It causes people to demand repressive security measures from the authorities.
- Some recent studies reveal that video games may be worse than television, because they condition children to act without thinking.
- Horror movies cause fears, and even life-long phobias in children. Children who do not react with fear while watching horror movies are actually finding reassurance by hiding their anxiety. This anxiety comes out when children are given the chance to express themselves.

Violence... Let's talk about it so we can better deal with it!



Protecting children against television violence.

It's an urgent responsibility!

Regulating television violence does not restrict artistic freedom any more than forcing shippers of dangerous goods to avoid some tunnels and to slow down in a school zone restricts their freedom to ship. These policies have been put in place to protect the public.

To protect our children, the government must regulate broadcasting of violent programming. This responsibility cannot be left solely to the parents. Parents cannot monitor their child constantly.



Driving on public roads is subject to laws that, **FIRST AND FOREMOST**, are aimed at **protecting our children**. There are laws regulating the manufacturing of cribs. Does anyone think that such laws restrict the artistic freedom of the craftsman? Who would dare argue that this type of responsibility lies with the parents?

The safety of your children should not take a back seat to the freedom of broadcasters, but it does, because broadcasters refuse to **recognize this fact**.

This is irresponsible behaviour from an industry that uses violence as a marketing tool. The government must guarantee the protection of the most vulnerable members of our society, **YOUR CHILDREN**.

Broadcasters must promote the health and safety of children. This responsibility is shared between broadcasters and parents, and school can also do its part to help.

What are we doing to our children when we bombard them with violent programming when we know they are watching?

