

Happy New Year and welcome to the January 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 January 2005

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### \_\_\_\_\_January Feature\_\_\_\_\_

The RTL Learning Triangle: What is it and how can it benefit the children in my care?

The RTL Learning Triangle is a way to teach young children the skills and concepts they need to be successful in school through a combination of quality children's TV, books, and activities.

Why is the RTL Learning Triangle a valuable educational tool? It:

\* addresses children's different learning styles. Children WATCH a short clip from a TV program, LISTEN when a book is read to them, and PARTICIPATE in a related activity. The clip, book, and activity all have a common theme such as winter and teach or reinforce what you want the children to learn.

\* provides repetition because children have the chance to practice the skill or concept they are learning when watching the clip, listening to the book, and doing the activity.

\* is a flexible teaching and learning model that can be adapted to almost any situation, theme, concept, or skill you want children to learn.

\* provides a plan that can be used to teach a one- or multiple-day lesson.

Let's take a closer look into the individual sections of the RTL Learning Triangle. As we explore each section, it may be helpful to print and refer to a diagram and outline view of the RTL Learning Triangle by cutting and pasting the following address into an Internet browser:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/LearningTriangleBlackandWhite-Outline2page.pdf>

We start by identifying a general theme such as winter, physical activity, or the environment, and then decide what we want the children to learn. For example, let's say that the theme for the week is winter and that we want the children to learn that "winter is a time to do fun things in the snow." There are other concepts and skills that could be taught but this is what has been selected based on the age of the children, their background, experiences, and interests.

READ

For this example, let's start with the READ section of the triangle. (You can start anywhere on the triangle.) The book chosen for this RTL Learning Triangle is "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. The reason this book was chosen is that it matches the winter theme and gives several good examples of fun things children can do in the snow. It also has great illustrations and tells a story that young children can understand and relate to.

One way to enhance the READ section of the triangle is to use one or more of the Before, During, and After reading strategies from the Iowa Department of Education's "Every Child Reads" curriculum. Cut and paste the following address into an Internet browser for a listing of the "Every Child Reads" Before, During, and After reading strategies for fiction books:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/downloads/ECRds14Brofiction.pdf>

and non-fiction books:

<http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/downloads/ECRds14BroNFict.pdf>

## VIEW

For the VIEW section of the RTL Learning Triangle, we will use a segment of a program of CAILLOU featuring Caillou's parents teaching him how to ice skate. The segment we will use with the children is only three minutes and 15 seconds long. It matches the winter theme and what we are trying to teach the children—that there are fun things to do in the snow in winter. We can use the very same Before, During, and After reading strategies from the "Every Child Reads" curriculum and apply them to the video segment. For example, we might stop the video after a minute and ask the child what they think might happen next, which is the prediction strategy. These strategies increase a child's active participation in the VIEW portion of the triangle and help them comprehend the segment.

When selecting segments for the VIEW section of the RTL Learning Triangle, remember that TV can be a positive learning tool when it:

- \* is developmentally appropriate—a good match between a child's needs and the subject matter.
- \* encourages creativity and critical thinking.
- \* introduces a child to skills and ideas they need to learn.
- \* models ways to solve problems and get along with others.
- \* engages a child to dance and sing along.
- \* entertains and teaches too.
- \* reinforces the values you believe in.
- \* inspires a child to appreciate other cultures.
- \* inspires a child to want to learn and read more.

IPTV is a safe place for children to watch TV that features quality, non-violent, non-commercial, educational TV programs such as SESAME STREET, CLIFFORD, and DRAGON TALES. But, we are not suggesting that children watch IPTV programs all day long. We want you and the children in your care to be CHOOSY about what they watch based on their social, emotional, and developmental needs. Not all programs are for all children. As adults, it is important for us to monitor what children watch and also limit the amount of time they spend in front of the TV.

