

Welcome to the September 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 September 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](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.

### \_\_\_\_\_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

ARTHUR – Pet Peeved #507b

\* Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Binky volunteers to look after Francine's cat, Nemo, for the weekend. Boy, this'll be great... all fun and games and surprise toys! But when Binky ignores Francine's cat-sitting instructions, Nemo has a few surprises in store of his own.

BARNEY AND FRIENDS – Pets and Vets #1009

\* Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

**Pets:** BJ learns that having a pet is a much bigger responsibility than he ever expected when he offers to take care of a friend's dog! When he accidentally loses the dog, everyone has to work together to find it! **Vets:** When Baby Bop's favorite teddy bear is torn, she wants to take him to the veterinarian for help. Barney and Riff pretend to be veterinarians. They show Baby Bop that there's nothing to be afraid of because doctors and veterinarians are our friends too!

FETCH! WITH RUFF RUFFMAN – Cats! I thought you said Kites! #104

\* Friday, September 29, 2006 at 3 p.m.

Ruff, a dog, is excited because he thinks today's episode is all about kites, until he gets a phone call from his boss Henry who wants the show be about cats. Cats!!!??? Ruff has no choice but to give airtime to cats as he challenges Taylor and Anna to train a cat to fetch. Meanwhile Noah and Brian must design, build and fly a kite that will lift a dog biscuit in the air and land it on the front porch of Charlene, the poodle next door.

#### 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.

\_\_\_\_\_Read to Your Child Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Read to your child every day. Stories we read to children help them learn about their world and how to "live life" and solve problems. They also teach them new words. Children learn to love to read by hearing books read to them. For children 3 and younger, read only a few minutes at a time. If they get "bored," stop, do something else and read to them again later in the day. (This is OK to do no matter what age your child is.) By age 3, many children will listen to books for 10-15 minutes at a time. Read as much as you can and don't forget to ask other family members to read to your child also.

#### READ IT

1. Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown—Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Ages 4-8)
2. Read To Your Bunny by Rosemary Wells—Brief rhyming text and colorful illustrations tell what happens when parents and children share 20 minutes a day reading. (This book is also available in Spanish.) (Infant-Preschool)
3. Book! Book! Book! by Deborah Bruss—When the children go back to school the animals on the farm are bored, so they go into the library in town trying to find something to do. (Ages 4-8)

#### VIEW IT

##### READING RAINBOW

\* Monday-Friday at 2 p.m.

This series is designed to spark young children's interest in books and reading. A different story is featured each day.

##### BETWEEN THE LIONS

\* Monday-Friday at 2:30 p.m.

This show is named for a family of lions who run a library whose doors swing open to reveal a magical place where characters pop off the pages of books, vowels sing, and words take on a life of their own. The series combines innovative puppetry, animation, live action, and music to achieve its goal of helping young children learn to read.

#### DO IT

1. Make your own books. Cut pictures from magazines or have your child draw pictures. Label each picture or write a story about the pictures.
2. Make up stories with your child. Talk about meeting a dinosaur or having a funny birthday party. If you want to, write the story as your child dictates it to you.
3. After reading a book,
  - tell your child stories about something that happened to you that was like the story in the book.
  - remind your child of something that happened to him/her that was like the book. Talk about it.
  - ask him/her to make up a new beginning or ending to the story.
  - ask him/her to draw a picture about what happened in the book.
4. Read a story to your child that he/she really likes and has heard before. Tell him/her to use the pictures in the book to retell the story. Say, "Pretend I have never heard this story before. Read it to me."
5. Children develop a love for reading by hearing and handling books at a young age. Spend time talking about the parts of a book. Show your child:
  - how to read books from left to right and from top to bottom.
  - how to turn pages without bending or tearing them.
6. Your child will learn from watching you.

\_\_\_\_\_School Theme Learning Triangle\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

While children are excited to go to kindergarten or preschool because it shows they are growing up, the change of routines, a new place and strange people can make this new experience a little scary. Sometimes children start acting like they did when they were younger: sucking their thumbs, clinging more to parents, needing more attention. Telling your child stories of your first days at school, talking with them about their excited or scared feelings and reading books about school will help ease their fears.

