



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

ANGELINA BALLERINA follows the (mis)adventures of the passionate young mouse-girl who dreams of ballet stardom but manages to propel herself into humorous and challenging escapades that teach valuable life lessons. Each half-hour program contains two animated episodes and concludes with a live-action dance instruction segment sure to educate and inspire young viewers. (Ages 3 to 8)

ANIMALIA is a beautifully animated series that joins 11-year olds Zoe and Alex on a thrilling adventure, as they are swept from their local library into *Animalia* - a unique world of talking animals! All is not right in the once peaceful kingdom as their arrival coincides with unusual events undermining the very heart of *Animalia* - the Core. Zoe and Alex, together with their new friends, use their wits and imagination to help solve the mysteries and bring harmony back to the land.

ARTHUR This animated series is based on the popular children's book series by Marc Brown. Arthur, an aardvark, and his precious and affectionate little sister D.W. star in an upbeat series about the typical trials and tribulations (and triumphs) of being eight years old.

BARNEY & FRIENDS *Barney and Friends* takes place after school in the classroom, playground, and tree house of a local school. The imaginations of the children (ages two to five) bring Barney, a plush dinosaur toy, to life. With Barney's help and encouragement, the children explore and discover the fun of learning, making friends, and playing together. Each program is built around one theme that deals with an important childhood achievement, such as learning to count, identifying colors and shapes, or making friends. Barney is a lovable, friendly six-foot purple dinosaur who is a friend to all children. Baby Bop is Barney's three-year-old friend. BJ is Baby Bop's six-year-old brother. There are four children in the cast that represent various ethnic backgrounds with diverse interests and abilities.

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS *The Berenstain Bears* introduces children to a wide range of important social values. Starring Mama, papa, Brother and Sister, along with their relatives, neighbors and friends, *The Berenstain Bears* teaches social and emotional competence by encouraging children to recognize how to make thoughtful, informed and responsible choices and decisions. Additionally, the series explores family roles and relationships. (Ages 2-7)

BETWEEN THE LIONS This SDPB TV series is designed to open up a world of literature and learning for young children (ages 4-7). In the series a family of lions -- Theo and Cleo and their cubs, Lionel and Leona run a library where books, words, and story characters come vividly and magically to life, transforming the sometimes confusing process of learning to read into an entertaining adventure for young viewers.

In addition to its lion family, *Between the Lions* features an eclectic cast of characters including Click the Mouse, the library's cyborg communications expert; Cliff Hanger, a swashbuckling comic book hero who escapes from sticky situations through quick thinking and literacy skills; Tiger Words, a multi-talented sports figure who plays with vowels and consonants instead of golf balls and tees; and other fun characters.

BOB THE BUILDER This series presents an engaging world of construction, filled with adventure and positive messages for young children (preschool age). In each episode, Bob, Wendy and their can-do crew of machines work together as a team, demonstrating the value of positive thinking, problem-solving and personal achievement, while reminding their viewers that "The Fun Is In Getting It Done!"

CAILLOU (pronounced KY'YOO) is an irresistible 4-year old who will capture your heart and the hearts of all young viewers (ages 2-6), as they explore with him the joys and trials of just being a little kid. All of the stories in the series are designed to help children grow through the development stages of self-esteem, confidence and independence.

CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG Designed for children ages 3-7, the animated television series is based on the books of the same name and uses classic storytelling to present universal social, emotional, and moral messages to young children. These fun-filled episodes follow Clifford and his pals (both canine and human) as they play, discover and interact with each other and the inhabitants of Birdwell Island, learning that good friends are what life is all about. The stories are fun, gentle and kid-relatable — they deal with issues that kids are experiencing: whether it's bragging, not wanting to share or learning that telling the truth is the best policy. More importantly, though, they learn that the world is out there to be discovered with gusto.

CURIOUS GEORGE is an animated series based on the popular books by Margret and H.A. Rey. Aimed at pre-school viewers (ages three to five), the goal of the series is to inspire children to explore science, engineering, and math in the world around them. And what better guide is there for this kind of exploration than the world's most curious monkey? George lives to find new things to discover, touch, spill and che2. Everything is new to George and worth investigating. Of course, in George's hands—all four of them—investigation often leads to unintended consequences!

