

# Crisis Connection

## Television Parental Controls

[www.thetvboss.com](http://www.thetvboss.com)

### Satellite Controls

Use your satellite service parental controls to block unwanted programming by channel, restrict programming using the TV Ratings, establish spending limits on pay-per-view purchases and limit television viewing hours.

#### For DirecTV

\*Press the 'menu' button on your remote and select 'parental', then 'edit settings'. Look for the selections that indicate 'ratings', 'channel blocks', 'spending, or 'hours.

\*Follow the easy-to-understand on-screen directions.

\*Select 'lock now' and you will be asked for a personal identification number (PIN)

\*After setting up, you will need to enter your PIN to access restricted programming.

#### For DISH Network

\*Press the 'menu' button on your remote to access the parental controls and system locks feature.

\*Select 'locks'.

\*Choose the locks appropriate for your family.

\*Lock the system and set your password.

\*After the controls are in place, you can watch the shows you like by entering your PIN or password.

### Cable Controls

Use the parental controls in your cable set-top box to block programs by channel, title, rating, or time & date. You can also block pay-per-view and video on demand purchases.

\*Click the 'menu' or 'settings' button on your remote control and access 'the main menu' to begin. Get more instructions for your cable set-top box.

### V-Chip

The rating that flashes on the screen during the first seconds of a television program contains a special electronic identification signal that registers how the program has been rated. All TV's with the V-Chip can receive and understand those signals. All new sets include V-Chip programming instructions in one or two places: (1) an onscreen menu that displays set-up options once the TV has been turned on, and (2) a written instruction guide that is included with the operator's manual.

Also check out:

[www.talkingwithkids.org](http://www.talkingwithkids.org)

[www.aamlainfo.org](http://www.aamlainfo.org)

<http://interact.uoregon.edu/MediaLit/mlr/home/>

[www.tvguidelines.org](http://www.tvguidelines.org)

[www.tvturnoff.org](http://www.tvturnoff.org)

<http://www.kff.org/entmedia/entmediafactsheetseries.cfm>  
[www.cme.org](http://www.cme.org)  
[www.vchipeducation.org](http://www.vchipeducation.org)  
[www.fcc.gov/vchip](http://www.fcc.gov/vchip)  
[www.aap.org/family/mediainpact.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/mediainpact.htm)  
[www.ciconline.org/medialiteracy101](http://www.ciconline.org/medialiteracy101)  
[www.nationaltelemediacouncil.org](http://www.nationaltelemediacouncil.org)  
<http://www.main.nc.us/cml/>

## Understanding the TV Ratings



### **TVY All Children**

This program is designed to be appropriate for all children. Whether animated or live-action, the themes and elements in this program are specifically designed for a very young audience, including children from ages 2 - 6. This program is not expected to frighten younger children.

### **TVY7 Directed to Older Children**

This program is designed for children age 7 and above. It may be more appropriate for children who have acquired the developmental skills needed to distinguish between make-believe and reality. Themes and elements in this program may include mild fantasy violence or comedic violence, or may frighten children under the age of 7. Therefore, parents may wish to consider the suitability of this program for their very young children.

### **TVFV Directed to Older Children - Fantasy Violence**

For those programs where fantasy violence may be more intense or more combative than other programs in this category, such programs will be designated TV-Y7-FV.

### **TVG General Audience**

Most parents would find this program suitable for all ages. Although this rating does not signify a program designed specifically for children, most parents may let younger children watch this program unattended. It contains little or no violence, no strong language and little or no sexual dialogue or situations.

### **TVPG Parental Guidance Suggested**

This program contains material that parents may find unsuitable for younger children. Many parents may want to watch it with their younger children. The theme itself may call for parental guidance and/or the program contains one or more of the following: moderate violence (V), some sexual situations (S), infrequent coarse language (L), or some suggestive dialogue (D).

### **TV14 Parents Strongly Cautioned**

This program contains some material that many parents would find unsuitable for children less than 14 years of age. Parents are strongly urged to exercise greater care in monitoring this program and are cautioned against letting children under the age of 14 watch unattended. This program contains one or more of the following: intense violence (V), intense sexual situations (S), strong coarse language (L), or intensely suggestive dialogue (D).

