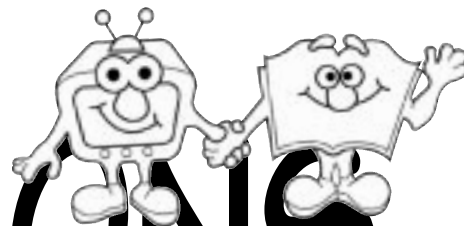


# CONNECTIONS



Making good TV better for young children

**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.**



## Book of the Month *Too Many Tamales* By Gary Soto

A warm holiday story of a young girl who tries to eat herself out of trouble when she loses her mother's diamond ring in the tamale batter.

### Fun Things To Do With Your Child

- Wrap up in a blanket and share the story *Too Many Tamales* with your child. Add hot chocolate to make this a special treat.
- Talk to your child about family traditions you remember from your childhood, as well as those you and your family now share.
- Start a new family tradition, like visiting a nursing home during the holiday season. Traditions strengthen a child's sense of family.
- On December 5th BARNEY & FRIENDS discover a variety of traditions.



Friends of Idaho Public Television — KISU  
P.O. Box 8111  
Pocatello, ID 83209

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Link IdahoPTV shows to a book to foster a love of reading.

## Tips on helping your child construct math concepts

- **Good books provide a meaningful context for learning mathematics concepts. Stories spark children's curiosity about their world, serving as springboards for mathematics investigation.**
- **Use numbers, counting, and quantification in everyday activities, like sorting clothes to be washed, counting forks to set the dinner table, and measuring amounts of food when baking.**
- **Play with blocks, puzzles and other manipulatives. Children who are surrounded with interesting objects are naturally led to make relationships between those objects.**
- **Rhythm and music activities are excellent for promoting emergent math concepts, such as patterns, sequence, and classification skills.**



[www.pbs.org/arthur](http://www.pbs.org/arthur)  
Airs Weekdays at 7:00/6:00,  
10:00/9:00 and  
3:30/2:30 MT/PT; Sundays  
at 9:30/8:30 MT/PT

ARTHUR and his friends use effective, age-appropriate problem-solving skills.

## Emergent Mathematicians

Children are mathematicians from the day they are born. As children interact with their environment and other people they are constantly constructing knowledge. Young children may not be able to add or subtract, but their relationships with people and their interactions with a stimulating environment set the stage for the development of mathematical concepts. Perhaps it is time to begin looking at the construction of mathematical concepts the same way we look at literacy development—as emergent. Reading to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is known to be an early positive step toward literacy success. It promotes and supports learning to read and write by immersing children in language and giving them an opportunity to interact with it.

Mathematical learning can be viewed in a similar way. Children begin to construct the foundations for future mathematical concepts during the first few months of life. Before children can add or even count, they must construct ideas about mathematics that cannot be directly taught. Ideas that will support formal mathematics later in life include order and sequence, and classification.

There are many easy things that parents can do to encourage the emerging mathematician in every child. Offer your infant, toddler and preschooler opportunities and materials to promote their construction of mathematical thinking. The tips on helping your children construct math concepts listed above this article are a great place to start.

Adapted from "Children Are Born Mathematicians",  
Young Children,  
July 2001



[www.pbs.org/dragontales](http://www.pbs.org/dragontales)  
Airs Weekdays at 10:30/9:30 and  
5:00/4:00 MT/PT

This animated, fantasy adventure series helps preschool-aged children learn new skills.

### Dec. Titles

- 3 *The Runaway Duck* (Chesapeake Bay waterfowl and duck carving)
- 4 *A Three Hat Day* (Racetracks and hockey)
- 5 *Rumpelstiltskin* (Renaissance Fair)
- 6 *Best Friends* (Dogs)
- 7 *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch* (The Old West)
- 10 *My Little Island* (Caribbean Islands)
- 11 *The Bionic Bunny Show* (Set of Star Trek: The Next Generation)
- 12 *Bugs* (Insects and butterflies)



[www.gpn.unl.edu/rainbow](http://www.gpn.unl.edu/rainbow)  
Weekdays at 2:30/1:30 MT/PT

- 13 *The Robbery at the Diamond Dog Diner* (Diners and making pasta)
- 14 *Brush* (3-D animation and parade floats)
- 17 *The Purple Coat* (Fashion design)

