

Welcome to the December 2005 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."

RTL eNews for December 2005

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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 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.

_____ Families Theme Learning Triangle_____

A print version of this Families Theme Learning Triangle can be found at the following location:

In English: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglefamilies1205.pdf>

In Spanish: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglefamilies1205spanish.pdf>

Families come in many different shapes and sizes. Sometimes our family is made up of people who aren't related to us by blood at all, but they are still a part of our family because they're the ones who love us and care for us.

Understanding and building relationships between parents and children and brothers and sisters is an important part of growing up.

READ IT

1. *Con Mi Hermano / With My Brother* by Eileen Roe— A little boy admires his big brother and aspires to be like him when he is older. (This is a bilingual book in English and Spanish.) (Ages 4-8)
2. *Families* by Ann Morris—Some children live with their mothers and fathers. Others have stepparents or live with just one parent. Still others live with grandparents or foster parents who chose them specially. But all children all around the world, are part of families--big and small, loving, sharing, and caring for one another. (Ages 4-8)
3. *What Mommies Do Best What Daddies Do Best* by Laura Numeroff—Mothers and fathers participating in everyday activities show their love for their children in very similar ways. (Infant-Preschool)

VIEW IT

BERENSTAIN BEARS – Family Get Together #128

* Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

The Bears are hosting a family reunion, but the cubs doubt they'll enjoy spending time with relatives they've never met. The cubs' first impression of two cousins only confirms their opinion; Sylvester and Penelope are just too different to consider getting acquaintance with. However, as the day unfolds, Brother and Sister get to know them better and discover they've not only met new cousins, they've made new friends too.

POSTCARDS FROM BUSTER – Homes Sweet Homes #128

* Wednesday, December 28, 2005 at 6:30 a.m.

Buster really misses his mom. But Bitzi is stuck in Elwood City trying to write a new food column for the newspaper. In Miami, Buster meets Athena, who is half Cuban and half Greek. He helps Bitzi complete her assignment after he picks up great cooking tips from both of Athena's grandmothers.

CAILLOU – People I Love #205

* Monday, December 30, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

This episode explores the special people in Caillou's life.

DO IT

1. Tell your child stories from your own childhood. Share family pictures and talk about the events that were photographed. Be sure to include pictures of when your child was a small baby. Talk about the people in the pictures and how they are related to each other. Think of different names for the person. For example: your mother's sister is your aunt.
2. Using family photos, create a memory card game using duplicate prints. Place photos on a tray or table in front of the child. With the child's eyes closed, remove one picture and see if he or she can tell which one is missing.
3. Make a family album dedicating a special page to each child. Include a family tree so the children can see their grandparents and other relatives. Include pages about favorite activities the family enjoys, food they eat, homes and neighborhoods they live in. Children can decorate pages with drawings, pictures cut from magazines or photos from the family's collection.
4. Sing a song to help your child feel close to members of the family. It's also an opportunity to learn names. Teach this song beginning with the child's name and continue using names of immediate and extended family members. (Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Amber loves her brother Mark, brother Mark, brother Mark.

Amber loves her brother Mark. He is family.

_____ Winter Theme Learning Triangle _____

A print version of this Winter Theme Learning Triangle can be found at the following location:

In English: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglewinter1205.pdf>

In Spanish: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglewinter1205spanish.pdf>

Winter can be a fun and beautiful season for children. Help them learn about the season of winter and how to enjoy it. Talk about the things you can see and do in Iowa only in the winter.

READ IT

1. The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats—The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day. (Infant - Preschool) (This book is also available in Spanish.)
2. The Jacket I Wear in the Snow by Shirley Neitzel— A young girl names all the clothes she must wear to play in the snow. (Infant - Preschool)
3. The Snow Family by Daniel Kirk— A young boy decides to build a snow family to take care of his snowboy the way his parents take care of him. (Infant - Preschool)
4. The Mitten: A Ukrainian Folktale by Jan Brett—Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes. (Ages 4-8) (This book is also available in Spanish.)

VIEW IT

POSTCARDS FROM BUSTER – Winter Gold #118

* Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 6:30 a.m.

At the Utah Olympic Park, home of the 2002 Winter Olympics, Buster finds out what it really takes to be an Olympic athlete. He meets Squirt, a talented and dedicated ski jumper, who introduces Buster to the world of speed skaters, luge racers, and ski jumpers.

