Welcome to our newest issue of Ready, Set... Learn!

We are proud to offer you information about WETA’s literacy projects along with learning tools for you to use with your child.

This issue examines ways to continue your children’s learning over the summer. Plus, there are book suggestions and tips on how to choose and share great children’s books. We hope Ready, Set... LEARN will provide ideas to actively engage your kids in fun, educational activities.

To find out more about WETA Kids educational programs and other WETA Television programs and activities, please visit weta.org or contact the WETA Outreach & Community Engagement department at 703-998-2827 or outreach@weta.org.

Special thanks to Maria Salvadore and Kim Phillip for their contributions to this newsletter.

WETA Kids Ready To Learn and Where Literacy Begins are made possible through the generous support of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, the DLT Foundation, The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, the PNC Foundation and an anonymous foundation.
It's a challenge to keep kids reading and writing through all ten weeks of summer. To help, WETA is launching a summer literacy challenge for your classroom or family. The challenge includes a wide range of literacy fun for the whole family.

**VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY**
Most libraries offer free, special programs during the summer, including puppet shows, book author visits and children’s story times.

**EXTEND YOUR READING CIRCLE**
We often read the same types of books over and over again. Consider bringing a new type into the mix like fantasy or science fiction, historical fiction, poetry, biography, or other non-fiction book.

**LISTEN UP!**
Audio books are a great way to engage readers and can introduce students to books above their reading level. Many libraries have audio books available to check out, and several Internet sites, including Speakaboos.com, offer free downloads.

**MAKE YOUR OWN AUDIO BOOK**
Most phones and computers have simple recording apps you can use to make homemade audio books. Have your child make up a story, or reread a favorite loved book, and they can listen to their own story again and again — even on the go!

**GO WORDLESS**
Wordless picture books are told entirely (or mostly) through pictures. Grab a few wordless books the next time you’re at the library and have fun “reading” different versions of the same story.

**VISIT A MUSEUM, ONLINE!**
You can explore a museum without leaving your house. The Smithsonian Institution Kids site at si.edu/kids is complete with offerings from Art to Zoo, for kids and students of all ages.

**PACK IN A WHOLE ADVENTURE!**
Find free, themed reading adventure packs that encourage hands-on fun and learning, centered around paired fiction and non-fiction books. Visit the Reading Rockets Adventure Pack page at readingrockets.org/article/reading-adventure-packs-families.

**POINT, SHOOT, AND WRITE**
Snap some photos with a digital camera, iPad or camera phone and have your child to write a silly caption, thought bubbles or short narrative for each photo. Alternatively, you can cut pictures from magazines or newspaper and have your child write about those.

**INSPIRE BUDDING AUTHORS**
Explore author interviews together with your child from over 100 authors on Reading Rockets Author Interview page at readingrockets.org/books/interviews.

**WRITE IT DOWN**
Encourage your child to keep a simple journal or summer diary. Track interesting things like the number of fireflies seen in one minute, the phases of the moon on different days, or the different types of food that can go on the grill.

For more ideas, please go to ReadingRockets.org or pbsparents.org
Weekdays on the WETA Kids Channel

26.3 over the air via antenna | Cox 801 | Comcast 266 | FiOS 472 | RCN 38

6:00 a.m.  Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood
6:30 a.m.  Arthur
7:00 a.m.  Odd Squad
7:30 a.m.  Wild Kratts
8:00 a.m.  Ready Jet Go!
8:30 a.m.  Nature Cat
9:00 a.m.  Curious George
9:30 a.m.  Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood
10:00 a.m. Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood
10:30 a.m. Sesame Street
11:00 a.m. Peg + Cat
11:30 a.m. Dinosaur Train
12:00 p.m. Dinosaur Train
12:30 p.m. WordWorld
1:00 p.m.  Cyberchase
1:30 p.m.  The Cat in the Hat
           Knows a Lot About That!
2:00 p.m.  Super WHY!
2:30 p.m.  Cyberchase
3:00 p.m.  Thomas & Friends
3:30 p.m.  Bob the Builder
4:00 p.m.  WordWorld
4:30 p.m.  Martha Speaks
5:00 p.m.  WordGirl
5:30 p.m.  Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood
6:00 p.m.  Nature Cat
6:30 p.m.  The Cat in the Hat
           Knows a Lot About That!
7:00 p.m.  Arthur
7:30 p.m.  Ready Jet Go!
8:00 p.m.  The Zula Patrol
8:30 p.m.  Odd Squad
9:00 p.m.  Biz Kid$  
9:30 p.m.  Cyberchase
10:00 a.m. SciGirls
10:30 a.m. Maya & Miguel
11:00 a.m. Bob the Builder
11:30 a.m. Thomas & Friends
12:00 a.m. Dinosaur Train
12:30 a.m. Arthur
1:00 a.m.  Wild Kratts
1:30 a.m.  WordGirl
2:00 a.m.  Super WHY!
2:30 a.m.  Martha Speaks
3:00 a.m.  Peg + Cat
3:30 a.m.  Super WHY!
4:00 a.m.  WordWorld
4:30 a.m.  Caillou
5:00 a.m.  Clifford the Big Red Dog
5:30 a.m.  Peep and the Big Wide World

