Thoughts on TV's Influence on Children
by Vincent Sawyer

1. What are the affects of television on children educationally?

TV robs precious time so that children don't have time to do their homework. Just about every program discourages education by the absence of anything scholarly in the programs. TV does give children a broad view of things, but rarely does it teach them culture, history or archeology, or origins of life from a Biblical perspective. TV produces a visual-oriented society and detracts people from reading.

2. What are the affects of television on children physically?

TV affects children physically by exposure to radiation, which could have harmful effects. The affect of TV, which is rapidly-moving frames, has a negative effect on eyesight if viewed for prolonged periods of time. TV fosters laziness, provides occasion for over-eating, abuse of snacking -- all of which lead to obesity. Television is probably the primary cause of obesity in the United States of America.

3. What are the affects of television on children behaviorally?

Television creates impatience in children. The scenes shift every few seconds to retain interest; children who are accustomed to this lose patience when they are shown something that doesn't have the fast-moving and constant transitioning that TV does. The TV shows condition them to require fast-moving new scenes, and affects their ability to concentrate and to focus on any one thing for any length of time. Television definitely generates a dissatisfaction with possessions the child owns and creates in him/her a desire for something new that is being advertised. The child wants the new toy, the new cereal, the new outfit, etc. Outside of a few old programs (like "Little House on the Prairie"), TV generally teaches disrespect for authority, situation ethics, domestic role reversals, and contributes to worldly peer pressure. If producers made wholesome films that taught morals, ethics, proper family relationships, respect for authority, and faith in God, there could be wholesome benefits to television. Television is a tool; it can be used for good or bad, and it can modify behavior for good or bad. The problem is that TV is primarily in the hands of an anti-God system.