CAILLOU – Winter #121

* Friday, December 23, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

This episode features four segments where Caillou explores wintertime activities.

CAILLOU – It's Cold Outside! Brr! #208

* Monday, December 26, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Three of the four segments in this episode features Caillou, his family, and friends enjoying the snow.

DRAGON TALES – Super Snow Day #302b

* Wednesday, December 28, 2005 at 8 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

It's a warm spring day, but Enrique walks into the playroom and finds Max and Emmy in their winter gear. They're going sledding on Snowy Summit in Dragon Land.

READING RAINBOW – Snowy Day: Stories and Poems #805

* Thursday, December 29, 2005 at 12:30 p.m.

LeVar travels to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to beat winter's chills and enjoy the thrills. Playing in the snow, constructing a snow person, riding in a horse sleigh and snowshoe hiking are a few of the things LeVar does in the snow.

DO IT

1. Play outside as often as you can. Sledding, making snow angels, snowmen and "tracks" with sticks, hands and feet are just a few things you can do. Outdoor games like tag, Red Rover, hide-and-go-seek, all seem special and more fun when played in the snow.
2. Stuck indoors? Consider Freeze Tag or a version of Red Light/Green Light called Freeze/Thaw.
3. Bring in some snow and watch it melt. Does a glass full of snow melt into a glass full of water? Why or why not? Does snow melt faster or slower when it is packed together into a snowball? Why or why not?
4. Make a book about winter by cutting out pictures from magazines or catalogs or drawing winter related objects. Organize the book with a special page for each section: snow, winter coats, hats, scarves and mittens, winter sports, cold things, indoor warm things (fire, hot drinks, etc.) Sort pictures into piles and ask questions such as: Which pile do you think this picture goes in? Why did you pick that pile?
5. Snow pictures are a good way to help children think about winter. Clipping a piece of sponge to a clothespin to dip in paint or gluing cotton balls add dimension to winter pictures.
6. Have a snowball fight. You can even do this indoors by using crumpled up paper snowballs.

_____IPTV Kids Schedule for Fall 2005_____

A print version of the IPTV Kids Schedule for Fall 2005 in English and Spanish can be found at the following location:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/Fall2005KidsSchedule.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. Postcards from Buster
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. Barney & Friends
10:30 a.m. The Berenstain Bears
11:00 a.m. The Big Comfy Couch
11:30 a.m. Cyberchase
Noon Between the Lions
12:30 p.m. Reading Rainbow
1:00 p.m. Jakers! The Adventures of Piggley Winks
1:30 p.m. Zaboomafoo
2:00 p.m. Thomas & Friends/Bob the Builder
2:30 p.m. Sesame Street
3:30 p.m. Dragon Tales
4:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog
4:30 p.m. Arthur
5:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog (repeat from the previous day)

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

_____Preliminary IPTV Kids Schedule for Spring 2006_____

Monday—Friday

6:30 a.m. Postcards from Buster
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. Jakers! The Adventures of Piggley Winks
1:30 p.m. ZOOM
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 the Big Red Dog
4:30 p.m. Arthur
5:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog (from the previous day)

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
- * 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 are updated by the 15th 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.

_____December Focus on Media Literacy_____

What We Know About Young Children, TV and Media Violence

This article can be found on the Center for Media Literacy Web site:

http://www.medialit.org/reading_room/article567.html

Psychologists, educators, and other researchers have studied how TV affects young children. Here are some of the main points they emphasize:

1. Young children watch more television than any other age group.

Between the ages of 2 and 3, most children develop a favorite television show and begin to acquire the habit of watching television. American children between the ages of 2 and 5 spend more time watching TV than any other age group! (Presumably, school and other activities cut down on viewing time for children in the 6 to 17-year-old category.) Among other things, heavy TV viewing can also mean heavy exposure to violence. Children's programming has consistently been found to have higher levels of violence than any other category of programming. And young children also frequently watch violent programming intended for adults.

2. Young children can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality.

Your preschooler's rich imagination is a big part of his normal development, but that means it is usually hard for him to tell the difference between what's real and what's imaginary. Preschoolers cannot always understand that what they see on television is made up, especially when it looks so much like real life, so it's especially difficult for them to distinguish between television violence and real-life violence.

3. Young children are particularly susceptible to media violence.

Because they lack the life experience to evaluate what they are watching, preschoolers are not critical viewers of the violence they see in television programs, movies, and videotapes. They simply accept the violent behavior they see as real and normal.

