

Welcome to the December 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 8 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 2006

_____Table of Contents_____

The Learning Triangle

- * How do you use the RTL Learning Triangle? Monthly Contest
- * Counting Theme Learning Triangle
- * Winter Theme Learning Triangle

IPTV Kids Schedule for Fall 2006

Program Schedule, Episode Descriptions, and Record Rights for PBS Kids Programs

December Focus on Media Literacy: Children and Holiday Advertising (Part 2)

Series Spotlight: CAILLOU

December Feature: Finding and Sharing Great Kids' Books

Resources for December

Child Development Tip of the Month: The Magic of Everyday Moments® Booklets

Family Involvement Tip of the Month: 15 Reasons to Be Involved In Your Child's School (or Child Care Setting)

Subscribe/Unsubscribe

_____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 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.

_____Counting Theme Learning Triangle_____

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

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

Understanding numbers is a very important. Children need to learn to count from one to ten in order. They must also understand what each number means (ten means "TEN things" – apples, dots, toys, etc.). Learning these tasks can be simple if you talk regularly about numbers in everyday living: "Here is one glass of milk," or "Pick up the two toys."

It is also important for children to learn words used when talking about numbers of things such as “few,” “many” and “less.”

READ IT

1. Feast for 10 by Cathryn Falwell—Numbers from one to ten are used to tell how members of a family shop and work together to prepare a meal. (Ages 4-8)
2. Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews—A counting book which shows what can be done with ten black dots--one can make a sun, two a fox's eyes, or eight the wheels of a train. (Infant-Preschool) (Available in Spanish)
3. Quack and Count by Keith Baker—Seven ducklings take a rhyming look at addition. (Infant-Preschool)

VIEW IT

BARNEY & FRIENDS – You Can Count on Me! #913

* Wednesday, December 27, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

Barney helps the children discover how much fun numbers can be by going on a number hunt.

CURIOUS GEORGE – Zeros to Donuts #103a

* Wednesday, December 27, 2006 at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

* Thursday, December 28, 2006 at 11:30 a.m.

When George learns about the meaning and power of zero, he is ready to test out his knowledge. The perfect opportunity arises when he's sent to the donut shop for one dozen donuts. But when he adds a couple of zeros, he's surprised to find out he gets one hundred dozen. Now he has to figure out what to do with all those extra donuts before The Man with the Yellow Hat notices.

SESAME STREET – Every episode features a "Number of the Day."

Monday – Friday at 9 a.m. & Sunday at 8 a.m.

CYBERCHASE – An action-packed adventure cartoon series which engages kids in the fun and challenge of mathematics. (Target Ages: 6-11)

* Monday – Friday at 1:30 p.m.

DO IT

1. Lay out five spoons, toys, or crayons. Ask your child, "How many spoons are there?" Put down three and ask, "Now how many spoons are there?" Keep adding and taking away spoons and asking the same question. Count with your child each time to check his/her answer. Put your finger on each object as you count or have your child do so.
2. When you are folding clothes, ask your child to count with you the number of socks, shirts, etc. Ask him/her, "What pile has more? Socks or pants?" "What pile has less?"
3. Cut up celery sticks. Count the sticks. Fill each stick with peanut butter or soft cheese. Push raisins into the peanut butter or cheese, counting as you go. Do the same with crackers.
4. Go on a walk with your child and count everything you see—cars, flags, dogs, etc. Take a notepad and write down what you see and how many of each item you find. The next time you go on a walk, take the notepad and count the same things. Talk with your child: "Did you see more cars on this walk or fewer cars?"
5. Make a number book. Cut out numbers from old calendars, magazines and ads and paste them on paper. Ask your child to print the number on the page and then draw a picture of the number of “things” the number on the page stands for.
6. In a large space outdoors, draw a hopscotch board on the ground. Name and write a number in each square. Show your child how to hop to the numbers. Each time you hop to a number, say its name.

_____Winter Theme Learning Triangle_____

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

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

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 Jacket I Wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel—A young girl names all the clothes that she must wear to play in the snow. (Infant-Preschool)
2. *The Biggest Snowball Ever!* (Paperback) by John Rogan— The biggest snowball ever catches Paul and his friends. Tomorrow is Christmas Day, and there is a chance the children will not be rescued in time. (Ages 4-8)
3. *The Mitten* by Jan Brett—Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes. (Ages 4-8) (Available in Spanish)

VIEW IT

Postcard's From Buster – Winter Gold (Park City, Utah)

* Thursday, December 21, 2006 at 3 p.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.

Stranger In The Woods: The Movie

* Sunday, December 24, 2006 at 9 a.m.

* Monday, December 25, 2006 at 4 p.m.

Journey into the winter woods and meet two snowdrifts who introduce you to their forest friends and reminisce about the time when a mysterious stranger came to visit. A magical tale of animals reacting to a snowman that appears after a winter storm.

