

Welcome to the May edition of Iowa Public Television's (IPTV) Ready To Learn 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 0-8 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 May 2004

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_____May Feature_____

READING ROCKS

Motivation for Struggling Readers

READING ROCKS! is a buoyant new PBS television special airing on IPTV on Friday, May 28 at 1:00 p.m. The show is designed to appeal to kids and encourage struggling readers to keep trying. The Disney Channel's Nick Spano ("Even Stevens") hosts the special, which uses wacky humor to offer stories of hope to children who are trying to learn to read. Set to a hip-hop soundtrack, READING ROCKS! features a kid author, a claymation movie, inspiring profiles, and silly moments with Spano.

The television show and its Web site are the first projects of Reading Rockets created expressly for kids. While Reading Rocks! is designed for kids ages seven to 12, the special can also help parents and teachers understand and encourage struggling readers at home and school.

To learn more about READING ROCKS!, visit the following Web site:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/tv/rocks.php>

_____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. They need to play, to manipulate, to group and repeat.

Ready To Learn uses the learning triangle to teach children skills and concepts using PBS KIDS programs, books, and activities. These theme-related activities help children make connections between the program or the segment of a program they view, the book they read and the activity they do. The repetition and variety of media used will reinforce the skills and concepts you teach.

_____Record Rights for PBS Kids Programs_____

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.

_____Careers Theme Learning Triangle_____

VIEW IT

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS - On the Job #118b

Tuesday, 5/18/04 at 10:30-11 a.m.

When Teacher Bob assigns his class a project on what they'd like to do when they grow up, everyone seems to know where their interests lie except Brother. After exploring Bear Country to see what types of jobs there are, Brother discovers he's interested in many things. Now his problem is deciding which one to include in his project.

Alternate Title:

READING RAINBOW – Archibald Frisby

Wednesday, 5/19/04 at 12:30-1 p.m.

LeVar explores how science is a part of many everyday activities. He takes a ride on a roller coaster and then figures out how it works and how that's science. Viewers find out how Velcro was designed, how crash test dummies help auto designers, how studying weightlessness impacts on the space program, and how working with a biomechanist helps a high jumper improve her technique.

READ IT

Clifford Gets a Job by Norman Bridwell - An enormous red dog gets fired from his circus and farm jobs before he finds work that helps pay for his huge food bills.

Alternate Titles:

1. *Jobs People Do* by Christopher Maynard - Text and photographs of real people at work as well as authentic detailed costumes present the key aspects of over fifty occupations.

2. *Work* by Ann Morris - Come fly an airplane in Germany and a kite in Thailand, fish for wind-up whales on a sidewalk in Japan and cod off the coast of Canada, herd sheep in New Zealand and ride an elephant in the United States. These lively photo essays take young children on a trip around the world to visit people from a rich variety of cultures at work and at play.

DO IT

1. **Materials:** Chart paper, crayons or markers

Many children already have careers in mind for the future. Ask, "What job do you think you might want to do when you grow up?" Write children's ideas next to their names on a chart. Many jobs require special clothes or special tools. Discuss the jobs on the list. "What special clothes does a (e.g., firefighter, clown or mail carrier) wear? What tools does she or he use?"

2. **Materials:** Paper, crayons or markers, scissors, magazines

The children may enjoy making signs for the different jobs/careers they have talked about. On a sheet of paper, write the name of a job or career. Can the children think of something they could put on the paper to represent that job or career? You may also want to look through magazines and cut out pictures to past on the signs.

_____Diversity Theme Learning Triangle_____

VIEW IT

READING RAINBOW – Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message #129

Thursday, 5/6/04 at 12:30-1 p.m.

Bread is a staple in every culture, and LeVar talks about how the differences in cultures impact on this common food. A Hopi woman shows how she makes blue cornmeal bread, and we visit an East Indian restaurant where they bake bread in a tandoori oven.

Alternate Title:

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD - Dance #1574
Thursday, 5/27/04 at 2:30-3 p.m.
Mister Rogers visits with Dance Theatre of Harlem.

READ IT

Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris - Celebrates the many different kinds of bread and how it may be enjoyed all over the world.

Alternate Titles:

1. *Diego* by Jeanette and Jonah Winter - Discusses the childhood of Diego Rivera and how it influenced his art.
2. *Hats, Hats, Hats* by Ann Morris - Introduces a variety of hats, from soft and hard hats to snuggly and hooded hats.
3. *Everybody Cooks Rice* by Norah Dooley - A child is sent to find a younger brother at dinnertime and is introduced to a variety of cultures through encountering the many different ways rice is prepared at the different households visited.

DO IT

1. See if the children can tell how they are different from their friends. Do they have the same parents, like the exact same foods, wear the same clothes, live in the same houses, have the same ideas or feelings, look the same as their friends? Ask the children to look carefully at the person sitting next to them. How are they like that person? How are they different?

2. **Materials:** Different varieties of bread, paper, crayons or markers

Foods that are new to some people are everyday fare to others. Over the next few days, try sampling breads from around the world. You might try sourdough (from San Francisco), pita (from the Middle East), bagels (a New York favorite), tortillas (from Mexico), injera (from Ethiopia), lavash (from Afghanistan), foccacia (from Italy), chapatti (from India), or matzoh (from Israel).

Have the children make a list with hand-drawn illustrations of the breads. If you like, cast votes to choose a favorite.

Point out on a map where each type of bread is commonly eaten. Talk about what foods that are unique to where you live.

_____Related Resources for May_____

Sesame Workshop's View & Do Newsletter – This monthly publication gives episode descriptions and activity tips for SESAME STREET, DRAGON TALES, and SAGWA.

* English: <http://www.iptv.org/rtl/downloads/ViewMay04Engfinal.pdf>

* Spanish: <http://www.iptv.org/rtl/downloads/ViewMay04Spafinal.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>

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood - Spring Edition 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/>

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood *Mad Feelings* Newsletter for May – 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>

_____Web site of the Month_____

PBS Parents: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/>

The PBS Parents Web site is dedicated to helping families, educators, and child care providers raise children who are ready to learn. Visit the Web site and find thousands of activities tied to children's favorite PBS KIDS and get expert advice from leaders in child development, such as Dr. Stanley Greenspan.

_____Subscribe/Unsubscribe_____

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