## DO

To complete the winter themed RTL Learning Triangle, the activity planned for the children is to go outside in the snow and recreate some of the fun things children can do in the snow as demonstrated in "The Snowy Day" book and the CAILLOU video segment.

An activity does not have to be a craft—it can be anything! It does need to relate to the theme, skill, or concept we are trying to teach. Doing more than one related activity is okay too.

PBS has a couple of really great resources for finding fun activities. They are:

1. PBS TeacherSource – From the Start – <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/prek2.htm>

As part of the RTL 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 award-winning PBS KIDS programming and correlated to national and state standards.

2. 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.

When using the RTL Learning Triangle, you can start at any point of the triangle. Although it is desirable to do all three points of the triangle in a relatively short period of time, it isn't always necessary as long as the adult helps the child make the connections between the VIEW, READ, and DO portions of the triangle. If you READ the book, VIEW the video segment in the morning, and DO the activity in the afternoon or the next day, be sure to review with the children the key points of the book and video segment and explain how they connect with the activity.

\_\_\_\_\_How do you use the RTL Learning Triangle?\_\_\_\_\_

IPTV's RTL service wants to hear from you! If you have an example of how you have used the RTL Learning Triangle please send an email to Lisa Albers at [lisa@iptv.org](mailto:lisa@iptv.org) along with a couple of paragraphs describing your triangle and how it worked for you and the children in your care. All emails received by 1/31/05 will be included in a drawing for 10 FREE children's books.

\_\_\_\_\_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. Ready To Learn 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.

\_\_\_\_\_Birthdays Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

Celebrate with a child as he/she enjoys his/her special day. It is important not only to acknowledge the birthday child but to also re-enforce the idea of sharing. Involving other children in the celebration will let them know they are an important part of this special day. Nothing helps children learn about sharing and giving as much as watching the pleasure that comes from giving a gift. It is also a good time to talk about and practice how to receive and give gifts. As adults, it is important to receive any gift children give us with thanks and hugs.

READ IT

*Happy Birthday Moon* by Frank Asch—When a bear discovers that the moon shares his birthday, he buys the moon a beautiful hat as a present. (Ages 4-8)

Alternate Titles:

1. *Birthday Presents* by Cynthia Rylant—An almost six-year-old girl listens as her mother and father describe her six previous birthday celebrations. (Infant - Preschool)
2. *Touch and Feel: Birthday*—This book is part of the award-winning Touch and Feel series. With easy-to-read text, superb full-color photography, and textures that can be touched again and again, this book uses birthdays to reinforce primary learning skills through sensory perception and encourages children to explore the world around them. (Infant - Preschool)

VIEW IT

ARTHUR – Desperately Seeking Stanley #807b

Friday, January 28, 2005 at 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

On his third birthday, Arthur's favorite present was Stanley, his teddy bear. Stanley protected Arthur when he was afraid of the dark ... and even when his new baby sister D.W. arrived. But Arthur is 8-years old now -- he doesn't need his furry friend anymore ... right?

Alternate Title:

CAILLOU – Caillou Helps Out #115 (segment 1 "Surprise Party")

Monday, January 31, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Caillou and Rosie are at Grandma's. To his surprise Caillou discovers that Grandpa's birthday was last week and he had no birthday party. How could a birthday be a birthday without a party! Caillou decides to give Grandpa one. With Grandma's help, he gets everything ready, even the candles on the cake. Surprise! Grandpa is very surprised and very happy.

