

Alienating Factors for Children & Families

1. Bad things are sensationalized way out of proportion . . . children are conditioned to view the world as a hostile, scary place:
 - “Entertainment” news
 - Talk shows
 - Missing children on milk cartons
 - Over sensationalized news – “If it bleeds, it leads.”
2. Dysfunction is glamorized on reality tv, talk shows and “real life drama” movies where emotionally sick people get positive attention and reinforcement for their unhealthy and destructive behavior.
3. Violence and aggression is glorified and depicted as an acceptable way of resolving problems between individuals and groups of individuals.
4. Isolation has increased and young people have fewer meaningful relationships with multiple adults:
 - Fewer extended family members live close by
 - Less “neighboring” going on
 - Even in families – parents and children may watch television in separate rooms, isolated from one another. Children experience televised events, movies, internet sites, video games, on their own – depending on their own immature interpretive abilities
5. Our “stories” about ourselves and others become distorted based on perceptions of reality derived from television, movies and the news.