The Goods On Educational Television

Educational television may enable learning for many different age groups, however, shows aimed at children have a positive impact on the children's development. Children's development refers to the learning of cognitive, physical and motor skills in children, while educational television is anything shown on television that has a positive lesson. Children's shows are very prevalent on television, many of which would be considered educational. These shows help children develop, as children like most mammals learn by example, as is shown by Sesame Street, and as the shows are very engaging.

Learning by example is something that we see children do quite frequently. This behaviour can also be seen in mammals that hunt, and those that forage. Children's educational television may play a large part in this type of learning. Many different examples are displayed in these shows such as counting, telling time, learning new words, sharing, being nice to others, and even to only take what's yours. Thus by seeing examples of good behaviour or counting, children may begin to develop these skills themselves.

Sesame Street is a good example of being good for children's development, and was/is likely a large part of many North Americans childhood, particularly their Saturday mornings. It has numerous lessons, as well as a huge number of characters with varying personalities. It was originally created to be an educational yet fun children's show (Altman, 2008). In a recent meta-analysis is was shown that sesame street indeed had a positive impact on children's learning and development (Mares, 2013).

Educational television not only manages to show a lot of lessons, but also keeps children engaged. Many shows are designed with repetitive songs, or encourage children to 'participate' in whatever is happening on screen. This allows children to see the examples given, and also try it themselves. In this way they remain engaged, and by trying what they've seen or participating in the activity they may remember the lesson better, and develop cognitive and/or motor skills in the process.

The examples used, as well as the repetitive and engaging design of many educational television shows aimed towards children allow them to absorb lessons, and learn as they watch. From shows like Teletubbies to Franklin, there are good examples and lessons to be learned. Educational television, whether it is illustrating a lesson on numbers and words, or teaching a moral story is good for children's development.

References
