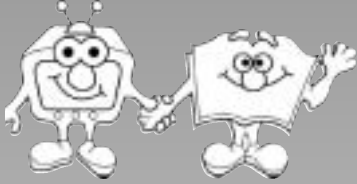


CONNECTIONS

Making good TV better for young children

Vol. 58, April 2004

April Theme: Emergent Writing Scribbles to Script



LINK IDAHOPTV SHOWS TO A BOOK TO FOSTER A LOVE OF READING.

Start with a great PBS show.

Connect to a book and an activity for fun and powerful learning.

Look inside for ideas on TV and book connections.



Build Literacy Skills with Television

Published monthly by
Idaho Public Television
1-800-543-6868
www.idahoptv.org/kids

The contents of this publication are supported under the Ready-To-Learn Television program, P/R Award Number R295A00002, as administered by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.



Tips on encouraging early writing

- Involve children in your everyday interactions with words as much as possible: share mail, read recipes and write shopping lists.
- Supply writing materials such as notepads, pencils, clipboards and markers that children can explore with.
- Encourage your child to "write" stories, draw and color pictures and to sign their artwork.
- Honor youngsters' early attempts at writing by showing interest in their work and providing encouraging comments.

Writing is an important and pleasurable part of life, and children need to feel—from a very early age—that they can participate in and contribute to the power and magic of the written word.

INFANTS—While too young to pick up a pen and produce prose, babies do engage in and practice skills they'll use for writing later on. Nurture prewriting fine motor skills with activities that develop their pincer grasp (thumb and forefinger coordination), such as picking up small pieces of food. Talk to babies when you write, but be sure to keep materials out of reach—infants explore by tasting.

TODDLERS—Given the chance, most children start writing in early toddlerhood. First attempts begin with randomly placed scribbles. But even then, tots sense power in written language—especially if they see others writing regularly and in meaningful ways.

As physical coordination matures, youngsters "write" with more control—squiggles evolve into circles and eventually sentence-like scrawls. Strengthen fine motor skills with clay play, building, pouring, stringing activities and lively finger-plays.

PRESCHOOLERS—With their greater physical dexterity and developing cognitive skills, younger preschoolers copy letters from their environment, draw pretend letters, string letter/symbol patterns in lines across the page and separate their drawings from "words." Encourage children's early writing experiences: record their conversations from puppet play on a large piece of paper, reread together at a later time, then document in a book.

Emergent Writing

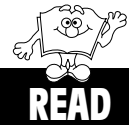


VIEW

READING RAINBOW Friday, April 2
2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT
Find out the fun you can have in libraries.

CAILLOU Friday, April 23
9:00/8:00 a.m. MT/PT
CAILLOU loves to pretend!

BETWEEN THE LIONS Wednesday, April 28
11:00/10:00 a.m. MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT.
Learn how to write a story.



READ

I Spy Little Letters

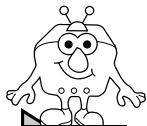
by Jean Marzollo

Features simple rhymes and bright picture clues that will engage toddlers.

If you Take a Mouse to School

by Laura Joffe Mureroff

In this amusing tale the *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series continues.



VIEW

**THE
LEARNING
TRIANGLE**



READ



DO

If the Shoe Fits

by Alison Jackson

In an original take on some favorite nursery rhymes, characters search for a new house that's bound to be more pleasure than trouble.



DO

Provide opportunities for your child to write. When children communicate through written words, they feel empowered—"I can write." "I see my words and you can read them!"

Ask your child to tell you about their writings and drawings. Caring support now will reinforce children's interest in reading and writing, setting the stage for a future of rewarding learning experiences.

Tracing, copying, maneuvering mazes and connecting the dots are all engaging games that nurture children's early writing skills.

TRACE

- Natural objects (rocks, feathers, leaves), toys, cooking utensils.
- Hands, arms, bodies.
- Alternate thin and fat writing tools.

COPY

- Draw squiggles, wavy lines, loopy loops and zigzags.
- Have kids copy your marks, then you copy theirs.

MANEUVER A MAZE

- Draw a simple trail with one or two curves.
- Mark start and end points with pictures. Tell a story along the way.
- Increase the challenge by adding looped paths and dead ends.

