

WTVP-TV
PROGRAM EFFORTS RELATED TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS
JANUARY-JUNE 2009

PTV - THE READY TO LEARN SERVICE

Recognizing the importance of quality television for its younger viewers, WTVP continues the PTV - Ready To Learn project, and has added a Ready to Lead in Literacy component. 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 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 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 & 3 PM; 8:30 or 9:30 AM Sundays Jan.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

MARTHA SPEAKS

Based on the acclaimed books by Susan Meddaugh and designed for 4- to 7-year-olds, MARTHA SPEAKS celebrates the power of words, and features the humorous adventures of a loveable family dog who acquires the ability to speak when she eats alphabet soup – and the letters travel to her brain. Monday-Friday 6:30 AM & 2:30 PM; Sundays 8 or 9 AM Jan.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

CURIOUS GEORGE

Based on the best-selling books by Margret and H.A. Rey, the daily series expands George's world to include a host of colorful characters and original locales. The series aims to inspire kids to explore science, math and engineering in the world around them. Monday-Friday 7 AM; Sundays 6 or 7 AM Jan.-June; Saturdays 7 AM in Jan., 2009 30 minutes PBS

SID THE SCIENCE KID

Designed for 3- to 6-year olds, SID uses comedy and music to encourage young people to explore the foundations of science in their everyday world. Sid explores a new topic each day and finds the answers to his questions in familiar places – at home, at school and in the car.

Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM Jan.-June; Saturdays 7:30AM in Jan.; Sundays 6:30 or 7:30 AM Jan.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

SUPER WHY

This series aimed at preschoolers helps young viewers learn key reading skills and find answers to everyday challenges by transporting them into Storybook Village, a tiny world that exists behind the books in a library.

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. and/or 11 a.m.; Saturdays 8 a.m. in Jan.; Sundays 7 or 8 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 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 8:30 AM; Saturdays 8:30 a.m. in Jan.; Sundays 7:30 or 8:30 AM Jan.-June, 2009 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 9 AM; Saturdays & Sundays 5 AM Jan.-June, 2009 60 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 10 a.m., Jan.-June; Saturdays 7 a.m. Feb.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

WORDWORLD

A series aimed at preschoolers, WordWorld unfolds in a wonderful place where letters become words and words become WordFriends – wacky characters that look like and spell exactly what they are.

Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 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.

Monday-Friday 11 a.m. May-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

WORDGIRL

WORDGIRL chronicles the adventures of a mild-mannered fifth grader who, at the call of duty, transforms into WordGirl. When there is trouble in the big city, this super heroine-in-disguise uses vocabulary to defeat outlaws bent on “WORD” domination. Monday-Friday 3:30 p.m.; Sundays 9 or 10 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

FETCH! WITH RUFF RUFFMAN

Part game show, part reality series, part spoof, FETCH! explores the untapped potential of the hugely popular reality television genre and proves it can be a great way for kids to learn problem-solving skills and teamwork, while exposing them to different cultures and experiences.

Monday-Friday, 4 PM; Sunday 10 or 10:30 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 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 4:30 p.m. Jan.-June, 2009 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 5 PM Jan.-June, 2009 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, 6 AM Jan.-June, 2009
30 minutes PBS

BOB THE BUILDER

In each episode, Bob, Wendy and their crew of machines work together as a team, demonstrating the value of a “can-do” spirit, problem-solving and personal achievement, while reminding viewers that “the fun is in getting it done!”

Saturdays 6:30 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS PLUS

MAMA MIRABELLE’S HOME MOVIES

This warm-hearted, high spirited show for preschoolers centers around a sassy elephant host named Mama Mirabelle and the young animal characters she cares for and plays with every day on the African savanna. It combines a uniquely animated world for little kids to explore, with exceptional live-action footage from National Geographic and BBC's award-winning archives that illuminates the real world for them.

Saturdays 7:30 a.m., Feb.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS PLUS

ANGELINA BALLERINA

ANGELINA BALLERINA is a little mouse who yearns to become a prima ballerina, and through her quest to learn dance, she meets many friends and has many adventures. British actress Finty Williams brings Angelina to life, and Finty's mother, Academy Award-winning actress Judi Dench, voices Miss Lilly, Angelina's mentor and dance instructor.

Saturdays 8 a.m., Feb.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS PLUS

FRANNY'S FEET

In every episode, while helping her grandpa in his shoe repair shop, Franny slips on a pair of shoes and says, "Where will my feet take me today?" From there, she is transported to places around the globe, including the African Savannah, a Mexican fiesta, a wild trip to the frozen arctic or a tea ceremony in Japan. During her magical adventures, she meets new friends and tries to help them solve problems, sharing her feelings, fears and advice with the audience along the way.

Saturdays 8:30 a.m., Feb.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS PLUS

MISTER ROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD

Mister Rogers helps children feel good about themselves.

Sundays 5 or 6 AM Jan.-June, 2009 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.

Sundays 5:30 or 6:30 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 30 min. PBS

WISHBONE

This award-winning series about a little dog with a big imagination leaps into exciting adventures with his human friends to introduce children to the classics – and to a parallel contemporary tale.

