**Lycée Départemental de Donsin School year 2014-2015**

**Teacher: Mr. Ramdé Level: 1ère A4**

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**Text: Children and Television**

Television has been changing the way people live for thirty years. It influences nearly every aspect of modern life: how people use their leisure time, how news is reported, how information is learned, and how people think and feel. Children are particularly susceptible to the effects of television because their minds are growing, developing and learning much faster than those of adults.

Social scientists, teachers and parents are troubled by the kinds of television program children choose to watch. These groups of people are concerned about the media’s impact on young children. They are worried about the effects of televised violence on society. Most importantly, however, they feel television is one factor that causes declining math and reading scores among schoolchildren. Because of the excessive time spent watching TV, children are spending less time reading and thinking independently.

Experts are concerned about the view of the world that youngsters are learning from television. Parents, schools and churches have traditionally been the social models and teachers for children. However, because television influences children’s attitudes and behaviour, its role in society is becoming increasingly more powerful – it is much more than a simple recreational activity. Indeed, television has changed childhood more than any other social innovation in the history of the world.

Exposure to excessive violence is another influence of television. According to several studies, television violence may cause children to become more aggressive. Also, because so much violence is seen by children on television, they become more used to it as the only solution to difficult situations. Children who watch a great deal of violence on television may become apathetic toward actual aggression. One study has shown that children who watch aggressive television broadcasts are slower to ask for adult help when a fight breaks out among young children. This decreased sensitivity to human suffering is frightening. It could lead to much more societal violence.

By Joan s. Lublin *The Television Era*