



Ready To Learn

**Iowa Public
Television**



The Learning Triangle

Engage children in these theme-related activities in any order and at any time. Point out the connections between the segment they **VIEW**, the book they **READ**, and the activity they **DO**. The repetition and variety of media used will reinforce the concepts and skills with children.

Animals

Animals, especially pets, can play important roles in children's early years. They can be trustworthy listeners for a child's secrets and feelings of loneliness, fear, or joy. By helping to take care of animals, children learn responsibility, caring and discipline, and that all living creatures need to be treated with consideration. Children are usually interested in all kinds of animals. Point out birds, insects, and worms that they see everyday. Talk about what they eat and how they move. Read non-fiction books about animals so children will learn true facts.

READ

Check out these books from your public library or school library.

Birth-2 years

- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- *Clifford's Animal Sounds* by Norman Bridwell (Spanish book available)
- *Perfect Pets* by Mandy Stanley (Bilingual book available)

3 years-Kindergarten

- *Butterfly* by Susan Canizares (Bilingual book available)
- *Wonderful Worms* by Linda Glaser
- *Big Dog...Little Dog* by P.D. Eastman

VIEW

Doctors say no screen time for children under the age of two years and no more than one to two hours of quality screen time each day for children age three years and older. As you make choices for the children in your care, please consider how much time they are viewing screens at home.

Birth-2 years

If you choose to let children ages birth to two watch TV, the IPTV programs most age-appropriate are: Barney, Mister Rogers, & Sesame Street.

3 years-Kindergarten

Dinosaur Train - Night Train #116A

- Friday, October 30, 2009 at 8:30 am on IPTV (.1)
 - Saturday, October 31, 2009 at 7:30 am & 10:30 am on IPTV LEARNS (.2)
- Dad, Buddy, and Tiny take a special ride on the Dinosaur Train at night, learning about animals that are active after dark.

Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood - Mr. Rogers Talks About Pets #1499

- Saturday, October 31, 2009 at 6:30 am on IPTV (.1)
- Mister Rogers takes Barney, the dog, out for a walk. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, Ana decides what she'd really like for her birthday is a kitten.



DO

Make changes in these activities to meet the needs of your children.

Birth-2 years

- Name the animals (real or not) that you see on a daily basis. If a child has a stuffed bear, say "This is a bear. Your bear is brown. The bear is soft." If you see a dog, say "There is a dog. He is a big dog." When you see a bird, say "That is a bird. Birds fly in the air." Children learn about animals when adults talk about them.

- Create a simple matching game. Cut two pictures of the same animal from magazines or advertisements. Cut two dogs, two cats, etc. They do not have to be exactly the same picture. Lay them out on the floor or table. Pick up one of them and say, "This is a dog. Let's find the other dog."

3 years-Kindergarten

- Reinvent "Follow the Leader" by doing an "Animal Walk" in which the leader imitates animals. Consider using different categories of animals, such as zoo animals, farm animals, or animals in the wild.
- Be a veterinarian! Help the children gather several stuffed animals. Pretend you are a pet owner with a sick or injured pet. The children can examine and treat your pet. Additional props that make the pretend play more fun include a bathroom scale, a stethoscope, bandages and a dog leash. Talk about what a vet does.
- Ask the children how many people they know that own pets. Make a bar graph on a chart. Write the number under the bar. Then ask how many of them have pets. Add a second bar to the chart. Next, ask how many have fish, cats, etc. and add those bars. Talk about the difference between the height of the bars and what that means.

Tip of the Month

Turn TV into a listening game. While watching a familiar show or movie, ask the child to turn her back to the TV set. When a familiar character begins to speak or sing, ask her to identify who it is just by listening.