Sundays 11 a.m. Jan.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY

Like the original "The Electric Company," the new "The Electric Company" draws from pop culture --- music, comedy, technology and celebrities --- to create a playful, hip, multi-media experience. The series includes many modular elements -- sketches, animations and songs -- that will serve a scaffolded phonics curriculum that extends beyond decoding and connected text to reflect new insights into how best to help struggling readers.

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Feb.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

JAY JAY THE JET PLANE

Somewhere between imagination and learning is a wonderful land where new discoveries and charming lessons of life are learned every day. Jay Jay is a perky little airplane who buzzes around the magical world of Tarrytown with his friends, captivating youngsters aged two to seven in this entertaining children's series.

Sundays 5:30 a.m. Feb.-May, 2009 30 minutes PBS

ANIMALIA

Alex and Zoe visit the extraordinary land of Animalia, a spectacular place inhabited by talking animals from the pages of Graeme Base's classic book of the same name. Mysterious events have undermined the very fabric of Animalian civilization, and Alex, Zoe and their new best friends, G'Bubu and Iggy (a huge green gorilla and a small but heroic iguana), will do everything they can to restore peace and order to Animalia.
Sundays 10:30 a.m. Feb.-June, 2009 30 minutes PBS

Biz Kid\$

A fast-paced new series that teaches kids about money and entrepreneurship. Topics explored include "What Is a Biz Kid?"—a look at how anybody can be a Biz Kid with effort and the right attitude.
Sundays, Jan. 4– June 28, 2009 5:30 p.m. 30 minutes each PBS

Independent Lens

Please Vote for Me

Eight-year-old students in an elementary school in China campaign for school monitor.
Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009 11 p.m. 60 minutes PBS

At Issue—Early Childhood Education #2118

A look at ways to prepare children for school with Dr. Judy Harris Helm, nationally recognized educational consultant and owner of Best Practices, Inc.; Farrell Davies, chief executive officer of the Heartland Community Health Clinic; and Sheila Diaz, family literacy coordinator for the McLean County Regional Office of Education.
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 8:30 p.m. 30 minutes WTVP

Values Go to School

A visit to four schools to look at how teachers are helping their students make positive ethical choices within a supportive classroom setting.
Sunday, Mar. 22, 2009 10:30 p.m. 30 minutes APT

Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change

This program tells the remarkable, heart-felt stories of service members who return home with injuries – visible and invisible – and explores the heroic struggles their families face in discovering ways of finding a "new normal."
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 7 p.m. 30 minutes PBS

At Issue – Illinois Board of Higher Education

At Issue host H. Wayne Wilson talks with Judy Erwin, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. (Repeated Sunday at 4:30 p.m.)
Thursday, April 16, 2009 8:30 p.m. 30 minutes WTVP

At Issue – Unit 5 and District 150 Schools

At Issue host H. Wayne Wilson talks with School Superintendents Gary Niehaus of Normal Unit 5 District and Ken Hinton of Peoria District 150. (Rpts Sunday at 4:30 p.m.)
Thursday, April 30, 2009 8:30 p.m. 30 minutes WTVP

Peoria District 150 Scholars' Cup Competition

WTVP present the championship round of the annual Peoria District 150 academic competition.

Thursday, May 14, 8-8:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 17, 4 & 9:30 p.m.; and, Wednesday, May 27, 9:30 p.m. 30 minutes WTVP

NON BROADCAST ACTIVITIES January-June 2009

WTVP'S READY TO LEAD IN LITERACY PROJECT

WTVP's Ready To Learn Project has continued to reach out to the community with tips, techniques, and many new ideas on how to use public television as a springboard to learning — to helping children develop the reading and writing skills so necessary for success in school and in life!

WTVP 47 conducted 50 workshops for 404 educators, childcare professionals, parents, and college education majors—reaching 1,863 children—from January through June. 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 were childcare providers and parents of preschool and primary school children in lower-income, inner-city, rural, low-literacy, or "at risk" programs.

WTVP's "First Book" program — designed to provide free new paperback books to children who otherwise might not own them — gave away 3,962 books during the first six months of 2009.

In addition, the station continues to participate in community events that support early literacy — and to broadcast more than 55 hours of high-quality children's programming each week!

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

WTVP has pledged to take an increasingly active role as a leader in child literacy within the community. In addition to workshops throughout the winter and spring, the station participated in 59 special community, preschool, and primary-school events including:

- Rogy's Learning Center's "Preschool for All" programs
- Woodrow Wilson and Roosevelt STAR programs
- Kingman, Franklin, and Glen Oak Preschools
- Salvation Army Preschool
- Valeska Hinton Terrific Tuesdays
- Valeska Hinton International Night
- Blaine Head Start Program
- Common Place Reading Nights
- Kingman Family Reading Night
- Love-A-Child Celebration
- Head Start Transition Fair

YOUNG WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS CONTEST

To instill a love of literature—and give young children a sense of achievement in creating their own stories and drawings—WTVP 47 conducted its 15th annual *Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest*. Open to children from four grade levels, kindergarten through third grade, the contest attracted 207 entries from 36 communities from throughout Central Illinois—and beyond.