



Ready, Set... LEARN

Learning about math is fun!

Welcome to our newest issue of Ready, Set ... LEARN. We are proud to offer the participants of WETA Ready To Learn workshops information on WETA TV 26's literacy projects along with learning tools for you to use with your child.

This issue will examine ways to help your children learn about math concepts. There are activities, book suggestions and information about how to choose and share great children's books. We hope this newsletter will provide you with ways you can actively engage your kids in fun, educational activities.

As always, if you are interested in more information about WETA Ready To Learn and other WETA TV 26 educational activities, please visit www.weta.org or contact us at 703-998-2827 or eod@weta.com.

Teaching children basic math concepts is easy and fun. Here are some ideas to help you show your child how to use math in everyday life.

1 Cooking dinner? Well, that can be a math lesson. Have your child help measure the ingredients. Cut up an apple together; talk about the number of pieces. You've cut the apple into fractions.

2 Pull out a measuring tape and have fun around the house. How far is the distance from the sofa to the wall? How tall is each member of your family? You can also measure by using other tools such as foot lengths or popsicle sticks. Compare measurements using the various tools.

3 Create a chart together. Write the days of the week across the top of the page and write the names of chores or skills that you want your child to learn down the side. Use

stickers to mark off the days when the child completes his tasks. Then ask questions such as: How many days in the week did the child set the table? How many times did she clear the table?

4 Think about all the ways that you use math concepts in your everyday life and for fun. Patterns, bingo and connect the dots are just a few more of the activities that can teach children basic math concepts. You can play new math games all the time, from counting the number of lines on the sidewalk to the number of houses on your block. Have a good time with teaching, and your child will have fun learning.

For more ideas, please go to www.pbs.org/parents/earlymath.



WETA KIDS on TV 26

Weekdays

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 6:30 am | A Place of Our Own |
| 7:00 am | Between the Lions |
| 7:30 am | It's a Big Big World |
| 8:00 am | Curious George |
| 8:30 am | Clifford The Big Red Dog |
| 9:00 am | Super Why! |
| 9:30 am | Dragon Tales |
| 10:00 am | Sesame Street |
| 11:00 am | Barney & Friends |
| 11:30 am | Mister Rogers' Neighborhood |
| 12:00 pm | Reading Rainbow |
| 12:30 pm | Raggs |
| 1:00 pm | Big Comfy Couch |
| 1:30 pm | Maya & Miguel |
| 2:00 pm | WordWorld |
| 2:30 pm | WordGirl |
| 3:00 pm | Clifford The Big Red Dog |
| 3:30 pm | Super Why! |
| 4:00 pm | Dragon Tales |
| 4:30 pm | Cyberchase |
| 5:00 pm | Arthur |
| 5:30 pm | FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman |

Saturday

| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies |
| 6:30 am | Animalia |
| 7:00 am | Design Squad |



Image credits: Raggs: Raggs, LLC; Super Why!: Out of the Blue Enterprises; WordGirl: Scholastic Media; Word World: (c)2007, Word World, LLC. All rights reserved.

New Kids' Programs to Watch

Raggs is a musical preschool series starring five colorful canines and their wisecracking pet cat, Dumpster. Raggs and his friends are not your average dogs — they're also talented musicians and together, as The Raggs Band, make rock n' roll music. Each episode follows the band through engaging theme-based stories for ages 3 to 6 that explore issues faced by real kids. In each episode the characters work through a series of creative steps to find a successful conclusion to everyday challenges.

Each theme is explored with live-action stories at the clubhouse, animation shorts, music videos and live interviews with kids about the specific episode theme. Interactive studio concerts featuring real-life fans and a "Wag & Wiggle" dance segment promote movement and physical fitness.



