

STEP準1級 解答解説資料

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Kids and TV

① Television is a defining presence in modern society. In the United States, no less than 98 percent of households own a television. Its enormous popularity aside, the possible long-term effects of television watching among children have (29) for some time. In 1999, a national association of doctors who treat children recommended that children under two should be prevented from watching TV until more research was done. At that time, though, there was little scientific understanding of the potential problems, and this advice was generally ignored. ②

① More recent findings suggest that the (30). In particular, a causal link between television viewing and a disorder affecting the attention span of children was identified in a study by Dimitri Christakis at the University of Washington. This was an entirely new discovery—that television watching among the young had a direct negative effect on the way the brain functions. Previously, concerns about television viewing related to the indirect effects: that it replaced physical activity or led to more snacking. ②

① Given the latest evidence, (31) that the medical community has been pushing for more widespread attention to the public health threat posed by television. One professional, Dr. Aric Sigman of Britain's Royal Society of Medicine, has called on governments to regulate television use for children. He proposes setting limits on viewing hours and a complete ban for children under three. Some critics say this is the approach of an overly controlling government. Sigman disagrees. "There is simply too much at stake not to be responsibly decisive now," he says. ②

- (29) ① concerned the medical establishment
② led to changes in viewing habits
③ been hidden from the public
④ been accepted by parents

- (30) ① advice was useless
② benefits may appear later
③ fears were exaggerated
④ warning was justified

- (31) ① it is ironic
② there is little sign
③ it is not surprising
④ governments are unaware