



for parents and educators



September 2011 edition

smartmedia focus:
inspiring creativity

Greetings from WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh!

WQED is pleased to bring you the September installment of our monthly e-newsletter that highlights some of our wonderful PBS educational programs. It's back to school time now, so we're featuring some shows and online resources that will inspire your child's creativity with both arts and science!

featured resource

PBS Parents "Going to School"

This terrific website from **PBS Parents** is chock-full of information on how to best prepare your child for school. It features **grade-by-grade resources** for kids in grades Pre-K to five along with great tips on having a successful school year. Watch these **quick tips on helping kids make school great**, then check out:

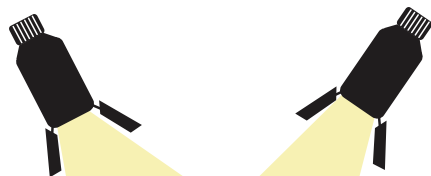
Talking with Kids: We all know that the question, "How was school today?" can often elicit monosyllabic responses from kids. Check out these simple strategies can get kids and parents talking, listening, and communicating more effectively about school. Try some of the sample questions and explore the best ways to communicate with students at every grade level.

Secrets of Social Life: Learn about the intricacies of friendships and social pressures on kids at each grade level. While you can't live your child's social life for her, there are some things you can do to help — or help yourself stay out of the way.

Parent-Teacher Partnership: Discover helpful strategies to build a positive relationship with your child's teacher and effectively address conflicts.

Supporting Your Learner: Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: we are our children's learning models. Our attitudes about education can inspire theirs and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey. Inspire your child's curiosity and love of learning with these tips and strategies.

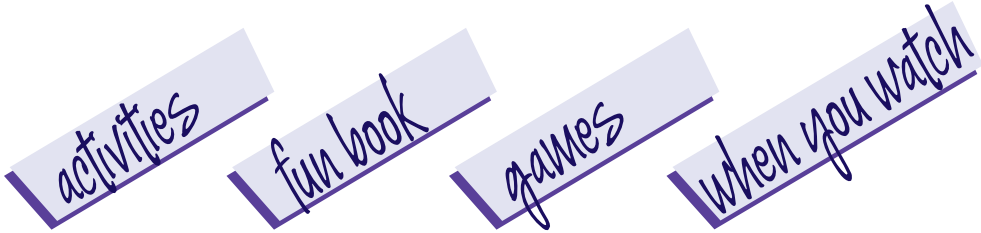
Source: "Going to School," PBS Parents.



Spotlight on... Sid the Science Kid



SID THE SCIENCE KID uses comedy to promote exploration, discovery and science readiness among preschoolers. The program, co-produced by The Jim Henson Company and KCET/Los Angeles for PBS KIDS®, features a practical in-school science curriculum and 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.



The **Sid the Science Kid website** has a robust section specifically for adults. Materials, games and activities reinforce the show's themes and extend informal science education at home. Be sure to check out the "Tell Me More!" feature for each game to unlock discussion prompts and many other resources, all designed to support the educational objective of the game and provide you with helpful tips for engaging kids in the science of everyday experiences.

watch!

Don't miss these engaging shows for every age!

Find out when these shows air on WQED-TV!



Curious George inspires children to explore science, engineering, math, and the arts in the world around them. And what better guide is there for this kind of exploration and creativity than the world's most curious monkey?

ages 3-5



Arthur explores diverse issues faced by real kids. Foster your child's creative thinking and language skills with this adventurous aardvark and his friends.

ages 6-8



The **Origami Master** studies the mathematics of origami paper folding to find real-life solutions in medicine, engineering, space exploration, and more. Science and art collide in this short video interview from WIRED Science.

ages 8-12



Nova Science Now: NOVA has been unrivaled in bringing authoritative, innovative, and entertaining science documentaries to television. Now the same award-winning producers have teamed up to present multiple stories in a magazine format show. Each hour-long episode of NOVA scienceNOW features four fast-paced, timely science and technology stories, including a profile piece on an intriguing personality in the field.

ages 12-18

Check out these great online resources for each grade!

K – Grade 2 **The Cat in the Hat Flower Finder**

Help bats, butterflies and bees find the flowers they need and then build your own flower.

Grades 3 – 5 **The Music Instinct: Science and Song – Experimental Music**

Explore the interrelationship between music and science!

Grades 6 – 8 **Dragonfly TV: Stained Glass**

Discover how nanoparticles affect the way light passes through transparent and translucent substances, and how they're used to create beautiful stained glass or more effective sunscreens.

Grades 9 – 12 **e2: Repurpose Project**

Use STEM principles to create an item that has a different function from the original item.

click!



iQ: smartmedia is an educational initiative of WQED Multimedia.
4802 Fifth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15213
wqed.org/edu



Sign up for our **Educator Newsletter** to stay in touch with the latest updates and opportunities from WQED!



Donate to the **Education Fund** and help WQED continue to bring you the high-quality shows, resources, and events you love!