CYBERCHASE is an animated adventure television series and multimedia project for children ages 8-11, about a team of kids on daring missions in Cyberspace. To save the day, our heroes have to use MATH and BRAIN POWER. Cyberchase helps kids discover that math is fun and something we experience, not just in school, but all around us, everyday. The show helps kids feel successful - that they can be as good at math and problem solving as the Cyberchase kids can. Math is everywhere. Math is about solving problems. Math is fun. And boy, does it come in handy!

DESIGN SQUAD is aimed at kids and people of all ages who like reality or how-to television. Its goal is to get viewers excited about engineering! Viewers see *Design Squad* teens take raw materials, and with very little adult intervention, transform them into workable solutions. The series presents kids using technology (such as computers, electronics, and machine tools) to do a wide range of activities that have a scale and complexity that will excite the viewing audience, and motivate them to do these activities on their own.

DONNA'S DAY starring Donna Erickson is a highly imaginative and practical series that revolves around the demands of today's busy families. Each episode carries a theme designed to strengthen adult-child relationships and build family traditions through fun, creative, easy-to-do activities, recipes and strategies. Whether it's cooking an ethnic dish, recycling water bottles into toys, planting a pizza garden or writing a bedtime book, it's TV for today's family!

DRAGONFLY TV is a show for kids ages 9-12 who are interested in the science behind their favorite activities. DragonflyTV engages tens of millions of children, parents and teachers in accessible, hands-on science activities. DragonflyTV is designed to appeal to children from diverse ethnic, socioeconomic, and educational backgrounds. By modeling and celebrating children's science capabilities, DragonflyTV shows that if kids can dream it, they can do it!

DRAGON TALES is an animated show for 3- to 6-year-olds about six-year-old Emmy, her four-year-old brother Max, and their adventures with their dragon friends in Dragon Land. Each episode is designed to help children increase their collection of strategies for meeting the everyday challenges in their lives. The show's story lines focus on situations children experience such as taking turns, facing fears, handling rejection and persevering at challenging tasks.

ELECTRIC COMPANY aims to entertain children between the ages of 6 and 9 while teaching reading skills. Like the original "The Electric Company," the series draws from pop culture --- music, comedy, technology and celebrities --- to create a playful, hip, multi-media experience. "The Electric Company" itself is a group of friends from a New York neighborhood bound by a love for language and sworn to do the right thing. They are the Fantastic Four of Phonics, the Conquistadors of Connected Text, the Virtuosos of Vocabulary. They will be called upon to solve problems that have been created by a naughty group of neighborhood pranksters. In every instance, the Company prevails against the pranksters by employing superior dexterity in the use of the words. The problems and situations can be fantastical and the solutions may border the ridiculous, but each episode will follow a psychedelic logic that is playful, funny and musical. In fact, each episode is a little madcap musical comedy all its own.

FETCH WITH Ruff Ruffman Who says reality bites? FETCH! (short for Fabulously Entertaining TV with a Canine Host) is a reality/game-show hybrid that blends live-action and animation and revolves around a particularly "animated" dog named Ruff Ruffman, who develops, produces, and hosts his own brand of reality TV. Ruff hires six kids to join his cast, and proceeds to send them on wild (sometimes wacky) real-world challenges – everything from training a cat for a commercial, to knee-boarding, to performing stand-up comedy, to busting some fishy urban myths. Targeted to six- to ten-year-olds.

FRANNY'S FEET The shoes that Franny tries on in her grandfather's shoe repair shop transport her to destinations around the globe, where she meets new friends and tries to help them solve problems. Targeted to four- to seven-year-old children, this series is rooted in the excitement, learning, and joyful discoveries that exploration can bring. In each episode, Franny discovers a new place, new people, and new situations that broaden her – and the viewer's – understanding of the world.

GEORGE SHRINKS is an animated show that 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. Together with his somewhat eccentric but inventive father and artist mother, George does his best to watch out for his baby brother, Junior, who considers George the best “toy” any kid could have. *George Shrinks* highlights self-acceptance, working within one's limitations, creatively solving problems, critical thinking and overcoming obstacles. (Ages 2-7)

JAY JAY THE JET PLANE follows the adventures of Jay Jay and his friends as they take off in search of fun and excitement, but never stray too far from home. Jay Jay's curiosity often gets the best of him, leading him into situations that sometimes take a little help from his friends. Tarrytown Airport is a runway to the world of discovery, where Jay Jay and his friends discover the wonders of science and nature, and come to understand what it means to be a child.