NEW KIDS’ PROGRAMS TO WATCH

The new series Nature Cat follows Fred, a house cat who dreams of exploring the great outdoors. Once his family leaves for the day, Fred transforms into Nature Cat, backyard explorer extraordinaire. Nature Cat can’t wait to get outside for a day of nature excursions and bravery, but there’s one problem: he’s still a house cat with no instincts for nature. Like many of today’s kids, Nature Cat is eager and enthusiastic about outside activities, but is at times intimidated by them. With the help of his animal friends, Nature Cat embarks on action-packed adventures that include exciting missions full of nature investigation, “aha” discovery moments and humor, all while inspiring children to go outside and “play the show.” (Nature Cat airs weekdays at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the WETA Kids Channel.)

Ready Jet Go! is a new earth science and astronomy series for children ages 3-8. The show takes viewers on a journey into outer space, building on children’s curiosity about science, technology and astronomy. The series follows two neighborhood kids: Sean, who has an all-consuming drive for science facts, and Sydney, who has a passion for science fiction and imagination. They both befriend the new kid on their street, Jet Propulsion, whose family members happen to be aliens from the planet Bortron 7. Together, they explore the solar system and the effects it has on the science of our planet, while learning about friendship and teamwork along the way. Ready Jet Go! also features live-action interstitials with Jet Propulsion Laboratory astronomer Dr. Amy Mainzer, who also is the science curriculum consultant for the show. (Ready Jet Go! airs weekdays at 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on the WETA Kids Channel.)
Explore
Recommended
Books

AGE LEVEL 0-3

**Milo and Millie** by Jedda Robaard
Before Milo and his teddy go to bed, they have an imaginative bath-time adventure in a boat, sailing past a busy city, through a storm and more. Soft illustrations communicate the gentle nature of their jaunt. Easy instructions for Milo’s folded paper boat can help inspire bathtub explorations and experiments.

**Ants** by Jmari Schuh
Clear photographs in a colorful format combine with brief information to provide an introduction to ants. A photo-glossy, index and an age-appropriate website for more information extends the use and appeal of this book (and the series).

**Green is a Chile Pepper** by Roseanne Thong, Illustrated by John Parra
Colors introduce foods and more to Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries. Naïve style illustrations accompany bouncy rhymes that incorporate Spanish words; all colors appear in both Spanish and English.

**Tyler Makes a Birthday Cake** by Tyler Florence, Illustrated by Craig Frazier
When Tyler forgets his dog’s birthday, Mr. Baker teaches him how to bake a cake. There the boy learns about where the ingredients for a carrot cake originate. Childlike illustrations provide information and humorous asides from Tofu, the dog. Tyler’s dog-friendly carrot cake recipe is included.

AGE LEVEL 6-9

**How Does My Garden Grow?** by Gerda Muller
Sophie lives in a big city but eagerly anticipates going to the countryside to visit her grandparents for the summer. She learns about growing a vegetable garden as she prepares, plants and harvests. Realistic illustrations show an entire scene, as well as close-ups on each double-page spread.

**Survive! Inside the Human Body, Volume 1: The Digestive System** by Gomdori co, Hyun-dong Han
Geo, Dr. Brain and a couple of friends explore the digestive system from within in their nanoship. The last chapter sets up the team’s next adventure. First published in South Korea and translated into English, the comic book format provides adventure and information.

**The Legend of Lightning and Thunder** by Paula Ikuutaq Rumbolt, Illustrated by Jo Rioux
This legend of thunder and lightning features orphaned siblings traveling without enough food. While camp folk are distracted, the children grab meat to eat and a caribou skin and flint with which to play. To avoid punishment, they hide in the sky where they play to this day. The Arctic and its residents are evoked in swirling illustrations and a straightforward telling of an appealing traditional tale.