CONNECT THE DOTS

- Place stickers or make random dots on paper.
- Connect the dots.
- Take turns connecting with different colored markers.



APRIL TITLES

Weekdays at 2:30/1:30 MT/PT ••• www.gpn.unl.edu/rainbow

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Space Case
(Aliens and Earth's wonders) | 12 | The Milk Makers
(Milk and milking cows) | 22 | Saturday Soncocho
(Math) |
| 2 | Alistair in Outer Space
(Libraries) | 13 | Barn Dance!
(Barn dancing) | 23 | Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin
(Musical patterns) |
| 5 | And Still the Turtle Watched
(Responsibility to nature and the environment) | 14 | The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash
(Exotic pet shop and livestock show) | 26 | Mummies Made in Egypt
(Egypt and mummies) |
| 6 | Stellaluna
(Night animals) | 15 | Ox-Cart Man
(Life in the 1800s) | 27 | Germs Make Me Sick!
(How the body fights germs) |
| 7 | The Life Cycle of the Honey Bee
(Beehives and honey) | 16 | June 29, 1999
(Science fiction) | 28 | Chickens Aren't the Only Ones
(Chicken farm and logger; turtles lay eggs) |
| 8 | Bugs
(Insects and butterflies) | 19 | Math Curse
(Math) | 29 | Digging Up Dinosaurs
(Dinosaurs) |
| 9 | The Salamander Room
(Animal habitats) | 20 | How Much Is a Million?
(Large Numbers) | 30 | Desert Giant: The World of the Saguaro Cactus
(Deserts) |
| | | 21 | Lemonade for Sale
(Math; Graphing) | | |



Weekdays at 8:00/7:00 a.m. MT/PT
Sundays at 7:00/6:00 a.m. MT/PT
pbskids.org/barney

April	Topic
1	Triangles
2	Bike parade & safety
4	Inside and outside
5	A happy and fun day
6	Family
7	Water
8	Houses
9	Water fountains
11	A happy and fun day
12	On and off
13	Sharing
14	Cats
15	Fairy tales
16	Hot and cold
18	On and off
19	Purple
20	Day and night
21	Pianos
22	Friendship
23	Being last is OK
25	Purple
26	Kites
27	Good manners
28	Dogs
29	Empty boxes are fun
30	Crossing the street

MISTER ROGERS'S NEIGHBORHOOD

Weekdays 1:00/12:00 noon MT/PT
pbskids.org/rogers



April	Topic
5-9	Work
12-16	Then & Now
19-23	Environment
26-30	Families

SAGWA, THE CHINESE SIAMESE CAT

Weekdays 7:30/6:30 a.m.
Sundays 9:00/8:00 a.m. MT/PT
pbskids.org/sagwa



April	Topic
1	Responsibility/Jealousy
2	Importance of rules/ Ego and pride
4	Valuing differences/ Seeking common goals
5	Friendships/Learning to communicate
6	Perseverance/Lying
7	Ego and pride
8	Telling the truth/ Perseverance
9	Responsibility/Friendship
11	Friendships/Learning to communicate
12	Peer pressure/Valuing talents
13	Peer pressure/Jealousy
14	Peer pressure/Responsibility
15	Recognizing difference/ Conflict resolution
16	Appreciating what you have/ Believing in yourself
18	Peer pressure/Valuing talents
19	Appreciating what you have/ Jealousy
20	Responsibility/Ego and pride
21	Appreciating what you have/ Fears
22	Appreciating what you have/ Appreciating others
23	Responsibility/Lying
25	Appreciating what you have/ Jealousy
26	Making a difference/ Valuing talent
27	Using talents for good/ Making a difference
28	Conflict resolution/ Developing empathy
29	Responsibility/ Making a difference
30	Conflict resolution Being open-minded



Weekdays at 11:00/10:00 a.m. MT/PT
repeats at 5:00 p.m. PT
Sundays 10:00/9:00 a.m. MT/PT
pbskids.org/lions

April	Topic
1	Gender roles
2	Leona faces her fear
4	Lionel posts new library rules
5	Dictionaries
6	Gender roles
7	Resolving conflicts between friends
8	Leona faces her fear
9	A mixed-up story needs fixing
11	Dictionaries
12	Dreams
13	Resolving conflicts between friends
14	A mixed-up story needs fixing
15	Leona keeps the family awake
16	Houdini's escapes
18	Dreams
19	Treasure hunting
20	Leona keeps the whole family awake
21	Sports
22	Houdini's escapes
23	How to write a story
25	Treasure hunting
26	Making dreams come true
27	Sports
28	How to write a story
29	A magic popcorn popper won't stop
30	Leona is under a table and won't come out.

