

Parenting Cass #9 – Protecting Our Children:

1. **A Student's Obligation pg. 5:** Since a Jewish child has the spirit of G-d, the breath of the Lord, hidden and concealed within him from the moment of birth, it is necessary to raise him and educate him to bring out and reveal his godliness and allow it to flourish.
2. **Devarim 7:26:** Do not bring a abomination into your house since you will be accursed like it...you shall utterly detest an idol and utterly abhor it, for it is an objectively cursed thing.
3. **To Kindle a Soul:** [citing Psychoanalyst Bruno Bettelheim] Children who have been taught, or conditioned, to listen passively most of the day to the warm verbal communications coming from the TV screen, to the deep emotional appeal of the so-called TV personality, are often unable to respond to real persons because they arouse so much less feeling than the skilled actor.
4. **California Assessment Program, 1982:** Children who watched educational television once a day earned achievement scores identical to children who watched commercial TV, and both groups scored 10% lower than children who did not watch TV at all.
5. **Yale University Family Television Research & Consultation Center:** *Sesame Street* creates a psychological orientation in children that leads to a shortened attention span, a lack of reflectiveness, and an expectation of rapid change in the broader environment. ...well intentioned parents who allow their children to watch nothing but *Sesame Street*...might actually be encouraging overstimulation and frenetic behavior."
6. **New York Times, "Kicking the TV habit":** Parents seemed to have more trouble kicking the habit than their children. Several mothers were caught watching "General Hospital." Fathers buckled during hockey and basketball games. One of the fathers furtively watched Warner Wolf's sports report with an earplug. Another, who said he could not cheat because "I have two little detectives in my house," taped the Rangers' hockey games.
7. **Wall Street Journal:** Perhaps because encouraging children to watch television was so easy and pleasant when compared to the more disagreeable or difficult strategies of the past, parents overlooked the fact that those very behaviors that cause them trouble, those explorations, manipulations, and endless experiments in cause and effect, are profitable and indeed necessary activities for a small child, and that dealing with children's difficult behaviors by eliminating them entirely via the television set is not dissimilar to suppressing a child's natural behavior by threats of physical punishment, and surprisingly similar to drugging a child into inactivity.
8. **Talmud Shabbos 31a:** When they escort a person to his final heavenly judgment after his death, the Heavenly tribunal says to him: 1) Did you conduct your business transactions faithfully? 2) Did you set aside fixed times for Torah study? 3) Did you engage in procreation? 4) Did you wait in hope for the Messianic salvation? 5) Did you delve into wisdom? 6) When you learned Torah, did you learn it deeply, and infer one thing from another? But even so, all this is of

limited consequence; if fear of G-d was this person's storehouse, then yes, his judgment is favorable; and if it was not, then no, his judgment is not favorable.