- 18 *Barn Dance!* (Barn dancing)
- 19 *Duncan and Dolores* (Cats)
- 20 *Knuts on a Counting Rope* (Overcoming disability)
- 21 *Mummies Made in Egypt* (Egypt and mummies)
- 24 *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* (African culture)
- 25 *Humphrey the Lost Whale: a True Story* (Whales)
- 26 *Stay Away From the Junkyard* ("Junk" and its uses)
- 27 *Little Nino's Pizzeria* (Pizza)
- 28 *Ludlow Laughs* (Comedy)
- 31 *Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with the Family Lizardo* (Baseball)

# December Theme: Math is Everywhere



## Watch: DRAGON TALES

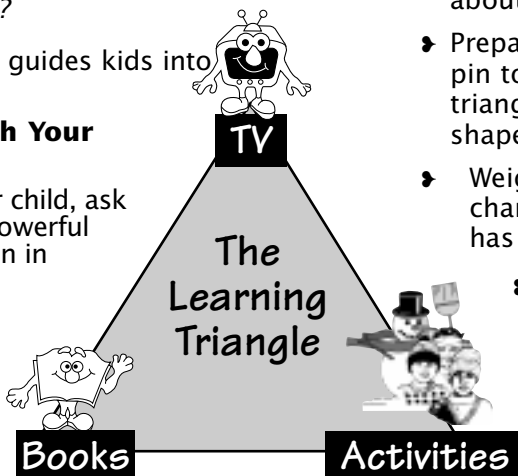
Friday, December 15 at 10:30/9:30, 5:00/4:00 MT/PT  
 Emmy and Zak learn to put together a puzzle and other problem solving skills.

## Read: How Much Is a Million?

By David M. Schwartz  
 Marvelosissimo the Magician guides kids into the world of large numbers.

## Things to Talk About With Your Child

- After reading books to your child, ask "What if...?". This is a very powerful method of involving children in problem solving strategies.
- Ask your child what they liked or disliked about the book or what they would change in the book. Could your child relate to the characters in the book?



## Activities:

- Make a snack kabob by alternating chunks of fruit and cheese. This is a fun way to teach your child about patterns and sequence.
- Prepare cookie dough for rolled cookies. Use a rolling pin to roll the dough evenly. Use circle, square, and triangle shaped cookie cutters to create different shaped cookies.
- Weigh and measure your child frequently. Make charts that will show your child how much he or she has grown.
- Take turns tossing a soft ball or a pair of folded socks into a laundry basket or bucket. Keep track of how many times the ball goes into the basket.
- Enlist your child's help in preparing and serving snacks. How many people need a snack? How many snacks do we need so that everyone has one? Two? Do we have enough yet?

## Explore a variety of math concepts with BARNEY, SESAME STREET, and ZOOM.



[www.pbs.org/barney](http://www.pbs.org/barney)  
 Airs weekdays  
 at 8:00/7:00 a.m. MT/PT  
 Repeats at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

### Dec. Topics

- 3 Patience, post office
- 4 Building
- 5 Tradition
- 6 Allergies and colds
- 7 Games and exercises
- 10 Individual differences
- 11 Bears
- 12 Eating out and eating healthy
- 13 Trees and recycling
- 14 Cleanliness
- 17 Sun and wind
- 18 Following directions
- 19 Family unity
- 20 Ponds
- 21 On a dairy farm
- 24 Books and libraries
- 25 Jealousy
- 26 Safety
- 27 Circles
- 28 Adoption
- 31 Music



[www.pbs.org/sesame/](http://www.pbs.org/sesame/)  
 Airs weekdays at 11:30/10:30 a.m. MT/PT  
 Sundays at 6:00/5:00 a.m. MT/PT

- 2 Linda's birthday (H, 6)
- 3 A Sesame Street band (Q, 4)
- 4 Making Collages (B, 2)
- 5 Grouchy feelings (I, 12)
- 6 Helping others (K, 17)
- 7 Imagination (W, 1)
- 9 Imagination (W, 1)

- 10 Stick with it! (H, 13)
- 11 Baby sitting (R, 6)
- 12 Special friends (J, 14)
- 13 In our own time (U, 11)
- 14 Finding lost things (D, 12)
- 16 Finding lost things (D, 12)
- 17 Big for a day (P, 0)
- 18 Disappearing "S's" (S, 16)
- 19 Putting on a play (E, 17)
- 20 Feelings (Z, 20)
- 21 Drawing (T, 11)
- 23 Drawing (T, 11)
- 24 Stormy weather (X, 8)
- 25 Feelings (G, 12)
- 26 Memories (N, 5)
- 27 Helping others (K, 9)
- 28 Big Bird's new nest (U, 19)
- 30 Big Bird's new nest (U, 19)