MAMA MIRABELLE'S HOME MOVIES is a series that combines an animated world that small children will want to explore with live-action footage from National Geographic. In this program, a cast of baby animal characters from all over the world and their maternal elephant host, Mama Mirabelle, gather together to watch home movies of themselves and other amazing creatures of the natural world. *Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies* is aimed at both boys and girls aged 2 to 5. It encourages them to reflect on their own customs and practices, and to consider how their lives and experiences are both similar to and different from those of animals

MARTHA SPEAKS! What if your dog could talk? Follow the adventures of Martha after alphabet soup gives her the power of speech. She gets jobs, foils bad guys, wins contests, and orders lots of steak! Based on the best-selling books by Susan Meddaugh, *Martha Speaks* comes from the creators of *Curious George* and *Arthur* and is designed to bridge vocabulary gaps common to many young children. (Targets kids 4-7 years old)

MAYA AND MIGUEL Santos are 10-year old twins who live with their family in a fun, colorful neighborhood, filled with lots of different types of people. With a big heart and big ideas, Maya sometimes causes things to get a little crazy. But she can always count on her twin brother Miguel, friends and family to help make everything right again. While every episode takes a humorous twist and turn, the underlying message is the importance of doing good for the family and community and the philosophy that shared-happiness is greater than personal gain. (Targets kids 6-8 years old)

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD is a “television visit” between Mister Rogers and his young viewers. With his caring and trusting ways, Mister Rogers has created a calm, safe place for children (ages two to six) to learn about themselves, about others, and about the world around them.

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood helps children develop self-esteem, self-control, imagination, persistence, cooperation, appreciation of diversity, patience, and creativity. Throughout the programs, Fred Rogers helps children feel good about themselves. The series is slow-paced and simple – it's made for children.

POSTCARDS FROM BUSTER follows Arthur's best friend, Buster, as he wings his way across the country accompanying his father, who is piloting fictional rock band Los Viajeros on its concert tour throughout the United States, with trips into Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Each episode finds the animated Buster discovering new cultures and communities. Turning his video camera on to record his travel adventures and understand life in different places, Buster creates a series of live-action postcards for his friends back home. (For kids ages 4 to 8)

READING RAINBOW is a critically-acclaimed award-winning half-hour PBS series that turns children on to books and reading. The series targets 4-8 year olds, and is based on research that identifies these early years as the optimum time for children to learn to read, and to adopt positive reading habits, skills and attitudes.

RIBERT & ROBERT'S WONDERWORLD is designed to help preschoolers feel more curious, knowledgeable and confident. Ribert, a charming, energetic little toad with a heart of gold, and his best friend Robert, travel through the animated land of WonderWorld. Along the way, the delightful duo answer quizzes, meet performers like Magic Matt and storyteller Leeny, participate in science experiments and discuss real-life dilemmas. Each episode is built around themes derived from the kindergarten curriculum, while also addressing social-developmental issues like sharing and welcoming a new brother or sister. Throughout the series, playful music, magic and art inspire little viewers to “love to learn and learn to love in everything they do!”

SAGWA: THE CHINESE SIAMESE CAT, created for children ages 5-8, follows the escapades of a curious cat with the childlike qualities of an eight year old, in an intriguing and unfamiliar setting – China long ago. Sagwa uses storytelling to help children understand and deal with the often difficult issues they face in their daily lives. The show is divided into two 11½ minute adventures linked by two-minute mini-documentaries that take viewers to meet children in different parts of the world.

SESAME STREET shows many techniques to make learning fun. Each day the street comes alive with a variety of human and Muppet characters. Their interactions are designed to engage children’s active participation. Animated segments and live action films help children to explore themselves and their world.

Make the most of *Sesame Street* by helping children to participate. As you watch the show, encourage children to predict what will happen next, join in the singing and dancing, help the characters figure out what to do, and remember things about their own experiences that are similar to what the characters are experiencing.

