

Welcome to the August 2006 edition of Iowa Public Television's (IPTV) Ready To Learn (RTL) eNews. The purpose of this free monthly electronic newsletter is to keep families, educators, and child care providers informed of the great resources IPTV and our partners have to offer those who care for children ages birth to eight years of age. RTL is public television's response to a critical national education goal: All children will enter school "ready to learn."

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### \_\_\_\_\_The Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

Young children learn by doing—by interacting with people and objects around them. To learn, they need to experience things again and again. RTL uses the learning triangle to teach children skills and concepts by using PBS KIDS programs, books, and activities. 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 reinforces the skills and concepts you teach.

### \_\_\_\_\_How do you use the RTL Learning Triangle? Monthly Contest\_\_\_\_\_

IPTV's RTL service wants to hear from you! How do you use the RTL Learning Triangle? Send an email to Lisa Albers at [lisa@iptv.org](mailto:lisa@iptv.org) describing your triangle and how it worked for you and the children in your care. All emails received by the end of each month will be included in a drawing for 10 FREE children's books.

### \_\_\_\_\_Animal Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

Print versions in English and Spanish of this Animal Theme Learning Triangle can be found at the following location:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/downloads.cfm>

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.

#### READ IT

1. Clifford the Big Red Dog by Norman Bridwell—Emily Elizabeth describes the activities she enjoys with her very big, very red dog and how they take care of each other. (This book is also available in Spanish) (Infant-Preschool)
2. From Head to Toe by Eric Carle—Encourages the reader to exercise by following the movements of various animals; presented in a question and answer format. (Ages 4-8)
3. Perro Grande...Perro Pequeno/Big Dog...Little Dog by P.D. Eastman Two dogs are opposite in every way, but are the very best of friends. (This book is bilingual in English and Spanish) (Ages 4-8)

#### VIEW IT

ZOBOOMAFOO – This series features the Kratt brothers and lots of animals in every episode.

\* Weekdays at 6:30 a.m.

BOB THE BUILDER – Animal Habitats #108

\* Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at 3 p.m.

Bob and the team learn all about bird and animal homes.

BERENSTAIN BEARS – Trouble with Pets #109a

\*Thursday, August 24, 2006 at noon.

Brother and Sister adopt one of Farmer Ben's new puppies and soon discover that having a pet is a big responsibility. When the two pet owners leave to play with friends, the puppy stays behind and destroys the living room. As a result, the puppy is banished to the backyard. Brother and Sister apologize for neglecting their duties and Mama and Papa decide to give the cubs and the puppy a second chance.

#### DO IT

1. 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.
2. Cut pictures of animals out of magazines to make a collage. Label the animals or have the child do it. Talk about where the animals live, their likenesses and differences, etc.
3. Draw a pet picture. Have the child draw a picture of a pet that he/she would like to have someday. As the child describes the pet to you, print his/her words on the picture. Ask questions to prompt discussion. "Where would the pet live? What would you feed it?"
4. Ask children to describe their pet or a pet that they would like to have at home. Encourage them to imitate pet sounds and movements.
5. Identify pet characteristics by using picture clues. Example: A cat meows; a dog \_\_\_\_\_. A cat has paws; a fish has \_\_\_\_\_. This is a fun way for children to identify animals while also discovering the world of common and not so common pets!
6. Play Pretend Veterinarian - Help the child gather several stuffed animals. Pretend you are a pet owner with a sick or injured pet. The child can examine and treat your pet. Additional props that make the pretend play more fun include a bathroom scale, a stethoscope, adhesive bandages and a dog leash.

\_\_\_\_\_School Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

Print versions in English and Spanish of this School Theme Learning Triangle can be found at the following location:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/downloads.cfm>

While children are excited to go to kindergarten or preschool because it shows they are growing up, the change of routine, a new place and strange people can make this new experience a little scary. Sometimes children start acting like they did when they were younger: sucking their thumbs, clinging more to parents, needing more attention. Parents can help children by telling them stories of their first days at school, providing opportunities to talk with children about their excited or scared feelings and reading books about school experiences. Children should know what a day at school will be like and what others felt about their first days at school.

#### READ IT

1. School Bus by Donald Crews—Follows the progress of school buses as they take children to school and bring them home again. (Infant-Preschool)
2. Class Picture Day by Andrea Buckless—The only student to stick her tongue out in the class picture has to figure out how to fix this terrible mistake. (Ages 4-8)

#### VIEW IT

##### CLIFFORD'S PUPPY DAYS – School Daze #204b

\* Thursday, September 15, 2005 at 7:30 a.m. & 4 p.m.

