



**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.

## Environment

April is the month we celebrate Earth Day. Preschool and Kindergarten years are an important time to teach children how to take good care of the earth. Simple activities like picking up trash, using old things in new ways, and recycling cans are things children can do to take care of the earth. Another way they can help the earth is to plant a garden with you. Plants are very important to us. They make lots of oxygen for us to breathe. They make our earth a beautiful place.

## READ

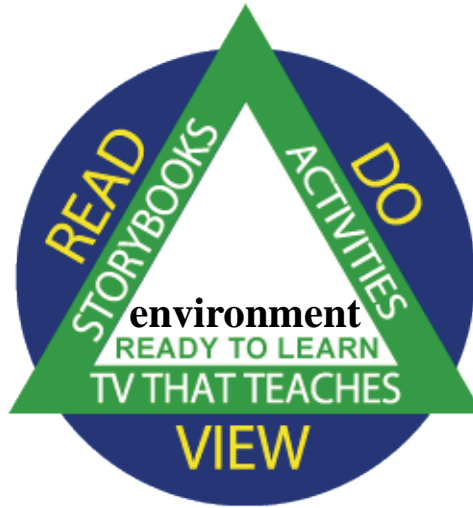
Check out these books from your public library or school library.

### Birth-2 years

- Te amo, sol ■ Te amo, luna / I Love You, Sun ■ I Love You, Moon by Karen Pandell (Bilingual book)
- ¡Vamos al parque! / Let's Go to the Park! published by Scholastic (Bilingual book)

### 3 years-Kindergarten

- From Seed to Pumpkin by Jan Kottke
- The Earth and I by Frank Asch
- Sun / Sol by Susan Canizares (Bilingual book)



## DO

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

### Birth-2 years

- The January 2008 issue of the *Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children* contained many wonderful articles about young children and nature. You can access some of them online at: <http://journal.naeyc.org/btj/200801/default.asp>

### 3 years-Kindergarten

- Help clean up a park or the neighborhood.
- Talk with children about what and how you can recycle at your preschool/center/home. Start a recycling project.
- Go on a nature walk. Have children pick up objects from nature such as rocks, bark, grass, leaves, flowers, nuts, etc., and put them into a bag. As you walk, encourage children to talk about what they see and hear in nature. Give them time to observe and ask questions. After your walk, work together to create a poster of items picked up on the nature walk.
- Talk to children about saving water when washing hands. Teach children to sing the ABC song or count to ten while washing her hands and turn the water off as soon as she is done.
- Give children a small cup full of dirt. Have them plant seeds in the cup. Water the seeds daily. Keep a journal; children can draw pictures of what they see the plant doing and guess what they might see tomorrow.
- For more information and activities with kids go to: [www.extension.iastate.edu/growinginthegarden/kids.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/growinginthegarden/kids.html)

## 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

*Martha Speaks* - Escape From Flea Island #114

- Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 6:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. Carolina organizes an expedition to gather exotic plants. When the canoe capsizes, a storm blows up, and the sun starts to go down, they worry they may never get off Flea Island.

*Caillou* - Hello Spring #319

- Friday, May 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Caillou is very sad when his snowman melts away in the warm spring sunshine. He helps Daddy clean up the yard and learns about composting. During a walk in the park he is reminded of all the good things about spring.

## Tip of the Month

Turn the TV and other screens off during meal and snack time. Enjoy some uninterrupted time talking with each other.