

Tekst 5

Programmed to bully

- 1 New research claims that 'Four-year-old children who watch more television than average are more likely to become bullies'. The research team, led by Dr Frederick Zimmerman, has added bullying to the list of potential negative consequences of excessive television viewing along with obesity, inattention and other types of aggression.
- 2 What the news reports have failed to mention, in their rush to blame TV for yet another social problem, is that the effect found was so small as to be barely significant. The researchers note: 'Each hour of television viewed per day at age 4 years was associated with a significant odds ratio of 1.06 for subsequent bullying.' In other words, children who watched TV for one hour a day more had a six per cent increased risk of being 'a bully'.
- 3 But there are plenty of other problems with this research. All the reporting is done by mothers, so what one mother considers to be bullying behaviour might be another mother's friendly horseplay. In fact, it must be extremely difficult to define what 'a bully' is for such a report. Does it mean violent behaviour? Would organising classmates to exclude a particular individual constitute bullying? Would someone who exhibits this behaviour at the age of six, but not at the age of eleven, fall into the category of a 'bully' for the purposes of this research?
- 4 Moreover, if there really is a link with bullying here, it has little to do with television as such. For example, watching television is a very passive activity. While not harmful in itself, it's a poor substitute for the social and intellectual engagement involved in play. Opportunities for free play are becoming increasingly restricted by parental fears. If some children then take longer to learn what is appropriate behaviour and what is not, that is hardly the fault of television but of the wider environment in which they grow up today.
- 5 That said, this particular research report also suggests a complete lack of historical perspective. Children have been picking on other children since time immemorial – and certainly a long time before the gogglebox was invented. Whether the amount of bullying going on is on the increase is surely impossible to know. However, we live in an age where the feeling of being a lonely, picked-upon individual is very fashionable. No wonder there's money to research bullying.
- 6 Television may be the source of innumerable bad programmes, but the evidence that it is responsible for society's ills is thin. Maybe it's time to pull the plug on this kind of research.

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- 1p 17 How does paragraph 2 relate to the point made by the “research team” in paragraph 1?

Paragraph 2

- A exaggerates it.
- B explains it.
- C puts it into perspective.

“But there are plenty of other problems with this research.” (alinea 3)

- 2p 18 Geef voor elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze wel of niet een probleem weergeeft dat in alinea 3 aan de orde komt.

- 1 De gegevens die voor het onderzoek zijn verzameld, zijn misschien niet betrouwbaar genoeg.
- 2 De invloed van ouders op het pestgedrag van hun kinderen wordt genegeerd.
- 3 Er is te weinig aandacht besteed aan de slachtoffers van pesterijen.
- 4 Het is heel lastig te bepalen wat er precies onder pesten valt.

Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.

“it has little to do with television as such” (paragraph 4)

- 1p 19 What possible other cause for bullying does the writer put forward in paragraph 4?

The lack of

- A contact between parents and children.
- B daycare facilities.
- C interaction among children.
- D social education in schools.

“this particular research report” (alinea 5)

- 2p 20 Geef voor elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de inhoud van alinea 5.

- 1 Het feit dat pesten iets van alle tijden is, komt in het onderzoek niet aan de orde.
- 2 Het onderzoek maakt duidelijk hoe eenzaam gepeste kinderen zich voelen.
- 3 Het onderzoek toont aan dat er heel veel gepest wordt tegenwoordig.

Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.

Een schrijver kan verschillende middelen gebruiken om de lezers te beïnvloeden, zoals:

- 1 de argumentatie samenvatten;
- 2 deskundigen aan het woord laten die het met hem eens zijn;
- 3 uitkomsten van eigen onderzoek presenteren;
- 4 zijn eigen mening naar voren brengen.

- 2p 21 Geef voor elk van deze middelen aan of de schrijver het wel of niet gebruikt in het artikel *Programmed to bully*.

Noteer het nummer van elk middel, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.