### **TVMA Mature Audience Only**

This program is specifically designed to be viewed by adults and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17. This program contains one or more of the following: graphic violence (V), explicit sexual activity (S), or crude indecent language (L).

**MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA RATINGS**

**G** - General Audiences. All ages admitted.

**PG** - Parental Guidance Suggested.

**PG13** - Parents Strongly Cautioned. Not appropriate for children under 13

**R** - Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or guardian.

**NC17** - No one 17 and under admitted.

**V** – Violence

**S** - Sexual Situations

**L** - Crude Indecent Language

**D** – Suggestive Dialogue

**FV**- Fantasy Violence

A report, *Parents, Children & Media: A Kaiser Family Foundation Survey* is a national survey of 1,008 parents of children ages 2-17. It was released on June 19, 2007 at a forum that included a presentation of key findings by Kaiser vice president and lead researcher, Vicky Rideout, followed by a roundtable discussion. The panelists included Mike Angus, general counsel, Fox Interactive Media (MySpace); Jim Dyke, executive director, TV Watch; Victor Strasburger, program chair, Council on Communications and Media, American Academy of Pediatrics and chief, Adolescent Medicine, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, and Tim Winter, president, Parents Television Council. A webcast of the event is available at: <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/entmedia061907pkg.cfm> .

The Findings:

Media Content

- About a quarter of parents (23%) say inappropriate media content is one of their “top” concerns as a parent, while another 51% say it’s a “big” concern, but not one of the top concerns.

Media Ratings

- Parents’ use of the TV and video game ratings has stayed virtually the same since 1998 at about 50%, while use of music advisories has gone up (from 41% to 52%), and use of movie ratings has declined (from 86% to 77%).
- Among parents who have used any of the media ratings, the proportion who say they find them “very” useful has increased over the years, from 43% to 58% for video game ratings, 45% to 56% for music advisories, and 42% to 49% for the TV ratings.
- Many parents still don’t understand what the TV ratings mean. Among parents who have children ages 2-6, only three in 10 can name any of the ratings used for children’s shows, including TV-G, or G, which means “general audience.” Only 11% know that the rating FV indicates violence (it stands for “fantasy violence”), while 9% think it means “family viewing.” And only 11% know that the rating EI means educational or informational programming. Among parents with any child ages 2-18, 61% know that TV-14 means the show may be inappropriate for children under age 14 and just over half (54%) know that TV-MA means for mature audiences.

V-Chip

- One in six parents (16%) say they have ever used the V-Chip to block specific TV content – not a statistically significant change from 15% in 2004 (but up from 7% in 2001).
- Eight in 10 parents (82%) say they have purchased a new TV since January 2000, when the requirement that all TVs over 13” be equipped with a V-Chip went into effect. Among those parents, more than half (57%) aren’t aware that they have a V-Chip.
- Among parents who have a V-Chip and are aware of it, 46% say they have used it.
- Among those who have used the V-Chip, 71% say they found it “very” useful.

#### Advertising

- One in three parents (34%) say they are “very” concerned that their children are exposed to too many ads in the TV programming they watch, while 35% say they’re “somewhat” concerned, 18% say they are “not too” concerned and 11% are “not at all” concerned.
- Among parents who are concerned about advertising, ads for toys top the list (18%), followed by video games (17%), clothing (17%), alcohol/beer (11%) and food (10%).

#### Educational Media

- A majority of parents (59%) say it’s true that children who watch educational TV have better verbal skills, and 41% say baby videos have a positive effect on early childhood development (17% say that’s not true, while 35% say they’re not sure).
- A majority of parents (56%) of younger children (ages 2-6) say baby videos positively affect development.
- The majority of parents with children ages 2-13 are at least somewhat satisfied with the number and quality of educational shows available for their children (16% are “very” satisfied, 50% “somewhat” satisfied), compared to 30% who say they are “not too” (21%) or “not at all” (9%) satisfied.

#### Internet Monitoring

- Among parents with children age 9 or older who use the Internet at home, four in 10 (41%) say they use parental controls to block access to certain websites.
- Among those whose children use e-mail, four in 10 (39%) say they read their child’s email or look in their inbox.



**Crisis Connection, Inc.**  
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