

## 7.20 Television, Computers, Electronic Games and Social Media Policy

<b>Policy number:</b> 7.20
<b>Date last reviewed:</b> March 2024
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Child Care Team

This policy relates to	
National Quality Standards Early Childhood Education & Care	
National Principles of Child Safe Organisations	

### Purpose

Careful use of Television, Computers and Electronic games can enhance the care experience for children, but needs to be carefully planned, monitored and evaluated by the educator.

### Policy

It is recommended that educators discuss the proposed use of electronic games, computers, videos and the internet with parents prior to their use. Television/commercial radio should only be used for specific planned activities, and should not be left on as a background activity or for background noise.

To extend on a child’s learning experiences, it is recommended that an educator interacts with the child/children who are watching a television program or playing an electronic or internet game. By sharing these experiences with children, educators are able to ensure that children are not exposed to violence, stereotypes or adult themes.

Educators are responsible for ensuring that the content of material is appropriate for the ages of children. Particular care should be taken when children are in out-of-hours care to ensure that the educator’s family routines are adapted if necessary to ensure that children in care are not exposed to unsuitable television or videos. Actively ensure that children only have access to DVD’s, technology, television or books that are age appropriate and discussed with parents. G-rating is recommended in most cases. This is particularly relevant if providing evening or overnight care. Internet use should be physically monitored and should only occur with parent’s permission.

Educators are encouraged to provide opportunities for children to practise using technology, such as printing birthday cards, using drawing programs and photography.

Television, computers and electronic games should be used for limited amounts of time with supervision. It is recommended that a maximum of one hour of television/video occurs per day. It is recommended that children under the age of 2 years do not watch television.

Educators should always make available alternative activities during times when television, computers or video games are in use.

If the internet is used, educators should be vigilant in their supervision to ensure that sites accessed are child-friendly in content. This includes Facebook, internet and all social media

### Key Resources

Australian Journal of Early Childhood (Dec 2005): *"Why do early childhood educators use computers in their classrooms?"*

[www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/australian\\_journal\\_of\\_early\\_childhood/ajec\\_index\\_abstracts/the\\_reasoning\\_behind.html](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/australian_journal_of_early_childhood/ajec_index_abstracts/the_reasoning_behind.html)

Rattler (Community Childcare Co-op NSW) Winter 2004 "What's On the Box" Young Media Australia:

*Top Ten Tips for Parents*

*What are the Risks Involved with My Child Using the Internet?*

*Tips for Safe Internet Use*

*Effects of the Media from a Child Development Perspective*

*Early Choices for Healthy Development*

*Developing Healthy Relationships*

*Developing Good Social and Emotional Skills*

*Developing a Strong and Confident Sense of Self*

*Developing Good Language Skills*

*Developing Good Thinking Skills – Analytical and Creative*

*Developing a Realistic Understanding of the World*

[www.youngmedia.org.au](http://www.youngmedia.org.au) [www.youngmedia.org.au/publications/fact\\_sheets.htm](http://www.youngmedia.org.au/publications/fact_sheets.htm)

Child and Youth Health: *Television [Parenting SA: Parent Easy Guide 7]*

[www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=122&id=1839](http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=122&id=1839)

[www.parenting.sa.gov.au/pegs/Peg7.pdf](http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au/pegs/Peg7.pdf)