#### READ IT

1. School Bus by Donald Crews—Follows the progress of school buses as they take children to school and bring them home again. (Infant-Preschool)
2. Class Picture Day by Andrea Buckless—The only student to stick her tongue out in the class picture has to figure out how to fix this terrible mistake. (Ages 4-8)

#### VIEW IT

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS – The Homework Hassle #116b

\* Thursday, September 4, 2006 at noon.

Brother complains that he's given too much homework and that's why he has fallen so far behind at school. Papa blames it on his highly distractive study environment and until Brother gets caught up, there'll be no television, video games, loud music or chatting on the phone. When Brother decides to do a little homework every night, he finds it's much easier to stay on top of his workload.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS – Catch the Bus #127b

\* Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at noon.

Brother's tardiness has become such an inconvenience for others that he's given a wristwatch to correct the behavior. The watch gives Brother the time, but not the will to be on time and he continues making excuses. Not until Lenny causes Brother to be late for a movie does Brother realize how inconsiderate it is keep others waiting.

CAILLOU – Words #406

\* Monday, September 25, 2006 at 10 a.m.

Caillou can't wait until he is old enough to go to school. Since Sarah has no brother or sister, she invites Caillou to a little brother or sister day at school. The school is big and Caillou is a little afraid. But with Sarah's help Caillou has a lot of fun, he even draws on the blackboard.

#### DO IT

1. Play school with your child. Take turns being the teacher.
2. Explain to your child what he/she will learn or do at school by doing activities like these:
  - Sort playing cards by number, color, and shape.
  - Read a book magazine and point out letters and words. Do the same when you see business or street signs ("That word is McDonald's.")
  - Count everything—flowers, flags, buttons, wheels on a bike.
  - Line up chairs or boxes in rows and play "school bus." A driver's chair can be set up with a plate serving as the steering wheel. Tell your child to pretend to wait for the bus, get on it, ride to school, etc.

Each time you do these activities tell your child that these are some of the things he/she will learn or do at school.

3. Talk with your child. Every day, ask them questions about school. For example, ask:
  - What did you do today?
  - What did you learn today?
  - What made you feel good today at school?
  - What are you going to do tomorrow at school that will be fun?

Encourage your child to give you more than one word answers!

4. Every day, check your child's backpack to look for messages from school. Talk with him/her about what he/she brought home.

5. Tell your child what your school days were like. Speak positively about your days in school.

\_\_\_\_\_NEW IPTV Kids Schedule for Fall 2006 \*\*\*BEGINS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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 ***NEW***
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 ***NEW***
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 ***NEW***

### **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](http://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](http://www.iptv.org) are updated by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### \_\_\_\_\_September Focus on Media Literacy\_\_\_\_\_

TV Should be a Choice Not a Habit from Iowa State University Extension's "Taming the TV" publication.

For TV to be an effective tool, it should be a choice, not a habit! Choose from the TV schedule each week and take note of TV ratings.

#### TV Ratings

TV-G General Audiences – suitable for all ages

TV-PG Parental Guidance Suggested – may be unsuitable for younger children

TV-14 Parents Strongly Cautioned – may be unsuitable for children under 14

TV-MA Mature Audiences Only – may be unsuitable for children under 17

Sometimes ratings may be followed by initials describing the nature of the mature content:

L = Language

V = Violence

AS = Adult Situations

N = Nudity

S = Sexual Content

Explain to your child the three kinds of TV programs—the kind they can watch alone, the kind they watch with parents or parental supervision, and the kind that is absolutely off limits. Prevent arguments by letting each child choose one or two programs at appropriate times and mark their choices with different colored markers. Also help your child avoid the TV “glut rut” by encouraging them to watch a variety of shows; comedies, sports, nature films, and documentaries.

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

ARTHUR airs weekdays at 6:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on IPTV.

ARTHUR is an animated children's series based on the popular Arthur books by author/illustrator Marc Brown. ARTHUR follows the adventures and misadventures of 8-year-old Arthur Read, his little sister, D.W., his friends and family.

