

Welcome to the October 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 October 2006

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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 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.

_____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. Children are usually interested in all kinds of animals. Point out birds, insects, and worms that they see every day. Talk about what they eat, and how they move.

READ IT

1. Wonderful Worms by Linda Glaser—Describes the physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle of the common earthworm. (Ages 4-8)
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. Dog Breath by David Pilkey—Hally, the Tosis family dog, has such bad breath that Mr. and Mrs. Tosis plan to give her away until she proves to be an invaluable watchdog. (Ages 4-8)

VIEW IT

IT'S A BIG BIG WORLD – Sappy Monkey #115a

* Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Winslow eats too much sap and gets sick to his stomach. Smooch and Snook, with the help of the other animals, teach him about healthy eating.

CURIOUS GEORGE – Bee is for Bear #120b

* Monday, October 23, 2006 at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

* Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 11:30 a.m.

* Friday, October 27, 2006 at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

* Monday, October 30, at 11:30 a.m.

While exploring the country, George meets up with a baby bear and a stinging bee. No one believes that George has seen a bear, but they do try to help George learn more about bees. It takes a helping hand from the baby bear to save the bunnies from the bees and to prove to everyone that George knows a bear when he sees one.

BARNEY AND FRIENDS – Butterflies and Bugs

* Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Butterflies: Baby Bop is sad because she lost her pet caterpillar, Monty. Barney and the others try to help her find it. Baby Bop is surprised to discover Monty inside a chrysalis. Everyone is excited to find Monty - now a beautiful butterfly! Bugs: Barney and Baby Bop are thrilled when BJ sets up a bug zoo in the caboose but Riff isn't so sure he wants to be around bugs. When the park is magically transformed into an amphitheatre with insects performing, Riff discovers that bugs don't bug him after all.

DO IT

1. Cut pictures of animals out of magazines or ask your child to draw them. Have your child label the animals or you do it as he/she tells you what to write. Talk about where the animals live, their characteristics, likenesses and differences, etc. Help children identify pet characteristics using picture clues. Example: A cat has paws; a fish has _____.

2. Have your child draw a picture of a pet that he/she would like to have someday. Ask questions such as "Where would the pet live? What would you feed it?" Have the child print facts about the pet on the picture or you do it as he/she tells you what to write.

3. If you have a pet, talk about what you need to do to take care of it. Give your child a job to do each day such as feeding or brushing the animal.

4. Be a veterinarian! Help your 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, bandages and a dog leash. Talk about what a vet does.

Be a scientist! Go outside and look for animals. Talk about the worms, birds, dogs, cats and insects you find. Count how many of each you see and write notes about what you find in a notebook.

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

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

Understanding numbers is 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. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (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. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Infant-Preschool)
3. Quack and Count by Keith Baker—Seven ducklings take a rhyming look at addition. (Ages 4-8)

VIEW IT

THE BIG COMFY COUCH – Pinch to Grow an Inch #102

* Monday, October 30, 2006 12:30 p.m.

It's Molly's birthday, and she and Loonette talk about the difference between big and little.

CURIOUS GEORGE – Candy Counter #118a

* Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

* Friday, October 20, 2006 at 11:30 a.m.

* Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

* Thursday, October 26, 2006 at 11:30 a.m.

Eating candy is easy, but counting and sorting it is much more difficult! George quickly learns this when he agrees to watch Cayley's candy counter for an afternoon. While trying to stack the chocolates into different shapes, they all fall over, and George can't remember which candy is what! With help from a few customers, and a little sampling, George discovers how to sort the candies by color and shape.

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.

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

_____October Focus on Media Literacy_____

Understand How TV Violence Impacts Your Children from Iowa State University Extension’s “Taming the TV” publication.

Hundreds of research studies show that TV violence has serious effects on children and teens.

Children may

- * develop strong emotional fears;
- * become less sensitive to the pain and suffering of others;
- * become “immune” to the horror of violence;
- * gradually accept violence as a way to solve problems;
- * imitate the violence they observe on television; or
- * identify with certain characters, victims and/or victimizers.

Say no to TV violence

- * Refuse to let children see shows known to be violent.
- * Refuse to buy violent videos or DVDs.
- * Change the channel or turn off the TV when something offensive or violent comes on.
- * Verbally show disapproval of violent episodes.
- * Emphasize the belief that violent behavior is not the best way to solve a problem.
- * Contact parents of your children’s friends and agree to enforce similar rules about the length of time and type of program or video the children may watch.
- * Contact TV stations and major advertisers and express concern about violent programming.