<http://www.pbs.org/zoom/>  
 Airs weekdays at 4:30/3:30 p.m. MT/PT

- 3 Crab soccer; Fluffy peanut butter dip
- 4 Stone soup puppet show; The scoop game
- 5 Bubbles; Egg boat; Ants on a log
- 6 Wheel barrow race; Castle cake
- 7 Arm stretch; Banana treats
- 10 Run rabbit run; Chocolate bowls
- 11 Fruit pizza; Refrigerator tag; The chin play
- 12 Wheel barrow race; Castle cake
- 13 Arm stretch; Banana treats

- 14 Run rabbit run; Chocolate bowls
- 17 Fruit pizza; Refrigerator tag; The chin play
- 18 What's denser?; Football circle; Popsicle stick puzzle
- 19 Baby picture name game; Scrapbook
- 20 Animal sound game; Strawberry surprise
- 21 Strawberry sorbet; Stranded on a desert island
- 24 What's denser?; Football circle; Popsicle stick puzzle
- 25 Baby picture name game; Scrapbook
- 26 Animal sound game; Strawberry surprise
- 27 Strawberry sorbet; Stranded on a desert island
- 28 Hula with water
- 31 Zoetrope

**Theme &  
Book of the  
Week**

# TV & Activity Connections - December



**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

30

31



[www.idahoptv.org/kids](http://www.idahoptv.org/kids)  
Web site resources include episode descriptions and more activities and ideas for children and those who care for them.



2

**TRADITIONS**

*Too Many Tamales*  
By Gary Soto

*Rocking Horse*

By Mary Pope Osborne



3

**SAGWA THE CHINESE SIAMESE CAT**  
Festivals  
4:00/3:00  
MT/PT



4

**SESAME STREET**  
Collages  
11:30/10:30  
MT/PT



6

**CAILLOU**  
Family vacations  
9:00/8:00  
MT/PT

5

**BARNEY & FRIENDS**  
Traditions  
8:00/7:00  
2:00/1:00  
MT/PT

7

**READING RAINBOW**  
Learning about the past  
2:30/1:30  
MT/PT

8

Make a tradition to read to your child everyday.

9

**NATURE**

*Amy Loves the Snow*  
By Julia Hoban

*The Big Snow*

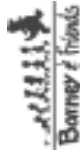
By Berta & Elmer Hader

**ARTHUR**  
Winter  
9:30/8:30  
MT/PT

10

**READING RAINBOW**  
Islands  
2:30/1:30  
MT/PT

11



**BARNEY & FRIENDS**  
Bears  
8:00/7:00  
2:00/1:00

12

**READING RAINBOW**  
Insects  
2:30/1:30  
MT/PT

13

**BARNEY & FRIENDS**  
Recycling  
8:00/7:00  
2:00/1:00  
MT/PT

14



**ZOOBOMAFOO**  
Animals  
12:30/11:30  
MT/PT

15

Explore the outdoors. Encourage your children to use their different senses.

16

**HELPING OTHERS**

*Franklin in the Dark*  
By Paulette Bourgeois

*The Car Washing Street*

By Denise Lewis Patrick

**SESAME STREET**  
Helping others  
6:00/5:00 a.m.  
MT/PT

17



**JAY JAY THE JET PLANE**  
Helping others  
1:30/12:30  
MT/PT

18



**CAILLOU**  
Big brothers  
9:00/8:00  
MT/PT

19

**CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG**  
Helping friends  
7:30/6:30  
3:00/2:00  
MT/PT  
4:30 PT

20

**READING RAINBOW**  
Overcoming disabilities  
2:30/1:30  
MT/PT

21

**DRAGON TALES**  
Accepting others  
10:30/9:30  
5:00/4:00  
MT/PT

22

Plan kind things to do for others, like helping your brother clean his room.

23

**MATH**

*More More More Said the Baby*

By Vera Williams

*How Much Is a Million?*

By David M. Schwartz

**SESAME STREET**  
Learn a new number everyday!  
6:00/5:00 a.m.  
MT/PT

24

**ZOOM**  
Math games  
4:30/3:30  
MT/PT

25



**READING RAINBOW**  
Problem solving  
2:30/1:30  
MT/PT

26

**BARNEY & FRIENDS**  
Circles  
8:00/7:00  
2:00/1:00  
MT/PT

27

28



**DRAGON TALES**  
Problem solving  
10:30/9:30  
5:00/4:00  
MT/PT

29

Count the days in December. How many days until the New Year?