THE EFFECT OF RESTRICTED TELEVISION VIEWING ON THE VIOLENT REMARKS OF A FIVE YEAR OLD BOY

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The five year old boy in this investigation displayed a high rate of violent language. Statements concerning killing and injuring people were quite common. This abusive behavior was found to be concurrent with socio-violent television programs that the subject previously viewed. The parents were extremely upset by these unprecedented outbursts and were considering a variety of interventions to alleviate the problem.

Previous to beginning any interventions, the parents were asked to restrict the subject's viewing of violent television programs. As shown in Chart 1, this resulted in a drastic decline in violent remarks. The parents concluded that further interventions such as professional counseling and corporal punishment were unnecessary.

This study illustrates the ease of using a functionally related event as an effective intervention in the treatment of a behavior problem. It suggests that a wide variety of problems may be treated in a similar manner.
Parents restricted the viewing of violent television programs.

Chart 1. Using a Functionally Related Event as an Intervention.