Arthur's Perfect Christmas

* Monday, December 25, 2006 at 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All of Arthur's friends celebrate Christmas differently, in fact some don't celebrate Christmas at all. Will Arthur be able to handle a Christmas that's not quite like what he's used to?

Arthur – The Blizzard #405a

* Monday, December 25, 2006 at 6:30 a.m.

A big blizzard comes to Elwood City, taking out the electricity and sending residents scrambling for supermarket supplies. Can neighbors find ways to help each other survive through the storm?

Caillou – All Kinds of Weather #413

* Friday, December 29, 2006 at 10 a.m.

Rain, sleet, sun, and snow: Caillou is amazed by all the ways that weather changes. In one of the stories, a winter storm hits, but Mom and Dad make a scary blackout into a fun indoor camping trip, complete with sleeping bags and marshmallows!

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. 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?
3. Take a walk outside and talk about how the neighborhood has changed because of the snow. Look for tracks in the snow (human and animal). Talk about how they got there.
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 cloths such as 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. Make snowballs. Count them. Use them to make different shapes (triangle, circle, etc.) Throw them at a target. Talk about snowball "safety" (don't throw at people, etc.) You can do this indoors also. Take paper and crumple into a ball.

_____IPTV Kids Schedule for Fall 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/Fall06KidsSchedule.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.	Arthur
7:00 a.m.	Curious George
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
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

Saturday

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
- * 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 may also borrow a recording from a lending library, such as the media centers in Iowa's Area Education Agencies.

_____December Focus on Media Literacy_____

Children and Holiday Advertising (Part 2) from PBS Parents Guide to Children and Media:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/childrenandmedia/>

If the holidays are a time for cheer and peace on earth, why can they feel like a crash course in need, greed and speed? Many factors can make the holidays hectic, like the pressures of family and our own expectations. But one unavoidable factor is advertising. This is the season to be jolly and companies want us — and our children — to believe the sure-fire way to feel merry is to buy.

How to Buy Less and Get More this Season

Encourage your child to make gifts instead of buying them.

An ad can make a toy or other potential gift look very appealing because it's brand new and ready-to-use (or, at least, ready-to-assemble). Gifts that are hand-made can be as worthwhile as purchased ones— often more so — because the giver gets to do all of the creating. This can be true of cookies and cupcakes, as well as digital creations like electronic cards, scrapbooks and videos. Because some homemade gifts require more planning and time on your part try to avoid rushing your child through a project or suggest gift ideas that require less time upfront. For example, children can give a simple IOU note with the promise to babysit one night, wash the car or help prepare a meal.

Use the holidays to seek out free music and art.

Although many ads during the holidays promote activities and products with a price tag, others highlight worthwhile community events. Show your child how to sift through listings, like those from local Web sites and newspapers, for musical performances, caroling and other events your family will enjoy. You may want to explain how sometimes a simple line of text, such as “Children's Chorale Performance at 8:00,” can represent something worth checking out. Simply because an event isn't marketed with a full-page ad doesn't mean it won't be interesting.

Slow down the pace and unplug.

Let your child know your family need not get overwhelmed by holiday hype. Remember to build in quiet times when advertising can't seep in, declaring certain times as media breaks or family time. Turn off the TV, shut down the computer —and relax with one another. Try dusting off some old board games, going for a walk to spy the kookiest neighborhood decorations or convincing older family members to tell unusual stories from their holiday's past.

Look for Part 1 of Children and Holiday Advertising in the November 2006 edition of IPTV's RTL eNews:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/rtlenewsNovember06.pdf>

_____Series Spotlight_____

CAILLOU airs weekdays at 10 a.m. on IPTV.

CAILLOU is rich in the social and emotional aspects of child development.

Growing up is not so tough—especially with friends like Caillou, a lovable four-year-old who has a unique way of relating to the world. Caillou learns about the world one adventure at a time. Between learning to be a good big brother to meeting new friends at day care, everyday is full of surprises for this playful little hero.

Each half-hour CAILLOU episode features four animated segments, puppet segments, and a musical song and dance number—all centered on a theme for the day. Caillou's stories portray the relationships between small children and

the world around them. The stories address the challenges of growing up, and the real problems and challenges faced by young children.

In each episode Caillou and his friends confront an age-appropriate concept relating to social literacy and child development. CAILLOU focuses on the social and emotional growth of young children. Using themes of discovery, the program actively encourages youngsters to ask questions and explore the world around them.

Outreach materials on the CAILLOU Web site provide activities using basic small and large motor skills, identification and sorting, early math and science activities, dramatic play and memory and thinking skills. Be sure to visit at www.pbskids.org/caillou for activities and resources for parents and care givers as well as fun games for children.