Link TV to books & activities
for themed learning fun!

April VIEW-DO-READ Theme Weeks



Sunday

EMERGENT WRITING

I Spy Little Letters

by Jean Marzollo

If you Take a Mouse to School

by Laura Joffe Mureroff

4

BETWEEN THE LIONS
Libraries
10:00/9:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

Monday

5

BETWEEN THE LIONS
Dictionaries
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

Tuesday

6

SESAME STREET
New letters everyday!
11:30/10:30 a.m.
MT/PT

Wednesday

7



CAILLOU
Messages
9:00/8:00 a.m.
MT/PT

Thursday

8



READING RAINBOW
Books and stories
everyday!
2:30/1:30 p.m.
MT/PT

Friday

9



BETWEEN THE LIONS
Fixing a mixed up story.
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

Saturday

6

Draw a picture of your favorite story on your sidewalk using chalk!

PROBLEM SOLVING

My First Riddles

by Judith Hoffman

Arthur's Teacher Trouble

by Marc Brown

11

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: THE ANIMATED SERIES
Solving a problem
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT

12

BETWEEN THE LIONS
Conflict resolution
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

13

BARNY & FRIENDS
Learning to share
8:00/7:00 a.m.
MT/PT

14

BETWEEN THE LIONS
Fixing a mixed up story
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

15

SAGWA, THE CHINESE SIAMESE CAT
Conflict resolution
7:30/6:30 a.m.
MT/PT

16

BETWEEN THE LIONS
Houdini's Escape
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

17

Discuss different solutions to problems with your child throughout the week.

MATH

The Doorbell Rang

by Pat Hutchins

Eating Fractions

by Bruce McMillan

18

PLAZA SESAMO
Learn numbers in Spanish!
8:00/7:00 a.m.
MT/PT

19

READING RAINBOW
Programs about math concepts all week!
2:30/1:30 p.m.
MT/PT

20

CYBERCHASE
Programs about math concepts every day!
4:00/3:00 p.m.
MT/PT

21

DRAGON TALES
Solving problems
10:30/9:30 a.m.
5:00/4:00 p.m.
MT/PT

22

CAILLOU
Following directions
9:00/8:00 a.m.
MT/PT

23

READING RAINBOW
Patterns
2:30/1:30 p.m.
MT/PT

24

Count how many steps it is to your mailbox, car, neighbor's house.

FAMILIES

Whose Mouse Are You?

by Robert Kraus

Brothers & Sisters

by Ellen B. Senisi

25

BETWEEN THE LIONS
A lion family works together
11:00/10:00 a.m.
MT/PT
5:00 p.m. PT

26

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD
Programs about families all week!
1:00/12:00 p.m.
MT/PT

27

BERENSTAIN BEARS
Grandmas
2:00/1:00 p.m.
MT/PT

28

GEORGE SHRINKS
When Mom and Dad go away
1:30/12:30 p.m.
MT/PT

29

ARTHUR
Grandmas
7:00/6:00 a.m.
MT/PT

30

CAILLOU
Working as a family
9:00/8:00 a.m.
MT/PT

31

Make a list of "Ways to Have Fun at Home." Try a different activity each day for a week.



www.idahoptv.org/kids

Web site resources include episode descriptions and more activities and ideas for children and those who care for them.

Ready To Learn Workshops

Idaho Public Television offers free workshops for parents and child care providers of children ages birth through 8 years. Our topics include "Raising Readers," "Take Charge of Your TV," "Teaching Children Anger Control," and "Learning Through Play." If your group would be interested in hosting a workshop, call Lynn Allen 208-345-4453.