PTV - THE READY TO LEARN SERVICE

Recognizing the importance of quality television for its younger viewers, WTVP continues the PTV - Ready To Learn project. Designed for children ages 2–12, PTV features an unprecedented combination of services:

- The full line-up of PBS children’s series—the quality, educational, nonviolent, noncommercial programming that parents and educators have trusted for two generations;
- Specially-produced “program breaks” that urge children to be creative, curious, cooperative, and responsible learners; and
- Training workshops and resource materials to help parents, teachers, and caregivers extend the educational impact of the programs—and help children love learning.

The on-air component of the Service is available Monday-Friday from 5:30-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-5:30 p.m. WTVP cable viewers also receive additional early morning children’s programming. Program details follow:

BETWEEN THE LIONS
This series is a multi-media educational initiative created to help children aged four to seven acquire beginning skills and a love of reading. The series is built around a curriculum that incorporates the most recent advances in literacy skill instruction.
Monday-Friday 5:30 & 9:30 a.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

ARTHUR
This animated series—featuring the world’s most famous aardvark—uses imagination, kindness and humor to help young people meet the challenges of childhood.
Monday-Friday, 6 AM & 4:30/3:30 PM; Sat. 6:30 AM; Sun. 10:30 AM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS
CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG
The programs emphasize good citizenship and the importance of community. Through the character of Clifford, whose heart is as big as he is, children absorb gentle lessons about acceptance and inclusion.
Monday-Friday 6:30 & 10:30 AM; Saturdays 5 AM; Sundays 6:30 AM
July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

SESAME STREET
Award-winning preschool program prepares children for formalized learning in school and tackles the issue of race relations, presenting the idea that there are all kinds of people whose differences are delightful, but whose humanity is the same.
Monday-Friday 7 AM; Saturdays 8 AM; Sundays 7 AM
July-Dec., 2004 60 minutes PBS

BOOHBAH
Powered by the laughter and joy of real children, the Boohbahs—five colorful atoms of energy with infectious enthusiasm—engage children as active participants in their own learning and growing process.
Monday-Friday 10/10:30 AM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

BARNEY & FRIENDS
A fuzzy purple stuffed dinosaur, comes to life—giant size—through the fantasies of six children, who invite preschoolers to interact with the characters, sing along and learn while having fun.
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM; Sun. 8 a.m. July-Dec., 2004 30 min. PBS

TELETUBBIES
The series’ unique format and characters are designed to nourish young children’s thinking skills, teach them to listen, help build their curiosity, expand their imagination and increase their confidence.
Mon.-Fri. 9/10 a.m.; Sun. 8:30 a.m. July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD
Mister Rogers helps children feel good about themselves.
Monday-Friday 11 AM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS
BERENSTAIN BEARS
For four decades, The Berenstain Bears books have delighted children worldwide. Programs in the series instill timeless life lessons and reflect the traditional community values of country life.
Monday-Friday 2:30 p.m. July-Oct.; 5 AM Sat., Oct.-Dec.  2004
30 minutes PBS

DRAGON TALES
This series chronicles the adventures of six-year-old Emmy and her four-year-old brother Max, who discover a magic dragon scale in the playroom of their house. The series encourages children to pursue challenging experiences and teaches that trying and not fully succeeding are natural and valuable parts of growing up.
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

GEORGE SHRINKS
Based on the popular children’s book by William Joyce, GEORGE SHRINKS celebrates the power of being small. George may only be three inches tall, but that’s not a problem—he never sweats the small tasks or shies away from challenges. The program highlights self-acceptance, working within one’s limitations, creatively solving problems and overcoming obstacles.
Sat. 5:30 & 7 a.m. July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

CAILLOU
Based on the series of best-selling children’s books, the stories address real problems and conflicts typical to a young child's development. Through it all, Caillou is just an irresistible little boy in a big world with whom every young child and parent can identify.
Sunday 6 AM, July-Dec. 2004 30 minutes PBS

CYBERCHASE
CYBERCHASE, an animated adventure series, takes kids on a wild ride through cyberspace—and challenges them to use the power of math to solve problems. The program sends the message that math is fun—math is about problem solving and, boy, does it come in handy.
Monday-Friday 3:30/4:30 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m. July-Dec., 2004
30 minutes PBS

READING RAINBOW
Host LeVar Burton takes young viewers on reading adventures that help motivate an interest in reading for pleasure and entertainment.
Monday-Friday 3/2:30 PM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

POSTCARDS FROM BUSTER
POSTCARDS FROM BUSTER, a spin-off of the popular show ARTHUR, follows Arthur’s best friend as he travels across the country, creating first-person video postcards of his latest discoveries and his newest friends. His adventures spotlight the rich cultural diversity of our nation.
Monday-Friday 3 PM Oct.-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS
MAYA & MIGUEL
This vibrantly new, uproariously funny animated series stars loving irresistible 10-year-old Latino twins Maya & Miguel Santos. Entertaining and educational, the series promotes cross-cultural understanding and validates the variety of perspectives, traditions, languages and experiences that populate today’s world. Monday-Friday 4 PM Oct.-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