**The Open Ocean** by Francesco Pittau, Bernadette Gervais
Guess whose silhouette? Find out with a lift of a flap. Examine a close-up, lift the tab and up pops a small ocean-dwelling creature. Put pages together to see an entire fish. The large format and sturdy pages with meticulous illustrations engage, surprise and hold lots of information for readers.

How are gardens like boats? Why are baths similar to green peppers? And what do any of these have to do with an adventure inside a digestive tract? Each can be explored now! So find a cool place, pick up a book and discover the stuff of summer!
Summer Learning, Side-by-Side

Summer is a fun season full of interesting bugs, games and activities, which may lead to lots of questions from your kids:

- How do fireflies light up?
- Where do thunderstorms come from?
- Who made the rules for baseball?
- Why does it stay light for so long?
- How do you make ice cream?
- Where do the colors in fireworks come from?
- What happens if I swallow a watermelon seed?

Grab hold of one of your child’s questions and start a journey of discovery together!

Make regular visits to the library to find books, magazines and movies on the topic your child is interested in. Look for related fiction as well as non-fiction.

Ask questions as you read together or when your independent reader finishes a book. Have your child tell you something new or surprising he learned or to read a section full of interesting words.

Help your child learn the basics of Internet research, at home or at the library. Bookmark a few kid-friendly, educational websites and guide him through simple searches. Look at the American Library Association’s Great Websites for Kids page at ala.org/offices/library/alarecommends/recommendedwebsites for ideas.

Check out the summer programming schedule on WETA or other educational shows to see if there are shows related to your child’s new interest.

Seek out free or inexpensive resources in your community: parks and recreation center programs, a community garden or farmer’s market, museums (the Smithsonian museums are free and most others have kids-get-in-free days), and neighborhood interest groups like the Stargazers Club — or start your own interest group! Taking a field trip together and having a hands-on experience can enhance what you learn from books and movies.

Keep a record of what you learn together — it’s a great way to engage young learners, provide writing practice, and help kids retain new knowledge. Start a journal, create a scrapbook or send a handmade postcard to family or friends.

Invite your child to talk with family and friends about her new interest. Maybe your child never knew that grandpa collects rocks, too, and has a wonderful collection and stories to share. Encouraging kids to share with others gives them a chance to have some fun taking on the role of teacher!

For more information about helping your child with reading, please check ReadingRockets.org or ColorinColorado.
Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood
Tuesday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m.
WETA Kids Channel
Episode: Daniel Gets Frustrated

Daniel is staying home with Mom Tiger today. He really wants to play with Prince Wednesday, but the prince is visiting his cousin Chrissie. He asks Mom if they can go to Music Man Stan’s shop, but they can’t because it is closed.

Daniel gets really frustrated when it seems that he’s unable to do anything he wants to do. With some guidance from Mom, Daniel learns how to work through his frustration.

Help your child create a healthy snack that starts some healthy talk about different feelings.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
∙ Rice cakes or pita bread
∙ Knife
∙ Cream cheese or peanut butter
∙ Raisins
∙ Apple slices
∙ Bananas

DIRECTIONS
1. Round rice cakes or pita bread make a great base for a face that can show different emotions and generate some healthy talk about feelings.
2. Let your child spread a rice cake or pita bread with peanut butter or cream cheese to create the foundation for the face.
3. Ask your child what kind of feeling she would like to make on the face. Raisins could be used for eyes, a nose or mouth. An apple slice could make a smiling or frowning mouth. A banana chunk could be a nose. A banana slice could be a surprised mouth or eyes.

TAKE IT FURTHER
You may want to ask your child to talk about what makes her feel angry, sad, surprised, scared, happy or disappointed. Then talk about what helps at times like that.

TALK ABOUT IT
Being able to use words to describe what they’re feeling gives children power over their feelings. Giving words to feelings can make them a lot less overwhelming or scary. Also when children can talk about their feelings with a caring listener, they find that their feelings are natural and normal, and that others have felt that way, too.

PLAY
You can go a step further and add a fourth element to your learning by playing games on the PBS Kids website to engage your child to learn more about her feelings. Check out the Daniel Tiger section of the website and play Feel the Music at pbskids.org/daniel/games/feel-the-music/

For more activities, log on to pbskids.org, pbsparents.org or pbsteachers.org