#### DO IT

1. Coming up with the perfect gift can be tricky, even for adults. For an upcoming holiday or birthday, suggest to the child the idea of creating a coupon book with special coupons highlighting special privileges. These privileges can include a kiss and hug, a homemade snack, breakfast in bed, a neck massage, or a homemade card for the lucky recipient. Have the child draw pictures on the coupons, depicting what each privilege will be.
2. Collect an assortment of boxes—each with a top and bottom—that "nestle" (one fitting into another). With the child, use wrapping paper, comic strips, or hand-decorated butcher paper to gift-wrap the lids. With each lid wrapped and the lids on each of the boxes, arrange the boxes in a line from smallest to largest. Make a game out of putting the smallest box into the next size and so forth!
3. Talk with your child about birthdays. Ask them questions like: Do you know when your birthday is? What do you like best about having a birthday? This is also a good time to point out that everyone has a birthday, and you might want to mark the birthdays on a calendar of special people in the child's life.
4. Plan an Un-Birthday Party! Instead of receiving goody bags, have the child create goody bags to give to children at a local hospital or homeless shelter. To fill the bags, the child can make greeting cards; friendship bracelets made from multi-colored string, yarn, or beads; origami animals; balloons; or a cooperative drawing of the class.

#### \_\_\_\_\_Winter Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

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

*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.)

Alternate Titles:

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 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)
3. *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

CAILLOU – Doing It Together #216 (segment 2)

Wednesday, January 5, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Segment 2 – Caillou Helps Grandpa - On a winter day, Dad and Caillou go over to Grandpa's with their skates. What was suppose to be a skating outing becomes a shoveling chore because of all the snow that has accumulated in Grandpa's driveway. Soon, Caillou finds a way to turn this into a game and has a lot of fun making snow castles. When they are finally done and ready to go skating, the snowplow passes in front of Grandpa's and leaves more snow to shovel. Still, Caillou is delighted: they can make plenty of new snow castles!

DRAGON TALES – My Way or Snow Way #127b

Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The gang meets Chilly, a snowman who's frantically searching for his pet snow-puppy. Wheezie suggests using one of her special whistles to call Nippy because dogs can hear certain sounds that kids and dragons can't. Her friends insist her idea will never work, but Chilly encourages Wheezie not to give up - after all, she knows more about whistles than they do. When her friends' strategies don't work, Wheezie blows her whistle in spite of their disapproval.

**Arthur** – The Long, Dull Winter #315b

Monday, January 31, 2005 at 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

What's wrong with Arthur? Is he bored? In love? Arthur--and the rest of the gang--realizes they are suffering from the January doldrums brought on by an acute lack of holidays. What's the cure? The kids decide to invent their own holiday.

#### 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.

#### \_\_\_\_\_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 Educational Resources button at the top center of the page.
- \* Click on the Today link under the Educational TV Schedule heading on the left side of the page toward the middle.
- \* Click on the program you are interested in 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 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.

#### \_\_\_\_\_Resources for January\_\_\_\_\_

Sesame Workshop's View & Do Newsletter—This monthly publication gives episode descriptions and activity tips for SESAME STREET and DRAGON TALES. Use it to select episodes from these programs, or parts of episodes, that you want to use during the VIEW section of the RTL Learning Triangle or when you need ideas for activities.

\* English: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/ViewJan05Engfinal.pdf>

\* Spanish: <http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/ViewJan05Spafinal.pdf>

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

<http://www.readingrockets.org/subscribe/newsletter.php>

This month's Reading Rockets Newsletter highlights:

- \* Reading Rockets' 1st Annual Holiday Buying Guide
- \* New! An Exclusive Video Interview With Avi
- \* New Articles and an Online Chat About Dyslexia

#### NEWS ABOUT READING

- \* Major Overhaul of Special Education Law Passes Congress
- \* What Schools Can Do to Prevent Early Reading Failure

#### IDEAS FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

- \* By Car, Train, or Bus! The Sounds of Language On the Go
- \* What Works in Fluency Instruction

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood—Fall Edition (November-January) of the Neighborhood News Newsletter—This quarterly newsletter helps families and care providers plan their viewing of MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD by providing schedules, descriptions, activities, book suggestions, and timely articles of interest to adults who work with children.

