

Welcome to the July 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 July 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](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.

### \_\_\_\_\_Counting Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

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

In English: [www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglecounting705.pdf](http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglecounting705.pdf)

In Spanish: [www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglecounting705spanish.pdf](http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglecounting705spanish.pdf)

Understanding numbers is very important. Children need to be able 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."

#### READ IT

1. Mouse Count by Ellen Stall Walsh—A slithery snake finds ten sleeping mice that he thinks will make a delicious meal. He pops them into a jar . . . "one, two, three." But, being greedy, he sees just one more hidden in the grass and goes to collect it. The ten little captured mice outsmart him, however, and--"ten, nine, eight . . . "--uncount

themselves as they scramble from the jar and run home, safe and sound once again. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Infant-Preschool)

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. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Infant-Preschool)

3. Fish Eyes by Lois Ehlert—A counting book depicting the colorful fish a child might see if he turned into a fish himself. (Ages 4-8)

#### VIEW IT

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

\* Monday – Friday at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

CYBERCHASE – An action-packed adventure cartoon series which engages kids in the fun and challenge of mathematics. In each episode young heroes Jackie, Matt, and Inez and their cyber-bird friend Digit use math and problem-solving skills to stop the villain Hacker and his evil partners Buzz and Delete, in his quest to take over the Cyberworld. Their only weapon: BRAIN POWER! (For children ages 6-11)

\* Monday – Friday at 11:30 p.m.

#### DO IT

1. Lay out five spoons, buttons, or coins. Ask the 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. It is also important to count with the child each time to check his or her answer.

2. Counting Fingerplay – Two little pigs lived in a pen (show thumbs). Each had four babies, and that made ten (show fingers and thumbs). These four babies were black as night (hold one hand up, thumb in palm). These four babies were black and white (hold other hand up, thumb in palm). But all eight babies loved to play, and they rolled and rolled in the mud all day (roll hands over each other). At night, with their mother, they curled in a heap (make fists, palms up). And squealed and squealed till they went to sleep.

3. In a large space outdoors, draw a hopscotch board on the ground. Name and write a number in each square. Demonstrate how to hop to the numbers. Each time you hop to a number, say its name. This is a good activity to practice counting, number recognition and physical exercise!

4. Cut up celery sticks. Count the sticks. Fill each stick with peanut butter or spreadable cheese. Add raisins, counting as you go, by pushing them into the peanut butter or cheese.

5. Talk with your children and count everything in the conversations you have with them.

#### \_\_\_\_\_Food Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

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

In English: [www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglefood705.pdf](http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglefood705.pdf)

In Spanish: [www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglefood705spanish.pdf](http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/trianglefood705spanish.pdf)

Children's first experiences with food are part of their connection with being cared for and loved by another person. Often those feelings continue, and the giving and receiving of food is associated with giving and receiving love. As children grow they also learn they like some foods and not others. Children often make choices when offered food. These choices involve likes and dislikes. Parents can expand their children's experiences with food, particularly learning healthy alternatives to junk food. Food excites all the senses – you can see it, smell it, touch it, taste it, and sometimes even hear it.

#### READ IT

1. D.W., the Picky Eater by Mark Brown—Because her eating habits cause some problems, Arthur the aardvark's younger sister has to stay home when her family eats out. (Ages 4-8)

2. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle—Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep. Die-cut pages illustrate what the caterpillar ate on successive days. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Infant-Preschool)

3. I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato by Lauren Child—A fussy eater decides to sample the carrots after her brother convinces her that they are really orange twiglets from Jupiter. (Ages 4-8)

## VIEW IT

CAILLOU – Doing It Together #216 (4th Segment - Caillou's Milk Run)

\* Thursday, July 21, 2005 at 8:30 a.m.

Caillou accidentally spills the rest of the milk before Rosie could get her cereal. She is very upset and Caillou suggests they go get some more at the store. On the way, Caillou shows Mom that he knows when it is time to cross the street safely. When they get home, Caillou is disappointed to learn there is only enough cereal for Rosie! Rosie agrees to share and they have a great snack together.

BERENSTAIN BEARS – Papa's Pizza #138

\* Monday, July 18, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

Brother and Sister are having all of their friends over for a party, and want to serve something that all of them will like to eat. When they poll their pals for everyone's food likes and dislikes, they're shocked to discover their friends all like and dislike different things. It's Papa to the rescue when he suggests they provide their party guests with the ingredients to make everyone a personal pizza of their own.