Super Why! is aimed at kids ages 3 to 6 who are learning the fundamentals of reading. Hosted by familiar storybook characters, every episode of *Super Why!* begins in Storybrook Village, a community home to many of your child's favorite literary characters, where one Storybrook Village character encounters a conflict. In



order to solve the problem, the hosts of *Super Why!* morph into Super Readers, superheroes with special powers such as "Spelling Power," and "Power to Read," along with the "Power to Help" reserved for your child. The Super Readers fly inside books to solve each episode's problem and engage in many fun educational activities that build reading and reasoning skills. Episodes end with the Super Reader demonstrating correct social skills so the problem can be fixed.

WordGirl The new action cartoon series, *WordGirl*, highlights the many adventures of WordGirl and her dog, Captain Huggy Face. After crashing into planet Earth, Becky Botsford lives the secret life of superhero, WordGirl. WordGirl defeats wicked villains using her superhero strength and collegiate vocabulary. Aimed at ages 4 to 9, *WordGirl* introduces new vocabulary in a variety of fun and creative ways. *WordGirl* helps to increase vocabulary usage, reading comprehension and the joy of reading in kids.



WordWorld is a lively cartoon series aimed at kids, ages 3 to 5, who are beginning to learn to read. The characters of the show are WordFriends, colorful animals whose bodies are made up of the letters that spell what animal they are. Children are taught the



meanings of words and sounds of letters throughout the program. When a conflict arises in the cartoon, the WordFriends place the correct letters together to create the appropriate word that best solves the problem. The newly formed word then transforms into the physical thing it is, known as a Word Thing. This teaches children words are made up of letters and have actual meanings, too. Reading concepts, like sounding out letters and rhyming are also introduced in *WordWorld*. The series helps preschool-age kids become comfortable with words, making the initial steps of reading much easier and fun for kids.

Finding and Sharing Great Kids' Books

Favorite stories get shared many times over. Here's some advice about how to find a good children's book and what to do once you're reading together with your child.

What to look for:

- Choose award-winning books. Each year the American Library Association selects children's books for the Caldecott Medal for illustrations and the Newbery Medal for writing.
- Check the book review section of newspapers and magazines for recommended new children's books.
- Check the "Books and Authors" section of www.ReadingRockets.org for recommendations and reviews.

Remember: Borrowing books from your local public library and swapping favorites with neighbors are two good ways to learn about new books.

What to do:

- Listen carefully as your child reads.
- Take turns. Read a paragraph (or page), and have your child read the next one.

- If your child has trouble reading a word, you can help in several ways:

- 1 Guide your child to use what he knows about letters and sounds to sound out the word.
- 2 Ask your child to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and then say a word that would make sense in the story.
- 3 Supply the correct word.
- 4 Tell your child how proud you are of his efforts and skills.

Remember: Your child may be focusing more on how to read each word than on what the story means, so your reading together helps to keep the story alive.

Adapted from Kame'enui, E. J., & Simmons, D. C. Read* Write*Now! Activities for Reading and Writing Fun.

For more information about helping your child with reading, please check www.ColorinColorado.org.

Getting Ready to Learn



WETA provides free Ready To Learn workshops for parents and childcare providers, teaching them how to use children's television to improve literacy skills. All participants learn how to connect public television programs to children's literature and activities. Each workshop introduces several new children's books, and all participants receive one of the featured books to keep. Certificates of attendance are available to participants.

Ready To Learn covers several topics including Teaching Basic Reading Skills, Anger and Tantrums, and Health and Nutrition. If you are interested in learning more about Ready To Learn and WETA, please e-mail eod@weta.com or call 703-998-2827.

Explore Recommended Books

LET'S LEARN! Books Using Math Concepts

From numbers one to 10 and back again, math is all around us. Whether a child is getting ready for bed or the family is preparing a meal, whether a child is learning how to share or just being plain silly, there's an opportunity to explore math. Math is both fun and magical, too; it can be seen as a curse or a way to take you to the moon — and beyond. And it all starts when children are Ready To Learn!

For ages 0-3 years

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
by Eileen Christelow

Have fun with five, appealingly incorrigible little monkeys who do anything but sleep when they go to bed — despite a repeated warning not to jump on the bed — in a lively version of the familiar rhyme.