<http://www.fci.org/newsletter/>

Themes for January:

January 3-7 – When Parents Go to Work

January 10-14 – Nighttime

January 17-21 – Helping

January 24-28 – Noisy and Quiet

January 31-February 4 – Grandparents

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>

#### PBS Parents Electronic Newsletter

Each week the PBS Parents electronic newsletter brings you activities from your child's favorite programs, events in your local community, and headlines from the PBS Parents 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.)

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

TOP 10 LINKS OF 2004 from Reading Rockets ([www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org))

Readers of the monthly Reading Rockets newsletter say they like the links provided to activities that encourage reading skills at home and at school. The following are some of the favorites from the past year's issues:

#### Reading Rainbow's Silly Sentence Machine

[http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/bookem/silly\\_sentence.html](http://pbskids.org/readingrainbow/bookem/silly_sentence.html)

#### Lesson Ideas from the Mini Page

<http://www.nieworld.com/teachers/minipage/>

#### 42 Pages of Graphic Organizers and Generic Patterns (PDF file)

<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/livinginourworld/PDF/Resource%20center%20documents/Graphic%20Organizers.pdf>

#### Where's Ernie? Thinking Skills for Preschoolers

[http://pbskids.org/sesame/ernie/e\\_cluehunt.html](http://pbskids.org/sesame/ernie/e_cluehunt.html)

#### The Writing Process: A Pizza Web Tutorial

<http://www.pesd.org/technology/writeprocess/default.html>

Two-Minute Brain Quests  
<http://www.brainquest.com/player/>

Tim and Moby Talk About Dyslexia  
<http://www.sparktop.org/explore/brainpop/bpdyslexia.html>

How Does a Kindergartner Read?  
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/issuesadvice/talkingandreading/literacyupdates/readingdevelopment/kindergarten.html>

Word Searches: Interactive  
<http://www.vocabulary.co.il/>

103 Reading Activities for the Classroom  
<http://www.readingrockets.org/article.php?ID=445>

### \_\_\_\_\_ NEW Spring 2005 IPTV Kids Schedule \_\_\_\_\_

This schedule is provided to assist children, their families, and child care providers as they plan their TV 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. Boohbah  
Noon Between the Lions  
12:30 p.m. Reading Rainbow  
1:00 p.m. Classroom TV  
2:30 p.m. Mister Rogers' Neighborhood  
3:00 p.m. Cyberchase  
3:30 p.m. Maya & Miguel  
4:00 p.m. Clifford the Big Red Dog  
4:30 p.m. Arthur  
5:00 p.m. Dragon Tales

#### **Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Bob the Builder (NEW SERIES to IPTV begins January 9)  
8:30 a.m. Angelina Ballerina  
9:00 a.m. Dragon Tales  
9:30 a.m. Thomas & Friends

### \_\_\_\_\_ Series Spotlight \_\_\_\_\_

BOB THE BUILDER is new to IPTV on Sundays at 8 a.m. beginning January 9.

"Can we build it?" "Yes, we can!"

Children all over America recognize this cheer from the popular series BOB THE BUILDER. Now, Bob and his entire crew are moving to PBS. Tune in to IPTV on Sundays at 8 a.m., beginning January 9, for never-before-seen episodes featuring Bob and his lovable gang of friends and machines - Scoop (a scooper), Muck (a dump truck), Lofty (a crane), Dizzy (a cement mixer), and Roley (a steam roller) - as they work together to solve problems. Bob's

business partner, Wendy, and Pilchard the cat also help out in the builder's yard. Other characters include Farmer Pickles, his tractor Travis, and the naughty scarecrow, Spud—who is always up to mischief.

The BOB THE BUILDER series presents an engaging world of construction play filled with adventure and positive messages for young children. In each episode, Bob, Wendy, and their crew of machines work together as a team, demonstrating the value of a "can-do" spirit, problem-solving and personal achievement, while always reminding their viewers that "The Fun is in Getting it Done!"

\_\_\_\_\_Subscribe/Unsubscribe\_\_\_\_\_

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