## DO IT

1. Distinguish healthy foods from junk foods. Materials: glue, marker, pictures of food (from magazines, grocery fliers, etc.), poster board (two large pieces)

\* Prepare: Collect pictures of healthy foods and junk foods from magazines, fliers, newspapers, etc. On one piece of poster board, write the title "Healthy Food" and draw a green traffic light. On the other piece of poster board, write the title "Junk Food" and draw a yellow traffic light.

\* Sort healthy: Point to the green traffic light and ask: What does a green light mean? (Go ahead.) Kids should feel free to go ahead and eat lots of healthy foods. Help children choose and glue down two or three pictures of healthy foods onto this poster.

\* Sort junk: Point to the yellow traffic light and ask: What does a yellow light mean? (Slow down, and prepare to stop.) Explain that we should only eat junk food once in a while, if at all. Help children choose and glue down two or three pictures of junk food onto this poster (e.g., candy, chips, soda).

\* Continue to sort: Keep sorting food pictures while you discuss healthy eating habits. Ask questions such as: What sorts of things should we eat? How can we keep our bodies strong?

2. Children enjoy helping in the kitchen and often are more willing to eat foods they help prepare. Involve children in planning and preparing some meals and snacks for the family. It is important that you give kitchen tasks appropriate for your child's age. For example, it would be hard for a two-year-old to set the table but he/she might be able to stir, with help from you. Be patient as your child gains new skills at different ages. Expect a few spills. This is also a great time to take the opportunity to talk with your child.

## \_\_\_\_\_IPTV Kids Schedule for Summer 2005\_\_\_\_\_

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

[www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/Summer2005Schedule.pdf](http://www.iptv.org/kids/grownups/resources/documents/Summer2005Schedule.pdf)

During the summer months, 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 their summer watching television. 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. Brian Jacques' Redwall  
1:30 p.m. Zaboomafoo  
2:00 p.m. Thomas and 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

**Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Auto B. Good  
8:30 a.m. Angelina Ballerina  
9:00 a.m. Bob the Builder  
9:30 a.m. Thomas and Friends

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

Finding Program Schedule and Episode Descriptions:

- \* Go to Web site: [www.iptv.org](http://www.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.

\_\_\_\_\_July Focus on Media Literacy\_\_\_\_\_

Tips to Tame the Tube

TURN

TURN to public television.

- \* Choose the programs your children watch as carefully as you would the toys they play with or the books they read.
- \* Education experts agree that the content and presentation of public television programs are educational and enriching.

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

CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG airs weekdays at 7:30 a.m., 4 p.m., and 5 p.m. on IPTV.

Every day CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG and his friends (animal and human) share exciting adventures and entertaining stories that emphasize one or more of “CLIFFORD’s 10 Big Ideas.” These simple, tangible life lessons are designed to help young children navigate their world.

CLIFFORD’s 10 Big Ideas:

Be Responsible  
Believe in Yourself  
Be Truthful  
Help Others  
Share  
Play Fair  
Work Together  
Be a Good Friend  
Be Kind  
Have Respect

What CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG Teaches

- \* Shows how people can express their feelings and cope constructively with their emotions.
- \* Models relationships in which people respect each other, cooperate, and resolve conflicts as they play and work together.
- \* Portrays how a diverse community of people (and animals!) who differ in appearance can play and work together, and make and be friends.

Be sure to visit the CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG Web site at <http://pbskids.org/clifford> for activities and resources for parents and care givers as well as fun games, stories, music, art and other activities for children.

Getting the MOST from CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG

- 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.
- 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.

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

Bookfinder from PBS Parents

One of the best tools for encouraging literacy is well-chosen books. Bookfinder, a NEW tool from PBS Parents, helps you search for favorite books by age range and theme, as well as books to read aloud or books for kids to read to themselves.

Give it a try at <http://www.pbs.org/parents/bookfinder/>.

\_\_\_\_\_Resources for July\_\_\_\_\_

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/)

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood—Neighborhood News Newsletter—This 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.

[www.fci.org/newsletter/](http://www.fci.org/newsletter/)

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](http://www.fci.org/madfeelings/default.asp)

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

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

If you received this message from a friend, you can sign up for IPTV's Ready To Learn eNews by going to [www.iptv.org/enews.cfm](http://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.

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