

# Media Violence and Kids

Is your child's health affected when s/he wins points by harming an opponent in a video game? Watches the bad guys kill their victims in a TV story? What about when s/he cheers on the good guy who blows up the evildoer in a movie? Do kids learn that using violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflict? Do they become less sensitive to people who get hurt or lose a family member because of a violent act? Do they become more fearful that they could be a victim of violence in real life?

Watch one of your child's favorite TV shows or play a favorite video game. Use this checklist to identify the potential influence violent media content has on your child's development. The more statements you check YES, the greater the risk to your kids. Make sure to share your feelings about the "right" and "wrong" of using physical or verbal aggression. Explore nonviolent ways to deal with situations.

	YES	NO
Bullying, fighting, or other violence is used to deal with a situation.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The violence is realistic—it looks like it could happen in real life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The victim is likeable or reminds you of someone you know and like.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The heroes or villains are valued for their combat abilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The characters have a good reason for using violence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The "good guys" or "bad guys" are rewarded for using violence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The "good guys" or "bad guys" are not punished for using violence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weapons like guns, knives or ropes are used.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some things that happen during the violent scenes are funny.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For the victims and their families, life goes right back to normal and the pain, sadness, or anger are not shown.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>