SID THE SCIENCE KID is a new educational animated television series using comedy to promote exploration, discovery and science readiness among preschoolers. This is the Jim Henson Company’s first series for PBS KIDS that features a practical in-school science curriculum, uses music and humor to celebrate children’s natural curiosity about science in everyday life. The energetic and inquisitive Sid starts each episode with a new question (“Why are my shoes shrinking?” “Why do bananas get mushy?”) and embarks on a fun-filled day of finding answers with the help of family and friends. (Targets kids 3-6 years old and the adults who care for them.)

SUPER WHY! is a breakthrough preschool series designed to help kids ages 3 to 6 with the critical skills that they need to learn to read, and love to read, alphabet skills, word families, spelling, comprehension and vocabulary. Each 24-minute reading adventure takes place in Storybrook Village, a magical 3-D world hidden behind the bookshelves in a children's library. The Storybrook Village is the home of your child's favorite fairytale characters. Immediately, you'll meet the four best friends who anchor each episode: Red, from Little Red Riding Hood; Pig from The Three Little Pigs, Princess from The Princess and The Pea, and Wyatt, the curious younger brother of Jack from Jack and The Beanstalk who discovers he has the power to fly inside books to find answers to his questions. Each of these characters is re-imagined as an everyday kid, not unlike your child's own friends: Red rides roller blades; Pig drives a trike; Princess loves tea parties and dress-up; and Wyatt is the group's natural leader.

THOMAS AND FRIENDS helps children (ages 3-6) enter a world of imagination through the tracks of a train and the words of a story. A range of themes is explored, including responsibility, sounds, helping and the world around you. Timeless life lessons, such as the joy of accomplishment, the value of encouragement and the importance of treating others with kindness, are woven throughout the episodes. Thomas the Tank Engine stories have captivated children since 1945.

WISHBONE is a little Jack Russell terrier with a big imagination. Each episode sees him as the hero of a classic novel. He invites his audience (kids ages 5 to 12) to join him as he defeats the sheriff of Nottingham, journeys to the centre of the earth, confronts the Headless Horseman, tracks down the Hound of the Baskervilles and embarks on countless more journeys. Designed

WORDGIRL follows the every day life and superhero adventures of Becky Botsford, aka WordGirl, a 10-year-old superhero who can not only leap tall buildings and fly at the speed of sound, but who fights crime with her vocabulary. WordGirl knows every word in the dictionary and she uses them to save the city and the English language. WordGirl, along with her trusty sidekick Captain Huggy Face, saves the day in her never-ending battle for truth, justice and use of the right word. WordGirl and Captain Huggy Face know that crime doesn't pay, but knowing the right word for the right moment is priceless!

WORD WORLD It's a word-rich place where friends have fun and meet challenges through WordPlay. Your 3-5 year-olds will watch as a lovable crew of WordFriends™ save the day everyday when they put letters together to make words that morph into real, live things before their very eyes. Children watching Word World learn to construct and deconstruct words in lots of fun ways. Word World is all about Instant Word Recognition—a visual way to introduce children to the power of words. It's such an obviously great idea, everyone's asking, "Why didn't I think of that?"

WUNDERKIND LITTLE AMADEUS This series tells exciting and humorous stories from the childhood and life of the world-renowned musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Interesting stories and historical facts are interwoven into the animated series. The episodes portray the young Mozart in balance between the world's most famous composer and a cheeky young boy living in the 18th century. Amadeus is a boy who loves music butr also loves to discover the world and to play like all the other children. Although the series is designed to reach viewers at home, it can also be used for teaching students in class. (Ages 4-8 years old)

ZOBOOMAFOO is a wildlife series for preschoolers. It teaches them to respect and care for animals and encourages them to explore the world around them. The series, aimed at two to six year olds, uses a lively mix of live-action and clay animation to create a fun and energetic learning environment. Zoboomafoo ("Zoboo" for short) is a playful little lemur who stars in the program with its creators, Martin and Chris Kratt.

THE ZULA PATROL, a group of animated aliens travel the galaxies to learn new and exciting things about science and space exploration. This series, targeted to pre-kindergarteners through third-graders, delivers both astromy-based science education (orbits, eclipses, moon phases, asteroids, comets, gravity), as well as character-building lessons.

For information about the
Children's Programming schedule, contact
SDPB Education and Outreach at
1-800-456-0766 or Edservices@sdpb.org.
For links to these series' web sites and more,
Check out www.sdpb.org.

Updated as 12/3/08