4. Young children learn by imitating what they see, so television can be a powerful teacher.

Television can teach your child about violence and aggressive behavior, but perhaps in ways you have not considered before. For instance, because most 3 to 6-year-olds want to feel that they are strong and in control of their world, they often identify with TV characters who are powerful and effective. But what they see most often are superheroes and other characters who solve problems with violence, usually as a first resort, and then are rewarded for doing so. When young children watch TV or videos that present violence as successful, exciting, funny, pleasurable, and commonplace, it can be easy for them to accept the "TV way" as real and desirable.

5. Preschoolers need a variety of real experiences and real playtime in order to grow and develop. Your growing child needs a wide range of activities and experiences. She needs a mix of physical activity, lots of "hands-on" experience with the world, a chance to be with other children and caring adults, and quiet time by herself. And she needs lots of time to play! Imaginative play is the single most important way 3 to 6-year olds learn, grow, and work out their feelings, fears, and fantasies. The more your child watches TV, the less she develops her own ability to entertain herself, and the less time she spends on all the other important experiences she needs to grow and learn.

_____Series Spotlight_____

IT'S A BIG BIG WORLD is a BRAND NEW SERIES coming to IPTV on Monday, January 2, 2006 at 10 a.m.

IT'S A BIG BIG WORLD premieres on PBS KIDS on Monday, January 2, 2006 at 10 a.m. It's an innovative preschool series from Mitchell Kriegman (creator of BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE, CLARISSA EXPLAINS IT ALL). Venture deep into the rainforest, high atop the world, to the tallest tree – the World Tree – home to a diverse group of animals and the show's metaphor for the world as a whole.

Snook, an energetic giant tree sloth, is your host and guide through this new world. His friends include: Smooch and Winslow, two rambunctious marmoset siblings; Wartz, an eager-to-please singing tree frog; Madge, an ancient she-turtle with the map of the world on her back; Burdette, a bird who thinks she knows it all; Bob the Anteater, who has a complicated relationship with the ants; Ick, a braggart fish; Oko, an old monkey trickster; and more.

As they accompany Snook and his pals on adventures and investigations in the World Tree, kids will experience science, not as just a collection of facts, but as an exciting process of discovery. Viewers will see characters who are excited about science, who look for answers to the scientific puzzles they encounter, and who follow the steps and methods of scientific investigation.

Through the stories of individual characters, kids will learn about different animals – how they live, grow, and change. The series will also introduce children to geography, providing them with a basic understanding that the world is bigger than their immediate surroundings and a sense that they are an important part of a larger community.

The World Tree is also full of music. With dance rhythms from around the world set to the beat of indigenous percussion, the original songs featured in each episode are hugely distinctive, while remaining the kind of catchy, familiar and warm music that kids and their parents love to sing along to.

IDEAS FOR WATCHING IT'S A BIG BIG WORLD WITH YOUR CHILD(REN)

- Ask the child(ren) what they think will happen next.
- Ask the child(ren) to tell you the name of their favorite character from the show and why that character is their favorite.
- Encourage the child(ren) to sing and dance along to the music.
- Try turning off the sound and see what the child(ren) can learn from the show without the audio cues.
- Try covering the TV screen and see what the child(ren) can learn from the show without visual cues.
- After watching, ask the child(ren) to tell you what they saw and heard during the program. How would they have solved a problem the characters encountered?
- Help the child(ren) pick out related books, and/or play a related game.

Visit the IT'S A BIG BIG WORLD Web site at <http://pbskids.org/bigbigworld> to watch a short clip from this new series.

_____December Feature_____

Some Favorite Online Resources for Families and Educators Working with Families

There is an overwhelming amount of good and bad information for families and educators on the Internet. The following is a list of some of our favorite Web sites for families and educators working with families:

1. IPTV Kids: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/default.cfm>

This site is designed especially for kids and is a companion to all the things they love about their favorite characters. Many of the links from this site move directly to a chosen areas of the phenomenal PBS KIDS Web sites.

