Violent Media/Violent Video Games: The Link to Behaviors in Children

Intended Audience: New Parents and Students 15-18 yrs. old.

Objectives:

1. Identify behaviors of pre-school or elementary age children.
2. Relate observed behaviors possibly learned from violent media/video games.

Overview: Using observation skills with behaviors of children, is there a tie between behaviors learned and violent media?

Needed Material/Resources: Textbook – The Developing Child.

Video Description/Length: Use the fourth question: Are violent video games teaching our children to accept an increase in violence as a way of life?

Activities:

1. (15 min.) Using class notes on the "PIES of Maturity" (attached on the bottom) while watching the video segment, write down one example of how violent behavior relates to each area of development.
2. (20 min.) In groups of 4 or 5, brainstorm how any of these behaviors could have been learned. (Groups need a recorder, timer, reporter, and observer.) Relate behaviors to violent media/video games.
3. (12 min.) Recorders list behaviors related to violent media/video games on bulletin board, flip chart, or overhead transparency as reporters share these with the class. Class discussion on final list.
4. Homework assignment: Observe children in an unstructured setting (play at park, babysitting, recess, etc.) for at least 30 minutes. Record kind, caring and/or violent/disrespectful behaviors in each of the PIES of Maturity on the worksheet.

Assessment: Upon completion of homework one week later, bring back completed observation form. Each student share one behavior noted that could have a tie-in to violent media/video games.

Follow Up/ Next Steps/ Actions: Conduct a Socratic seminar by asking the question: "Are violent video games teaching our children to accept an increase in violence as a way of life?"

Observation of Children

PIES of Maturity Areas

Name: _____ Date: _____

Describe the setting: _____
_____

Ages/number of children observed: _____

Record behaviors of children in the proper categories below:

	Disrespectful/ Violent Behaviors	***Kind Behaviors***
P(Physical)		
I(Intellectual)		
E(Emotional)		
S(Social)		
M(Moral)		

Summary of observation:
_____
_____
_____

Follow Up Question:

1 . Were these behaviors age appropriate?

2. Were there any prevalent behaviors?