



Using Television in the Home: TV Tips for Parents



Selecting and Watching TV Together

One of the most important things you can do to help your children get the most from TV is to select smart television and watch it with them.

- Use a TV guide to plan smart television. Smart television is well suited to the interest and development of your children.
- Before you select a TV program for your children, know what the program is about.
- Select programs that deal with topics that interest your children.
- Watch TV with your children. Watching TV with your children allows them to ask questions and talk about what they see.
- Watching TV together helps you to point out experiences that are familiar to them.
- By watching TV together, you can learn how much they understand about the program and if there are parts that are unclear to them.



Using the VCR

Tape programs that you think are appropriate to use with your children.

- Tape special programs that your children love and that you feel are good for them to see again.
- By taping a program, you can watch the whole program again or just special parts.
- By having a program on tape, you can watch short segments that are of special interest for your children.
- Stop or pause a tape to ask questions or to explain a point that may be unclear to your child.



Encourage Active Viewing

Children learn from doing, seeing, listening and imitating.

- If you join in on some of the activities of a television program, it will encourage your children to actively participate.
- Children learn many skills through active participation—talking, playing, dancing, and singing.

- Encourage your children to ask questions, move to the music, and express their feelings to the things that they see and hear on TV.
- Encourage your children's television viewing to be interactive and not a silent experience.



Extend the Television Experience

After watching a television program, plan to do activities with your children that relate to the theme of the program.

- Reading books, planting seeds, drawing, painting, or cooking together are fun ways to extend the television experience with your children.
- Find books that match the topics and ideas of the TV programs you watch.
- Read aloud to your children each day and encourage them to look at books on their own.
- Don't hesitate to read the same story again and again.
- For more activity ideas related to PBS KIDS TV programs visit pbs.org/parents/fungames.



Limit Television Time

It is through play that children make sense of their world. Children's active manipulation of objects, and their repeated interactions with people and things allows them to make many discoveries about how things work in their environment.

- Children need lots of time to move, talk, play, and be with adults and other children.
- TV is a powerful learning tool but it can't replace hands-on learning or take the place of the care and interactions that children need from you.
- Parents must be in control of the television viewing in the home.

For the best possible TV learning experiences for your child, choose Smart TV and watch it with your child!