- * Grown Ups: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/default.cfm>
 - Ready To Learn: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/rtl/default.cfm>
 - Downloads: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/downloads.cfm>
- * Educator Resources: http://www.iptv.org/educational_resources.cfm
- * Education Schedule: http://www.iptv.org/schedule_education.cfm
- * Family Fun: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/familyfun.cfm>

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PBS KIDS: <http://pbskids.org/>

PBS KIDS Online extends the mission of PBS KIDS TV programming by giving a diverse audience of children and their families the resources to improve school readiness skills, explore new subjects, express their thoughts, and play in a safe environment. PBS KIDS Online strives to be accessible to the largest possible audience by:

- * offering content that is friendly to pre-readers and low-literacy users,
- * addressing the needs of users with disabilities,
- * developing activities including games, stories, music and printables that visitors can enjoy using a wide variety of computer systems and Internet connections.

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PBS Parents: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/>

PBS Parents helps parents and caregivers raise children who are ready to learn by offering educational activities and resources designed by experts in child development. The site includes PBS KIDS program information, an up-to-the minute PBS KIDS local TV schedule, tips for enjoying playtime together, thematic booklists, Q&A with guest experts, and articles for Spanish-speakers. The site also includes a robust search tool that helps parents to find activities that develop certain skills, such as math or reading.

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PBS TeacherSource: <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/>

From the Start: <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/prek2.htm> PBS TeacherSource aggregates the PreK-12 educational services that PBS and its local stations provide and helps teachers incorporate video and the Web into the classroom. As part of the Ready To Learn service, From the Start, the early childhood area of PBS TeacherSource, provides additional resources for PreK-2 educators, including a monthly thematic unit of online activities, articles about issues in early childhood education, recommended books and links, and printables in Spanish and English for teachers to give to parents to help them reinforce the educational messages their children receive in the classroom. In addition, educators can search topical lists of lesson plans tied to our award-winning PBS KIDS programming and correlated to national and state standards.

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PBS Share A Story: <http://pbskids.org/shareastory/>

PBS KIDS Share a Story is a national literacy campaign designed to inspire adults to help millions of children develop language and literacy skills through daily activities, including book reading, drawing, storytelling, rhyming and singing.

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Reading Rockets: <http://www.readingrockets.org/>

Reading Rockets is a national multimedia project that looks at how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.

The Reading Rockets project is uniquely positioned to use the media and other outlets – such as television, the Web, outreach, and more – to disseminate research-based information about reading to as wide an audience of parents and educators as possible.

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Colorin Colorado: <http://www.colorincolorado.org>

This bilingual Web site in English and Spanish was created by READING ROCKETS for Spanish-speaking parents, so they'll have the information they need to help their children become good readers and successful students. Some of the topics are: helping your child succeed in school, fun and effective ways to read with children, how to know when your child needs extra help, where to go for help, activities to teach your child about sounds, etc.

_____Tip of the Month_____

Books as Gifts: 2005 Holiday Buying Guide from READING ROCKETS:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/buyingguide/2005>

The Books as Gifts guide was created by Reading Rockets' children's literature editor. It features books so engaging your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or student will delight in them over and over again.

Each book was chosen based on age, reading level, topic, writing quality, illustrations, and overall excellence. We make a special effort to highlight newly published books. Also included are great books for sharing, talking over, and thinking about with an adult as well as exceptional audio books.

For the holidays, for birthdays, or just for fun, give books as gifts and watch kids read!

_____Resources for December_____

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/

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- * Answers to the "Questions Parents Ask"
- * Tomie dePaola: An Exclusive Video Interview
- * Target the Problem! A Free New Tool
- * Free Webcast Now Available - Differentiated Reading Instruction
- * Books of the Month: Cooking Up Fun

RESEARCH AND NEWS

- * More Focus on Reading Fluency Needed, Study Suggests
- * Genetic Test for Dyslexia Within a Year
- * Oklahoma's Universal Preschool Program Shows Success
- * Supreme Court: Parents Carry Burden of Proof in IEP Cases

IDEAS FOR PARENTS

- * Sounds Like My Kid: Portraits of Struggling Readers
- * Fill-in-the-Blank "Free Throw" Game

IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS

- * Informal, Classroom-Based Assessments
- * Differentiating Instruction: Strategies
- * Writing Fits In With P.E.

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:

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.
www.fci.org/madfeelings/default.asp

_____Subscribe/Unsubscribe_____

If you received this message from a friend, you can sign up for IPTV's RTL eNews by going to www.iptv.org/enews.cfm. From there you will be able to select from a variety of lists from IPTV to help you be more connected.

If you would like to unsubscribe from the IPTV's RTL eNews please go to www.iptv.org/enews.cfm or respond to this email with “Remove” as the subject line.

Feel free to forward this message to a friend.