\* Friday, September 16, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

As the kids go off for their first day of school, the gang decides it would be fun to have their own school, too. There's just one problem. While they seem to have five qualified teachers, they only have one willing pupil-Clifford. When an overworked Clifford is too tired to play with Emily Elizabeth after school, the gang realizes how unfair they've been, and set up school in a more equitable way.

##### THE BERENSTAIN BEARS – Go to School #108a

\* Monday, September 26, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

Too-Tall and the gang amuse themselves at Sister's expense by warning her how hard third grade will be and how strict Teacher Jane is. Brother tries unsuccessfully to convince Sister not to worry. Mama reminisces about Sister starting kindergarten and reflects on how her daughter's feelings back then were exactly the same. Sure enough, when Sister starts grade three she enjoys the new experience just like she did when she started kindergarten.

#### DO IT

1. Line up chairs or boxes in rows and play "school bus." A driver's chair can be set up with a plate serving as the steering wheel. Pretend to wait for the bus, get on the bus, ride to school, be at school (rearrange the chairs!), ride home, meet a parent or caregiver as they come home.

2. Explain to children what will happen the first day of school: "First, we will get up and get dressed. Then, we will have breakfast and I will walk with you to school." Explain to children what they will learn at school by doing activities like these:

\* Sort playing cards by number, color, and shape.

\* Read a book magazine and point out letters and words. Do the same when you see business or street signs ("That word is McDonald's.")

Each time you do these activities, tell children that these are some of the things they will learn about at school.

3. Talk with your children. Every day, ask them questions about school. For example, ask:

\* What did you do today?

\* What did you learn today?

\* What made you feel good today at school?

\* What are you going to do tomorrow at school that will be fun?

Encourage your children to give you more than one word answers!

#### \_\_\_\_\_IPTV Kids Schedule for Summer 2006\_\_\_\_\_

A print version of the IPTV Kids Schedule for Summer 2006 in English and Spanish can be found at the following location: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/Summer06KidsSchedule.pdf>

IPTV broadcasts 11 hours of non-violent, non-commercial, educational children's television programming each Monday through Friday. However, IPTV does NOT recommend that children spend all of their free time in front of the television. In fact, we encourage adults to place strict limits on the amount of time the children in their lives spend with the television or other screen media, such as computers and video games. This schedule is provided to assist children and adults as they plan their television viewing.

#### **Monday—Friday**

6:30 a.m. Zoboomafoo

7:00 a.m. Arthur

7:30 a.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog

8:00 a.m.	Dragon Tales
8:30 a.m.	Caillou
9:00 a.m.	Sesame Street
10:00 a.m.	It's a Big Big World
10:30 a.m.	Barney & Friends
11:00 a.m.	Thomas & Friends
11:30 a.m.	Caillou
Noon	The Berenstain Bears
12:30 p.m.	The Big Comfy Couch
1:00 p.m.	FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman ***NEW***
1:30 p.m.	Cyberchase
2:00 p.m.	Reading Rainbow
2:30 p.m.	Between the Lions
3:00 p.m.	Bob the Builder
3:30 p.m.	Dragon Tales
4:00 p.m.	Clifford's Puppy Days
4:30 p.m.	Arthur
5:00 p.m.	Clifford the Big Red Dog
<b>Saturday</b>	
6:30 a.m.	The Zula Patrol ***NEW***
7:00 a.m.	It's a Big Big World
7:30 a.m.	Clifford the Big Red Dog
<b>Sunday</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Sesame Street
9:00 a.m.	Angelina Ballerina
9:30 a.m.	Bob the Builder
10:00 a.m.	Thomas & Friends

\_\_\_\_\_NEW IPTV Kids Schedule for Fall 2006 \*\*\*BEGINS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4,  
2006\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Monday—Friday**

6:30 a.m.	Arthur
7:00 a.m.	Curious George ***NEW***
7:30 a.m.	Clifford the Big Red Dog
8:00 a.m.	Dragon Tales
8:30 a.m.	It's a Big Big World
9:00 a.m.	Sesame Street
10:00 a.m.	Caillou
10:30 a.m.	Barney & Friends
11:00 a.m.	Thomas & Friends
11:30 a.m.	Curious George ***NEW***
Noon	The Berenstain Bears
12:30 p.m.	The Big Comfy Couch
1:00 p.m.	Bob the Builder
1:30 p.m.	Cyberchase
2:00 p.m.	Reading Rainbow
2:30 p.m.	Between the Lions
3:00 p.m.	Postcards from Buster (Monday-Thursday) / Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman (Friday)
3:30 p.m.	Dragon Tales
4:00 p.m.	Clifford the Big Red Dog
4:30 p.m.	Arthur
5:00 p.m.	Curious George ***NEW***
<b>Saturday</b>	

