

Peppa's baby sister makes world news

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Three little pigs: Viewers can expect to see the new piglet on screen in the autumn, but an hour-long cinema special, 'Peppa Meets The Baby', will be released on 30 May.

Can TV be good for children? Many of today's TV shows for young children are made with educational intent. But experts remain divided on their true benefits.

What's happening?

It was the biggest celebrity birth of the year.

On Wednesday, Mummy Pig — parent to the popular children's character Peppa Pig — gave birth to Evie Pig.

Evie's birth attracted huge interest for a fictional character. The pig made newspapers and international broadcasts.

The excitement points to just how important *Peppa Pig* is for young children and their parents. Watching TV brings people of all ages together.

Find out more

TV has often been called bad for the brain. It was nicknamed the idiot box and some parents forbade their children from watching it.

Today many shows for young children are designed by education experts. Take pre-school favourite *In the Night Garden*. It can seem like

gobbledygook to adults, but its use of rhyme and repetition is based on the way toddlers talk.

According to BBC Future, "educational TV content has been shown to help improve behaviour, literacy and **cognitive** skills".

Yet some research shows that screen use can harm our minds and that it decreases children's ability to imagine people, places and objects.

Can TV be good for children?

Some say

Yes! TV is a varied form. Much of it is rubbish, but there are shows that help young minds.

Others think

No! We have come to accept TV as educational, but we barely learn anything through sitting down and passively absorbing content.

Some people say

"I must say I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a good book."

Groucho Marx (1890 – 1977), American comedian

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - How much TV do you watch in a day? Do you think you learn from it?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: When was TV invented? Where in the world do children watch the most TV?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You are banned from watching TV. How would you spend the time instead?

5. Express

What do others believe? - "All media should try to educate us, even as it entertains." Hold a class discussion.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - In groups, discuss the different ways in which you learn things. Rank them.

Glossary

Gobbledygook - Language, especially in official settings, that is confusing, complicated, and difficult to understand due to excessive use of jargon or technical terms.

Cognitive - Relating to the processes of thinking and reasoning.