

# But What About the Socialization?!?

The [Washington Post](#) recently reported on a new study about the effects of television viewing. Apparently, the more television a toddler watches, the more likely he is to be bullied in middle school.

*“[E]arly television viewing is linked with developmental deficits in brain functions that drive interpersonal relationships and how kids regulate their emotions. TV viewing also leads to poor eye-contact habits, which ... is a cornerstone of friendship and social interaction.”*

Such news is not surprising. We’ve long suspected that television viewing can have damaging effects on both young and old.

But what caught me by surprise was a statement by the study’s author, Professor Linda Pagani. She said:

*“‘More time spent watching television leaves less time for family interaction, which remains the primary vehicle for socialization.’ “*

Wait a minute. The family is the primary vehicle for socialization? That’s interesting, particularly since the age-old homeschooling critique, [“What about socialization?”](#) implies that children can only be properly socialized within the walls of a traditional public school.

Granted, important social lessons can be learned at school. But families have a potential socializing advantage that schools don’t: more frequent interaction with adults, which in turn offers a better initiation to maturity.

*Image Credit*