ZOOM
Created for kids and by kids, ZOOM is a new version of the Emmy Award-winning 70's PBS children’s show. The new ZOOM features games, plays, science experiments and other activities based on contributions sent in by kids from across the country. Monday-Friday 4/5 PM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

THOMAS AND FRIENDS
These half-hour programs, based on the much-loved books by Reverend W. Awdry, follow the lives of Thomas and his friends as they work hard, overcome “cracks in the tracks,” and in the end, strive to be “Really Useful Engines.” Saturdays, 7:30 AM; Sundays, 9:30 AM, October-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

SAGWA THE CHINESE SIAMESE CAT
Based on Amy Tan’s children’s book, Sagwa, this children’s series is set in historic China and follows the adventures of a spirited, adventurous young cat named Sagwa as she explores her widening world. Sagwa addresses the primary education goals of supporting social and emotional development; exposing children to Chinese culture, language, music and folklore; and encouraging children to value their own family culture and recognize there are similarities in children’s lives across cultures. Saturdays, 7:30 AM, July-Sept.; Sundays, 10 AM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: THE ANIMATED SERIES
This children’s series follows the adventures of the irrepressible Anne Shirley, whose independent spirit and impetuous nature makes Avonlea an exciting place to live. The series reinforces the importance of family, relationships and self-confidence. Sundays, 5 and 9:30 (Sept.) AM July-Dec., 2004 30 minutes PBS

LIBERTY’S KIDS
This revolutionary children’s animated series tells the story of the birth of democracy in America. The tale is told through the eyes of two teenagers and their young friend working in Benjamin Franklin’s print shop. Many of the important turning points in America’s colorful history are brought to life. Monday-Friday, 5 p.m.; Saturday 5:30 a.m. July, Aug. 2004 30 minutes PBS
ANGELINA BALLERINA
Dancing her way into the hearts of children, ANGELINA BALLERINA is a little mouse who yearns to become a prima ballerina in this animated series, based upon the popular children’s book series. Targeted to three- to seven-year-olds, ANGELINA teaches valuable lessons about honesty, determination and numerous other positive values.
Sundays, 5:30 a.m. July 2004 30 minutes PBS PLUS

DRAGONFLY TV
In each episode of this children’s science series real kids pursue their own scientific investigations and share the excitement that comes with making their own discoveries.
Saturdays, Oct.-Dec. 7 AM; Sundays, July-Dec., 5:30 AM
30 minutes APT

KID CONCOCTIONS
This special makes learning fun and exciting through the creation of unique arts-and-crafts projects.
Saturday, Aug. 7, 9 a.m. & 4 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004 3:30 p.m. 90 minutes APT

IT’S GREECE TO ME! A KID’S EYE VIEW
Three young Greek-Americans and actress Melina Kanakaredes journey to the birthplace of the Olympics in this new family special.
Sunday, Aug. 15, 2004 3 p.m. 30 minutes APT

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page hosts this look at the Amistad Academy—a public charter school in New Haven, Connecticut, that has raised the academic performance of poor, urban children to the same high levels of their suburban counterparts.
Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2004 9 p.m. 60 minutes PBS

WIDE ANGLE “The Suburbs of Islam”
France’s decision to ban the wearing of traditional Muslim headscarves in public schools—a law widely perceived in the Muslim community as an undemocratic expression of “Islamophobia”—has increased tensions between the French Republic and its largest minority population, numbering about five million people. WIDE ANGLE explores this conflict in the town of Dammarie-les-Lys, a racially diverse, working-class community on the outskirts of Paris.
Thursday, Aug. 26, 2004 9 p.m. 60 minutes PBS

AT ISSUE—PEORIA DISTRICT 150 SCHOOLS
With the change in leadership in Peoria Public Schools, interim superintendent Chuck Fabish, deputy superintendent Ken Hinton, and school board members Garrie Allen and Sean Matheson join host H Wayne Wilson to discuss their ideas for improving Peoria schools. (Repeated Sunday at 4:30 p.m.)
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004 8:30 p.m. 30 minutes WTVP
P.O.V. “Refrigerator Mothers”
Autism, a disorder that affects one in 500 people, is now recognized as a neurological condition, but from the 1950s through the 1970s, the medical establishment mistakenly believed it had found the root cause—poor mothering. Tonight’s film explores the traumatic legacy of blame, guilt and self-doubt suffered by a generation of women who were branded “refrigerator mothers.”
Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004 11 p.m. 60 minutes PBS

AMERICAN TALENT
In this new program, viewers meet the best of the best young artists in America. Every year, 20 high school seniors—dancers, musicians, writers, actors and visual artists—are chosen from more than 6,000 applicants as Presidential Scholars in the Arts. AMERICAN TALENT enters the lives of the 2004 winners, a diverse and eclectic collection of passionate and ambitious teens. (Rpt Sunday at 3 p.m.)
Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2004 7 p.m. 60 minutes PBS

VISIONES: LATINO ART AND CULTURE
Tonight’s program begins with New York’s Latino hip hop dance and culture, then travels to Miami and its unique Afro-Cuban sound, and ends in Los Angeles with modern dance pioneer Rudy Perez.
Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004 9:30 p.m. 30 minutes PBS