Each ARTHUR episode consists of two independent stories that focus on themes and events central to children's lives. The animated stories are linked by a live-action segment featuring school children who create their own ARTHUR-related activities.

#### What ARTHUR Teaches

The characters on ARTHUR grapple with the same challenges that many children in the audience face: maintaining friendships, working things out with siblings, dealing with fears and anxieties, and doing the right thing. The show can serve as a springboard into family conversations that invite kids to talk about problem-solve similar situations in their lives.

How does ARTHUR help prepare children for school?

The series helps prepare children for school by focusing on key issues that are relevant to their everyday experiences. Situations presented in the series encourage kids to hone their social and problem-solving skills. These skills, along with the literacy behaviors that are modeled by the characters, help prepare young children for school and for life. Through a comprehensive outreach campaign the series also provides parents, teachers, librarians, and caregivers with the resources to extend the topics presented in the series.

The goals of the ARTHUR series are to:

- \* Model positive social behavior, emphasizing the importance of communication, empathy, responsibility, and respect for one self and others.
- \* Promote critical thinking and everyday problem solving.
- \* Motivate reading and writing.

Be sure to visit the ARTHUR Web site at <http://pbskids.org/arthur/> for activities and resources for parents and caregivers as well as fun games, stories, music, art and other activities for children.

Ideas for Watching ARTHUR with Your Child

- 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.

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

Separation Anxiety: An excerpt from the August 1, 2006 edition of The PTA Parent

Back-to-school time can be very emotional for children. For first-time students, being away from parents, adjusting to a new environment with new people, and adapting to a new routine can be overwhelming. Before school starts, parents should help their children practice being “on their own” by having them spend supervised time with friends or relatives. Parents should talk with their children about the positive aspects of school and visit the school, teacher, and classroom before the start of the school year. Children may enjoy shopping for school supplies with their parents.

Parents may want to adjust bedtime and wake-up time for their child a few weeks before the start of school to lessen the effects of sleep deprivation on their child’s mood. Finally, it can be helpful to celebrate the start of school with a special meal or outing.

Children normally shed a few tears when their parents leave the classroom. Parents should not extend their stay because it only prolongs and intensifies the child’s reaction; typically the tears go away shortly after the parent leaves. This behavior may last a few days or weeks. Teachers are prepared to handle the situation and if given advance notice that a child may react badly to separation, they may be able to give the student a special job or partner in the class to help him or her adjust.

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

Sign Up Today to Receive The PTA Parent

<http://www.pta.org/>

The National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) has a FREE biweekly electronic newsletter designed to keep adult family members connected to the best parent resources. Give it a try. There are some excellent ideas and resources available.

#### \_\_\_\_\_Resources for September\_\_\_\_\_

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/)

#### MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* Back to School
- \* Books of the Month: Graphic Novels
- \* Coming Soon! Ed Extras
- \* Seymour Simon: An Exclusive New Video Interview

#### RESEARCH AND NEWS

- \* Research Center for Learning Disorders Announced
- \* Recognizing and Responding to Learning Disabilities in Preschoolers
- \* Gates Foundation Invests in PreK

#### \* IDEAS FOR PARENTS

- \* Helping Your Child Succeed in School
- \* Easing the Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten
- \* 10 Ways Parents Can Help Teachers
- \* Mem Fox's Read Aloud Commandments

#### IDEAS FOR EDUCATORS

- \* Need Ideas for Your Bulletin Boards?
- \* Online Story Writing
- \* Dr. Seuss on the iPod!

#### 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\_\_\_\_\_

PBS Parents Guide to Going to School:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/goingtoschool/index.html>

Whether you are sending your child off to preschool or kindergarten for the first time, let the experts share some advice in the PBS Parents Guide to Going to School. Help your child start school right. Get the scoop on what kids really learn and how they learn it in the Grade-by-Grade section of the guide. Also learn how to ask the kinds of questions that will get more than the “fine” or “nothing” answers to the questions, “How was school today?” and “What did you learn in school today?”

Formal schooling will be a part of a child’s life for many years. It is important for parents and early care and education providers to do all we can to help instill a love for learning in our children. IPTV wishes you a fun and learning filled year!

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

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