6:30 a.m. The Zula Patrol  
7:00 a.m. It's a Big Big World  
7:30 a.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog

**Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Sesame Street  
9:00 a.m. Angelina Ballerina  
9:30 a.m. Bob the Builder  
10:00 a.m. Thomas & Friends

\_\_\_\_\_Program Schedule, Episode Descriptions and Record Rights for PBS Kids  
Programs\_\_\_\_\_

Finding Program Schedule and Episode Descriptions:

- \* Go to Web site: [iptv.org](http://iptv.org)
- \* Click on "TV Schedule" button at the top left side of the page.
- \* Click on the program to find a description for today's episode of the program.
- \* To find future episode descriptions, click on a date in the left column to find the description of the episode that will be shown on that specific date. Reading them will help you identify episodes that correspond to your curricular themes. The listed dates are the next 28 air dates of the program you've selected. Upcoming TV schedules on [www.iptv.org](http://www.iptv.org) are updated by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month.

"Record only, one year tape and erase. No duplication allowed."

What does that mean?

Educators may record a program from the broadcast. The recording may then be used in an educational setting and retained as long as that program airs on IPTV. No copies may be made from the original recording. If available, educators also may borrow a recording from a lending library, such as the media centers in Iowa's Area Education Agencies.

\_\_\_\_\_August Focus on Media Literacy\_\_\_\_\_

TV Facts from Iowa State University Extension's "Taming the TV" publication.

- \* Most 2- to 5-year-olds watch TV an average of 31 hours each week, or more than 4 hours each day.
- \* Only 10 percent of children's viewing time is spent watching children's television; the other 90 percent is spent watching programs designed for adults.
- \* Children who watch TV 4 or more hours per day are much more likely to be obese.
- \* The average American child witnesses 45 acts of violence on TV each day.
- \* Children watching TV may see 50,000 TV commercials each year.
- \* The average American family has the TV on for 6.2 hours everyday.
- \*Forty-five percent of American homes watch news during dinner.

Questions for Parents and Care Givers:

Does your TV spend more time with the children in your life than you do?

Are you worried about what they see and learn?

- \* If so, it may be time to rethink your viewing habits.

\_\_\_\_\_Series Spotlight\_\_\_\_\_

CURIOUS GEORGE is coming to IPTV on Monday, September 4, 2006.

What kind of TV series will CURIOS GEORGE be?

CURIOS GEORGE is a series about a little monkey who lives to find new things to discover, touch, spill and chew. His life is rich with discovery, physical gags and escalating chaos. Is there a better guide through our initial steps into the fascinating world around us than the world's most curious monkey?

George's insatiable curiosity leads him into unexpected problems and conflicts. Trying to solve one problem leads George to more problems and new conflicts. Complications keep piling up because George has a lot to learn about the consequences of his actions.

Everything is new to George and worth investigating. Of course, in George's hands - all four of them - this investigation leads to unintended consequences.

Like George, kids are intrigued by new things. They're built to learn and anxious to know how things work. Wouldn't you like to hitch a ride on a bunch of helium balloons and see where they go? George can, and he'll take you along. While you're along for the ride, there's plenty to be discovered - why things fall; which way the wind blows; and have you ever been up high enough to see the curve of the earth?

Did we mention funny? This isn't a series of lectures. These are comic adventures. When each adventure ends we'll have some knowledge we may not have had before - or a deeper knowledge of something familiar. And we'll have some laughs as we ride along with George.

This is the Curious George that we know from the books. The world, the look, and the interaction of the characters all feel like natural extensions of what we're so familiar with from reading the books and having the books read to us. You'll feel, "This is the George I already know," so I'm ready to grab that balloon and go.

Where Did George Come From?

Writer and illustrator H.A. Rey grew up near the famous Hagenbeck Zoo in Hamburg, Germany, a great thing for someone with a love of animals and drawing. He married writer Margret Rey in 1935 while selling bathtubs in Brazil, which sounds like a pretty good story itself. They moved to Paris, where H.A. published his first children's book, "Cecily G. and the Nine Monkeys." One of those nine was named "Jimmy, the brave monkey" -- and the rest is history. It's history because Jimmy was standing next to his brother, Curious George.

The manuscript for George's solo book, "Curious George," was one of five the Reys brought with them when they fled Paris in 1940, hours ahead of Hitler's invading army, on bicycles they built from spare parts. They made it safely out of France to the United States (via ships, not on the bikes) and settled in Greenwich Village. Published in 1941, "Curious George" has an enduring popularity. His image is instantly familiar to every generation of the past sixty-five years, from books published in 14 languages and a his first full-length movie.