Take control of the remote!

Most TV remote controls have a parental control option that allows parents to program in only the TV stations that they approve of. This is especially important for families who use cable TV. In some communities the local cable station also can install a device that will block unwanted programming at little or no charge.

_____Series Spotlight_____

THE BIG COMFY COUCH airs weekdays at 12:30 p.m. on IPTV.

THE BIG COMFY COUCH is a world of clowns, dolls, and dustbunnies. Visually rich and uniquely styled the show is a place like no other featuring Loonette, an appealing little clown-girl, who with her best friend Molly the Doll, lives on a big comfy couch where wild and wacky treasures are found under the cushions.

On THE BIG COMFY COUCH, the preschoolers laugh, grow, and learn about the world around them—and about themselves. Live action, innovative puppetry, original songs and music, and just plain silly fun cleverly mask an

educational focus on social and emotional development. The show's guiding principals promote tolerance and acceptance of differences, friendships across racial barriers and being responsible for your own actions.

Each episode includes a social/emotional theme, such as sharing or trust, and a physical awareness theme, like balancing and jumping, to get children off the couch and using their bodies. The series also stimulates a child's imagination, encourages creativity through movement, engages children in reading and math problem solving, and develops vocabulary skills. Segments such as the "Clock Rug Stretch," the "Ten Second Tidy," "Storybook Time," and "The Alphabet Game" convey specific developmental and educational content important to the preschool audience.

New episodes of THE BIG COMFY COUCH encourage children to make smart food choices and promote physical activities for a healthy life. The show's new segments include:

- * "Granny's Cabbage Club Cooking School." Granny Garbanzo hosts a television cooking show that promotes healthy eating habits.
- * "Major Bedhead's Clown Chi Dojo and Dancing School." Children will be encouraged to get up on the floor and dance with their favorite characters.
- * "Clowndergarten." Loonette teaches simple rhymes, songs and movement games to Clowntown's littlest clowns—portrayed by real children.

Be sure to visit THE BIG COMFY COUCH Web site at www.bigcomfycouch.us for activities and resources for parents and care givers including the "Laugh and Learn: Companion Guide to THE BIG COMFY COUCH" (<http://www.bigcomfycouchstore.com/education-guide.cfm>).

_____Adult Education Programs on IPTV_____

Iowa Public Television offers five new and returning series for adults that address GED preparation, financial literacy, life skills, and learning English. The series will air Sunday mornings from 4:00-6:00 a.m.

Connect with English

This English as a second language series touches on life's important issues: leaving home, parenting, education, work, love, success, and loss. Closed captioning may be used as a teaching and literacy resource. Airs Sundays, 4:00-6:00 a.m., April 1-May 13, 2007.

Crossroads Café

Crossroads Café is a series blending comedy and drama to teach English to speakers of other languages. Airs Sundays, 4:00-6:00 a.m., September 3-October 15, 2006.

GED Connection

This series relates the subjects and skills on the GED exam to work, community, and home life. It covers all five subject areas and addresses changes incorporated in the current GED exam. Airs Sundays, 4:00-6:00 a.m., January 21-March 25, 2007

TV411

TV411 focuses on parenting, money matters, and health. Subjects include reading comprehension, research techniques, writing to others, filling out forms, calculating percentages, using fractions, test taking, and more. Airs Sundays, 4:00-6:00 a.m., October 15-December 3, 2006.

Workplace Essential Skills

For adults who want to get — and keep — good jobs, this adult literacy series may be just the answer. The programs teach not just the skills but also the attitudes necessary to succeed at work. Airs Sundays, 4:00-6:00 a.m., December 10, 2006-January 21, 2007.

For more information about these series and how they can be utilized in schools or job training programs, contact Cheryl Mullenbach at 800-532-1290.

_____October Feature_____

My Very First Family Book Club...Make reading fun now, and your child will be a reader for life.

Article from the 7/28/06 Born Learning "Bits of Understanding" electronic newsletter:

bornlearning.org

You might want to start a "My Very First Family Book Club." It's just like the ones you're familiar with, but better.

Getting the Club off the ground:

- * Who will belong? You and your child. Siblings, friends or other family members are also welcome.
- * How often will you meet? Everyday. You can schedule time in the mornings or at bedtime or meet during daily activities. Bring books on errands or simply read signs on the street or labels at the store.
- * Who chooses the books? You provide the books, and your child gets to pick. Offer a selection that is age-appropriate (board books, flap-books, nursery rhymes, etc.) and attention grabbing (books on dinosaurs, trains, princesses or anything else that interests your child).