CHILDREN WILL LISTEN
One hundred forty students from seven Washington, DC, elementary and middle public schools worked with four professional teaching artists to design and participate in all aspects of Into the Woods, Jr., which kicked off the Kennedy Center’s professional tribute to the work of Steven Sondheim. This documentary follows the students and their mentors over a nine-month period as they worked against time and with limited resources toward opening night.
Thursday, Nov. 25, 2004 7 p.m. 60 minutes PBS

MASTERPIECE THEATRE “Pollyanna”
Pollyanna Whittier enlivens her aunt’s gloomy village in this new adaptation of Eleanor H. Porter’s children’s classic about an orphan who teaches grown-ups how to look on the bright side. Eleven-year-old Georgina Terry stars as the dogged devotee of the Glad Game, a charming—if maddening—contest to find “something about everything to be glad about.”
Sundays, Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2004 4 & 8 p.m. 120 minutes PBS

CHANUKAH ON PLANET MATZAH BALL
A family from the Planet Matzah Ball discovers its Jewish roots and rockets down to Cleveland, Ohio, to find out all about Chanukah.
Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004 7:30 a.m. 30 minutes PBS

PEORIA BALLET’S PRODUCTION OF THE NUTCRACKER
This new WTVP special—taped during last year’s Christmas season—featuring the Peoria Ballet in a classic tale of holiday enchantment.
Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004 6:30 p.m. 150 minutes PBS

THIS IS A GAME, LADIES
For more than two years, the producers of this documentary journeyed with Rutgers University’s women’s basketball team and their legendary coach, C. Vivian Stringer. One of the most successful basketball coaches of all time, Stringer is a survivor, a visionary, a mother and a widow. The game she teaches her players is the game of life. This film is not just about basketball. It’s not about winning and losing. It’s about growth, about coming of age, about girls becoming women.
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004 8 p.m. 120 minutes PBS

AT ISSUE—PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS
Tonight's AT ISSUE, hosted by H Wayne Wilson, launches a two-part look at public education in Illinois. Guests include Ron Gidwitz, former chair of the State Board of Education and president of Students First Illinois, and Jeff Mays from the Illinois Business Roundtable. (Repeated Sunday at 4:30 p.m.)
Thursdays, Dec. 23 & 30, 2004 8:30 p.m. 60 minutes WTVP

NON BROADCAST ACTIVITIES

READY TO LEARN
Now in its ninth year, WTVP 47’s Ready To Learn program continued to grow throughout the last six months of 2004.

• WTVP 47 conducted 31 workshops for 299 educators, college education majors, childcare professionals, and parents—reaching 1,056 children—from July through December. The workshops featured hands-on activities, free print materials and ideas to help participants use television as an additional resource to nurture children's love of reading and enthusiasm for learning.

The main targets thus far have been childcare providers and parents of preschool and primary school children in lower-income, inner-city, rural, low-literacy, or "at risk" programs.

• In the "First Book" program—designed to provide free paperback books to children who otherwise might not own them—WTVP distributed 2,927 books to help Central Illinois children begin their own libraries. At special reading nights, book parties, and informal events, WTVP introduced young people to WTVP 47’s quality children’s television programs—and provided music, storytelling, special hands-on activities, and free books to all those attending.

WTVP also salutes Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Peoria—and thanks all of their generous holiday customers—for donating an amazing 4,558 children’s
books to WTVP 47’s First Book program! The books—purchased during the “Season’s Readings Holiday Book Drive”—will be given to young people throughout Central Illinois to encourage a love of reading and an enthusiasm for learning.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

WTVP published the 32nd edition of *For Teachers Only* and distributed the newsletter to 12,000 educators throughout our viewing area. Designed to provide an overview of the new fall season, the publication also outlined ways that educators can use WTVP programs to enrich the learning experience for students.

WTVP also hosted an open house for educators on Sept. 23.

READING RAINBOW URBAN LEAGUE PROJECT

WTVP continued an after-school project this fall with the Tri-County Urban League. A group of children from two local primary schools gathered at the Urban League once each week to enjoy READING RAINBOW videos and a variety of special activities that extended the learning opportunities for each program.

SPECIAL EVENTS

This fall, WTVP also participated in a wide variety of special community and school events including:

- Catholic Charities South Towne Social – Sept. 17
- Child Care Connection Resource Fair – Sept. 20
- Valeska Hinton Terrific Tuesday event – Sept. 21
- University of Illinois Extension Program – Sept. 24
- Barnes & Noble Clifford party – Oct. 4
- Irving School Family Night – Oct. 21
- Barnes & Noble Teachers Fair – Oct. 21
- Common Place Reading Night – Nov. 18
- Tyng Family Reading Night – Nov. 18
VIDEO BOOK REPORTS

WTVP has also been very active in encouraging reading and writing among all children in the community. Each July, libraries from throughout our viewing area send young readers to our studio to tape “video” book reports for our Rainbow Readers program—currently in its 16th year. This year, 18 children participated, and their 30- to 60-second book reports aired locally around the popular PBS series READING RAINBOW.

Ready To Learn Statistics – July-Dec.

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