

From Suzanne Paule, FM Social Worker:

With summer vacation just around the corner, I wanted to share with you a valuable resource. The Smart Television Alliance publishes an online newsletter for parents with information to guide parents in making smart choices in television, video games, and movies for kids.

Following is a sample of what they offer, with links to sign up for the newsletter, free DVD's, and the SMART SUMMER program. And remember that the Patten Free Library offers computer access to all area residents. Have a great summer!

Helping smart parents make smarter choices about TV

www.smarttelevisionalliance.org

Smart News *Special Edition*

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Join STA's Smart Summer Campaign!



Free DVD Offer!



STA Members,

We are all facing difficult economic realities that are often beyond our control, but we can control what we want our families to see and hear in our homes. Turning off the television, videos games and the internet is rarely an option for parents (and would eliminate much excellent content) but that doesn't mean you have to be at the mercy of these.

STA encourages parents to **find out** how they can manage their families' electronic media use. Did you know your child's video game system might have parental controls built in? Did you know the use of a DVR like a TiVo is a great way to manage your kid's time in front of the television (and allow parents to record your own programs and watch them on your schedule)? Did you know that there are great places online for kids to learn and have fun this summer?

The Smart Television Alliance and our partners have put together a **one-stop-shop** that provides a lot of neat ideas for you and kids for this summer.

What the STA Smart Summer Campaign Provides Parents:

Television: Tips on how to take control of television by using home electronics (DVD's, TiVo, On Demand).

Online Activities: Sprout has created a whole web presence for pre-school kids to support our Smart Summer Project. In addition, the Smithsonian kids website and WordWorld are great places for kids to hangout, learn and have fun online.

Find Great TV Programs: We list recommended children's programs by experts. Or sign up for STA and write your own reviews.

Video Games: Find out the parental controls that are on home video game systems.