Science, Math and Engineering

Many parents and caregivers know how to support literacy development in their children. They read aloud to their children; they fill their homes with letters, words and labels. These same parents and caregivers, however, know little about how to support children's development in science, engineering, and mathematics. Few are aware that by harnessing children's insatiable curiosity, they are, in fact, supporting their children's educational potential in these fields. Our goal with CURIOS GEORGE is to nurture children's innate curiosity, to encourage hands-on exploration, and to motivate parents and caregivers to support these activities.

Science, engineering, and mathematics are disciplines representing years of accumulated knowledge. Our objective with the CURIOS GEORGE show is to help children appreciate these disciplines and the wealth of knowledge contained in them. Appreciation and understanding begins for young children with exploration, observation, discovery, and most importantly, curiosity. Curious about the world around them, children begin to observe properties, discover how things work, and, ultimately, develop scientific thought processes.

Curious George is the most well-known and well-loved representation of curiosity. Exploring the world around him with wonder and intrigue, George embodies the preschool child's potential in the field of science. George's desire to use his four little hands to skillfully take things apart and figure out how they work will expose children to the basic

concepts of engineering. And his interactions with patterns, measurements and geometric shapes will help introduce mathematical concepts.

### \_\_\_\_\_Tip of the Month\_\_\_\_\_

Tips for Parents for Preschoolers from Reading Rockets:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/index.php?module=uploads&func=download&fileId=730>

Reading early and read often. The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. It's never too early to begin reading to a child! The tips below offer some fun ways to help a child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for a child in your life.

\* Read together every day.

Read to a child everyday. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.

\* Give everything a name.

Build a child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

\* Say how much you enjoy reading.

Tell a child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.

\* Read with fun in your voice.

Read to a child with humor and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up!

\* Know when to stop.

Put the books away for awhile if a child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

\* Be interactive.

Discuss what is happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.

\* Read it again and again.

Go ahead and read a child's favorite book for the 100<sup>th</sup> time!

\* Talk about writing, too.

Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

\*Point out print everywhere.

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask a child to find a new word on each outing.

\*Get a child evaluated.

Please be sure to see a child's pediatrician or teacher as soon as possible if you have concerns about a child's language development, hearing, or sight.

More tip sheets for Kindergarteners, First Graders, Second Graders, and Third Graders are available from [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org). Additional information can be found in nine different languages.

### \_\_\_\_\_Resources for August\_\_\_\_\_

Reading Rockets Current Newsletter—This monthly newsletter provides information for families and educators about teaching kids to read and helping those who struggle.

[www.readingrockets.org/subscribe/](http://www.readingrockets.org/subscribe/)

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

\* Reading and Relaxing

- \* Coming Soon! Ed Extras for Parent Newsletters
- \* First Year Teachers — Send in Your Questions!
- \* Books of the Month: Listen Up!
- \* Eve Bunting: A Video Interview
- \* Parent Tip Sheets Now Available in Nine Languages

#### RESEARCH AND NEWS

- \* Report on Teacher Inequality Released
- \* Developing Literacy in Second–Language Learners: Report from the National Literacy Panel
- \* Kindergarten Teacher Wins \$100,000 Prize for Teaching Excellence

#### IDEAS FOR PARENTS

- \* Library Services for Children
- \* Grow Up Reading!
- \* Thinking about Child Care
- \* Questions Parents Ask: Early Literacy
- \* "But Why?" — How to Answer Children's Questions in a Way That Promotes Higher Order Thinking

#### IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS

- \* Speech Sounds: Watch and Learn
- \* Tips From Fellow Educators!
- \* Eric Carle's Web Site
- \* Nothing Like the Movies in the Summertime

#### PBS Parents Electronic Newsletter

Each week this electronic newsletter targets providers, caregivers, and parents bringing activities from favorite children's programs, events in your local community, and headlines from the PBS Parents Web site. To receive this FREE electronic newsletter, subscribe at the following Web site:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/> (The link is towards the bottom of the page.)

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood *Mad Feelings* Newsletter—A monthly newsletter dealing with anger management and challenging behaviors in young children, including articles, activities and tips.

<http://www.fci.org/madfeelings/default.asp>

#### \_\_\_\_\_Child Development Tip of the Month\_\_\_\_\_

Take a look at the “Ten SIMPLE Ways to Encourage Learning” publication from the Foundation for Early Learning ([www.earlylearning.org](http://www.earlylearning.org)). It is available in English and Spanish.

<http://www.earlylearning.org/publications/ten-simple-ways-booklets/>

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