One Duck Stuck
by Phyllis Root,
illustrated by Jane Chapman

The duck stays stuck no matter how many animals come to help; that is, until they work together. Rhythmic and rhyming language combines with lively illustrations for a playful counting book.

One Naked Baby: Counting to Ten and Back Again
by Maggie Smith

Start the count of familiar things with one freshly bathed toddler, then count from 10 back to one in this lively romp told in rhythmic language and fresh illustrations.

Ten, Nine, Eight
by Molly Bang

A girl and her father count down to sleep in this modern bedtime classic. Warmth exudes from the cozy room and the warm relationship depicted in rich illustrations.

For ages 3-6 years

Click Clack Splish Splash
by Doreen Cronin,
illustrated by Betsy Lewin

Duck (Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type) is back! With the help

of the other farm animals, the countdown is on to liberate Farmer Brown's fish. From one to 10, counting has never been so much fun.

The Doorbell Rang
by Pat Hutchins

Victoria and Sam's portion of their mother's cookies continues to dwindle with each ring of the doorbell — that is, until Grandma comes in with a fresh batch! Explore arithmetic in a real-life situation each time someone joins the family.

Inch by Inch
by Leo Lionni

A clever inchworm measures his way out of trouble to avoid being eaten by a range of conceited birds — moving inch by inch, unseen into the tall grass.

For ages 6-9 years

How Much is a Million?

by David Schwartz,
illustrated by Steven Kellogg
Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician works wonders to show children the largest numbers in — and out — of this world. Zany illustrations and concrete examples bring a zillion things into focus.

Math Curse

by Jon Scieszka,
illustrated by Lane Smith
Did you ever have one of those days where everything becomes a math problem? If so, you've got a math curse — just like the narrator of this madcap look at real arithmetic and the apprehension it can cause.

Use the Ready To Learn Learning Triangle

VIEW

Curious George

Monday, June 23 at 8 a.m. or 2:30 p.m.

Curious George vs. The Turbo Python 3000

George isn't tall enough to ride the greatest roller coaster of all time, The Turbo Python 3000. He uses licorice whips to measure his height and determines that he is seven whips tall, one short of the eight-whip minimum! As he nibbles on his licorice, George looks for ways to grow. His efforts seem to pay off when he measures himself again, but then he realizes it's not that his legs are longer, it's that his stomach is fuller.

READ

Zoe's Hats by Sharon Lane Holm

Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes

by Stephen R. Swinburne

Hannah's Collections by Marthe Jocelyn

DO

PATTERN PLAY

Directions: Sorting objects and arranging them into patterns helps your child build

basic math skills. Try these simple, fun activities to help your child identify the rule that organizes it.

1. **Go on a pattern hunt.** Look for repeating patterns on clothes, rugs, wallpaper, bathroom tiles, and in books and magazines. Talk about each pattern and help your child identify the rule that organizes it. For example you might say, "Look at the colors of the square tiles in our bathroom: white, pink, pink; white, pink, pink."
2. **Make a pattern.** Using simple objects around the house, create patterns with your child. Chant the pattern as you point to each item in line, "Fork, spoon; fork, spoon. What comes next?" Encourage your child to create patterns of his own.
3. **Get in the groove.** Invite your child to copy a simple movement and sound pattern like this one: Tap thighs, clap hands, clap hands. Tap thighs, clap hands, clap hands. Let your child create movement patterns for you to copy, too.

Take it further. Incorporate patterns into your child's arts and crafts time. Try these simple ideas:

1. Use markers, stamps or stickers to create a lively pattern on a paper headband or greeting card.
2. Glue objects like beads and buttons in a pattern to decorate a picture frame.
3. Make patterned bracelets by stringing colored cereal or pasta onto string.

FOR MORE ACTIVITIES

Log on to www.pbskids.org, www.pbsparents.org or www.pbsteachers.org.

Special thanks to Maria Salvadore for her contribution to this newsletter.

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If you would like more information about WETA Ready To Learn, please go to www.weta.org or contact us at 703-998-2827 or eod@weta.com.



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