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The Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations

I am writing in regard to the EDUCATION OF BOYS.

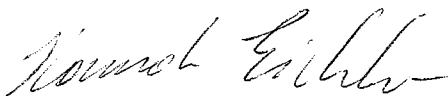
I would like to draw your attention to the special edition of SOAPBOX attached. It is not only boys who are suffering, girls do too, though they have an inner strength that makes them cope better with stress and other interferences.

One reason for the increasing number of boys showing learning difficulties and behaviour problems is their greater addiction to TV and computer games. (See Australian Bureau of Statistics 4901.0, Children's Participation in Cultural & Leisure Activities, released 18 Jan. 2001.)

According to my studies the rising noise level and the interference of the screen in early child development is disrupting the balance of the senses. Children are losing more and more their capacity to listen, but our School system is based on intellectual teachings transmitted by language.

The future education system has to look for a balance: We need more art and play to enrich children's sensual experiences. However teachers also must include ways of teaching which address the visual learning style of most boys with learning difficulties.

With friendly regards



Hannah Eichler