CAILLOU uses the following guiding principals to encourage learning:

- CAILLOU is 4 Families: Some kids have two parents, and some have other loving people to raise them. Families come in all shapes and sizes.
- CAILLOU is 4 Learning: Little kids have so much to learn, even before they go to school.
- CAILLOU is 4 Giving, Sharing, and Caring: Sometimes it is hard to share. Caillou makes kids feel comfortable by expressing real feelings and showing that it feels really good to be nice.
- CAILLOU is 4 Making New Friends: Caillou knows friends are important. He knows that being a good friend is accepting a friend's special way of viewing the world.
- CAILLOU is 4 Finding Out: Caillou helps young children realize they are not alone. All kids have LOTS of questions about everything, and Caillou helps two and three-year olds see where they're going - and five and six-year olds appreciate where they've been!
- CAILLOU is 4 Laughter and Fun: Four year-olds love to laugh - and Caillou is no exception! Caillou lets kids know that even if life isn't always easy, with the right kind of attitude even the hard stuff can be accomplished.

Getting the MOST from CAILLOU

- Watch CAILLOU with the child(ren) in your live. Observe their reactions. When do they laugh? What are they reacting to?
- After the show is over, ask the child(ren) to describe their favorite parts. Talk with the child(ren) about the theme of the day. Help the child pick out related books, and/or play a related game.

_____December Feature_____

Finding and Sharing Great Kids' Books (An Ed Extra from Reading Rockets:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras>)

Favorite stories get shared many times over. Here's some advice about how to find a good children's book and what to do once you're reading together with your child.

What to look for:

- * Look for award-winning books. Each year the American Library Association selects children's books for the Caldecott Medal for illustrations and the Newbery Medal for writing.
- * Check the book review section of newspapers and magazines for recommended new children's books.
- * Check the Books and Authors section of www.ReadingRockets.org for recommendations and reviews.

Remember: Borrowing books from your local public library and swapping favorites with neighbors are two good ways to learn about new books.

What to do:

- * Listen carefully as your child reads.
- * Take turns. Read a paragraph (or page) and have your child read the next one.
- * If your child has trouble reading a word, you can help in several ways:
 1. Guide your child to use what he or she knows about letters and sounds to sound out the word.
 2. Ask your child to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and then say a word that would make sense in the story.

3. Supply the correct word.

- * Tell your child how proud you are of his or her efforts and skills.

Remember: Your child may be focusing more on how to read each word than on what the story means, so your reading helps to keep the story alive.

Adapted from Kame'enui, E. J., & Simmons, D. C. Read*Write*Now! Activities for Reading and Writing Fun.

_____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:

- * Reading for Meaning
- * Webcast 2003: Making Parents Partners
- * Books of the Month: Making a Difference
- * Jon Scieszka: An Exclusive New Video Interview
- * Podcasts Take Me Away!
- * In Our Store: PuzzleMaker

RESEARCH AND NEWS

- * Reviews on Early Childhood Education Interventions
- * Google Launches New Literacy Site
- * NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development Released

* IDEAS FOR PARENTS

- * Cooking with Kids
- * A Better Kind of Rush Hour
- * Raising Boys

IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS

- * Reading 101: Text Comprehension

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_____

The Magic of Everyday Moments® Booklets <http://www.zerotothree.org/magic/index.html>

The Magic of Every Day Moments®, is designed to show parents and caregivers how everyday activities, that are often seen as time-stealers, can in fact be meaningful opportunities to connect with your child and encourage development. What children need most is time and attention. Nothing replaces the power of what a child will learn as he explores the world and shares new discoveries with you...whether grocery shopping, bathing, feeding, or reading.

_____Family Involvement Tip of the Month_____

15 Reasons to Be Involved in Your Child's School (or Child Care Setting) from the Richmond District Parents Association Web site at <http://www.rdpa.bc.ca/>

1. It provides you an opportunity to meet other parents who have children at the same age and stage.
2. As you get to know the school staff you will feel more comfortable when you want to ask questions.
3. You will have the chance to observe your children in another setting.
4. You will watch other children of the same age and stage as your children and be able to compare and contrast.
5. You will gain a better understanding of what your children are doing in school so your questions and comments will be more relevant.
6. You will get to know your kids' friends and see them in the school setting.
7. You might pick up some new tips on how to handle children of their age group.
8. You'll see some interesting projects, art activities and games that you can try at home to reinforce the concepts that your children are working on at school.
9. You will have the opportunity to chat informally with many school staff members.
10. You will have a chance to learn about the resources that are available at the school.
11. Your children will see that you are interested in their education and will likely be more motivated.
12. Your child will feel special.
13. You will feel valued and probably discover skills you didn't know you possessed.
14. You will come to appreciate the role of the teachers and become confident that you chose the best learning environment for your child.
15. You'll have fun!

_____Subscribe/Unsubscribe_____

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