

Cloverbuds: Good Vibrations: The Science of Sound

Things to Try at Home

Turning Down the Volume 

Materials:

TV

Printed TV guide from newspaper or magazine

Optional: closed captioned videos or DVDs from your local library

What to do:

- Many TV shows, videos, and DVDs now come with a "Closed Captioning" option. This means that while the show is on, it is possible to choose to have words appear on the bottom of the screen that match words that are heard. If you have a TV or VCR or DVD that has a "Closed Captioning" symbol this choice is available to you through your TV remote control or on-screen functions.
- Use a TV guide from the newspaper and together choose a show to watch. Read a description of the show from the TV guide and look for the special "Closed Caption" symbol which looks like this . Also point out the time the show starts and how long it will take to watch it. Talk about why you decided to watch this show together. Is it funny, exciting, comforting, helpful, or educational?
Note: this activity will work better with shows that are taped. Shows that are "live" like news broadcasts, talk shows, and sports have the captioning typed at the same time people are speaking, so there is a short time delay between what is heard and what is read.
- Watch the show together with the captioning function on and the sound down very, very low.
- After the show, talk together about watching and reading at the same time. How is this different from just plain watching TV? How is it different from reading a book? How long do you think it would take to get used to watching "Closed Captioned" TV? Why do you think "Closed Captioned" programs started? What are some good things about "Closed Captioning"? Who do you think uses "Closed Captioning" the most?
- Optional: Try this experiment again with a "Closed Captioned" video or DVD from your local library. Note: some of these programs let you pick a language other than English for the "Closed Captioning".



Closed Captioning symbol