Making it Interactive: For My Very First Book Club, participation is the name of the game. As your child grows, you can encourage your child's involvement by having him/her:

- * Point to the pictures. Ask your child to identify an object on a page. Make it into a game. You describe the picture and see if your child can find it.
- * Touch the book and turn the pages. Talk with your child about how the pages or specific pictures feel and allow him/her to turn the pages at his/her own pace.
- * Help you tell the story. Leave out words to well known stories so your child can fill them in. Or, ask him to guess what will happen next.

The best part of My Very First Family Book Club is that reading is a wonderful way to spend time together. Not to mention that you can wear pajamas and pick the snack. And you really love the other members of the group.

_____Resources for October_____

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:

- * Welcome Back to School!
- * Tune in! New Launching Young Readers Program
- * Now Available! Reading Rockets Podcasts
- * New Monthly Webcast Series
- * Get Your Ed Extras
- * Books of the Month: Nursery Rhymes
- * Nikki Giovanni: An Exclusive New Video Interview

RESEARCH AND NEWS

- * National Center for Educational Accountability Releases Best Practices Studies
- * Kids and Family Reading Report
- * Google Book Search Offers Classics and More

IDEAS FOR PARENTS

- * Activities Starring Your Favorite Books and Characters
- * Reading Planet (and it's not Pluto!)
- * Questions Parents Ask: Dyslexia
- * September is Library Card Sign-up Month

IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS

- * Dissecting Dyslexia
- * Science Book Recommendations from Scientists!
- * Looking for Something?
- * Teaching History with Primary Documents

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_____

From PBS Parents:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/earlylearning/emotions.html>

Valuing Emotions

Acknowledge and validate feelings.

When your child is filled with giggles or overwhelmed by tears, you have an opportunity to help her recognize the emotion. By responding with patience, empathy, and understanding, you can encourage your kids to learn self control, build self-confidence, do better in school, and get along with others. When you value emotions, you are teaching your kids that their feelings count.

Try a child's-eye view.

Look at the world from your child's perspective. Observe playtime for clues to what is making him anxious, scared, happy or proud. It's a big confusing world from a child's point of view and sometimes even simple things become frustrations when a child is hungry or tired and just doesn't feel good.

Listen and identify emotions.

Take the time to listen to your child and understand what she is feeling. Help her identify feelings with words she can use like "angry," "hurt" or "frustrated." By talking about emotions early and often, you teach your kids how to handle feelings at home, at school, and for the rest of their lives. It takes years to learn to understand and react well to feelings — especially strong feelings and changing moods.

Later is better than not at all.

Life is busy and not every parenting moment is perfect. In fact, if you respond to your child most of the time, you're doing great. If there isn't time to deal with strong emotions in the moment, don't hesitate to come back later in the day and say something like, "I didn't feel very good about how I treated you this morning. You seemed upset and I didn't take the time to ask you what was wrong." If you recognize a child's feelings, he knows you care.

Provide emotional first aid.

You can reassure your kids in times of emotional crisis by telling them that you care for them no matter what they are feeling; that they are not alone; that you understand their feelings because you have felt that way too; and that it's okay to have the feelings they are having.

Help find solutions.

When the crisis has passed, encourage your child to suggest ideas for solutions to the problem that triggered the feelings.

_____Family Involvement Tip of the Month_____

Parent-Teacher Conferences from the 8/29/06 edition of The PTA Parent electronic newsletter:

www.pta.org

Effective parent-teacher conferences involve information sharing between parents, teachers, and possibly students, goal setting for the future, and progress evaluation. Parent-teacher conferences must be meaningful, regular, and two-way between home and school. Whether your child is in elementary, middle, or high school, asking the teacher the right questions can lead to a more productive conference and greater student success. Below are some suggested questions.

1. What are your expectations of my child (in all academic subject areas)? What is my child learning?
2. How do you know that she or he is learning?
3. In what areas does my child need to improve? How can I help my child improve?
4. How are you helping my child improve?
5. What are the homework requirements?
6. How are my child's learning skills and test-taking skills?
7. What are my child's academic and social strengths and weaknesses?
8. Are there any behavior problems that I should know about?
9. How are discipline and positive reinforcement handled in your classroom?
10. May I see my child's work?

It's also important to let the teacher know how your child is at home. Let the teacher know how your child reacts to praise, reinforcement, and discipline.

_____Subscribe/Unsubscribe_____

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