

## INFORMATION SHEET

## 15 HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TV FOR CHILDREN

- **Obesity** A result of little exercise.
- **Disrupted hormones** Light from televisions suppresses production of the key hormone melatonin.
- **Lowered immune system** Reduced melatonin may increase the chance of mutations in cell DNA, which causes cancer.
- Premature puberty Also linked to low levels of melatonin.
- **Sleep disorders** Over-stimulating the senses causes sleeplessness.
- Increased body fat Altered levels of the hormones leptin and ghrelin produce fat and boost appetite.
- **Poor concentration** Development of brain cells governing attention span is impaired.
- \* **Difficulty reading** A result of poor intellectual stimulation while young.
- Type 2 diabetes From eating high-calorie food while watching TV.
- Changes to skin immune cells Waves emitted by sets are linked to changes in skin 'mast' cells.
- \* Increased cholesterol A result of an inactive childhood.
- \*\* **Slower metabolism** Watching TV may slow the metabolism more than simply doing nothing.
- **Shortsightedness** Staring at a screen can lead to eye damage.
- \* Alzheimer's Disease Heavy viewing linked to increased risk.

Source: Dr Aric Siaman. Too much TV wrecks vour child's Health