



# RTL eNewsletter

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Ready To Learn

## Mark Your Calendars

**October** is **Children's Magazine Month**. Magazines can support a child's development with new stories, poems, artwork, or information about our environment. Check out the great magazines that are available at your local library. **5** is **World Smile Day**. Note all the smiles you see, in books, magazines, on TV and of course on the folks around you. **10** is **Top Spinning Day**. Tops are an international toy and one that youngsters love to explore. **November** is **International Percussion Month**. Get out your drums, shakers, triangles, cymbals and get with the beat!! **11-17** is **Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week**. This is a good time to collect dry and canned goods to support your local food bank. **13** is **Young Readers Day**. Enjoy books and think of activities to do, suggested by some of your kids' favorite books. **17** is **Homemade Bread Day**. Knead some dough. Make biscuit alphabets or initials from pretzel dough. Hot and yummy. **December 1-7** is **Cookie Cutter Week**. Save those cookie cutters from play dough duty. Make some sugar cookies in different shapes and enjoy. **15-21** is **International Language Week**. Express yourself! Learn to say hello in five different languages and practice! Ni hao! Jambo!



## Child Development

### Do You Have The Touch?

Touch is a physiological and psychological need common to all human beings. Touch influences our physical, cognitive and social-emotional development. An important aspect of touch is its importance in assisting an infant to form a secure attachment to their primary caregiver. This attachment, fostered by skin to skin contact that occurs during most of the basic needs meeting activities (feeding, diaper changing, etc.) also influences different hormonal interactions in the brain and allows young children to thrive. The attachment with a primary caregiver will influence the way an individual forms attachments with others throughout their life.

Researchers feel that all learning has an emotional component to it. Secure attachment in early life fosters different social competencies, such as a positive self image, self-control and self regulation. These factors lead to a child that is open to learning. Alice S. Honig states, "a well-cuddled baby with an available and intimately tuned-in caregiver is more likely to feel secure to toddle off on splendid adventures."

During the first two years of life, most learning is done through the senses and touch also plays a role here. Children should be allowed to explore their surroundings and use their sense of touch to learn about their world.

Rough and tumble play is another important way in which children develop social competencies. It may look like play fighting, but is accompanied by smiles, laughter and friendship. This kind of play is especially important for the social development of young boys. It also teaches children how to regulate their own touching, and also what is uncomfortable from others and how to ask for that to stop.

Information from: *Essential Touch* by Frances M. Carlson



# View Read Do

Research shows that music is important in early development. Its rhythms and rhymes lay down deep roots for the acquisition of literacy. Here is a Learning Triangle that will give you ideas about introducing music to your young child.

## Topic: Music!

**View:** *Elmo's World : Music*

**Read:** *Animal Orchestra by Scott Gustafson*

**Do:** *Make Some Music!*



**Loud And Soft:** Introduce your young child to different kinds of music: classical, reggae, rock & roll, children's music. This will introduce your child to different rhythms, and styles of music and their dynamics. Loud music can be exciting (maybe over-stimulating) and soft music can be comforting. Vary the type of music and you will increase your child's musical vocabulary.

**Shake It!:** Children are first drawn to rhythm. That is why musical instruments that are first introduced to babies are rhythm instruments, like a rattle. As children develop, play clapping, rhythm games with them and clap along with music. Drumming can happen with plastic bowls and wooden spoons. Shakers can be plastic eggs with sand, gravel or dried beans in them (carefully taped or glued closed).

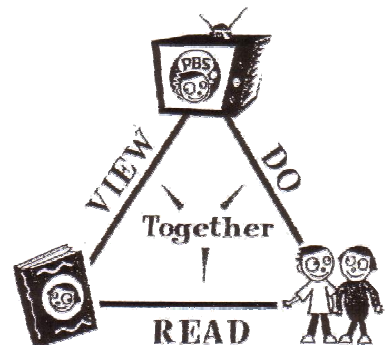
**Start and Stop:** At preschool ages, children will want to play more with music. Accompany songs on a tape or CD player and pause the music; a cue for everyone to stop playing...a Simon Says with music. Conduct your rhythm band, having them play loudly when you use big gestures and softly when you use small gestures. See if they can stop when you stop your gestures.

**Sounds Like:** Children enjoy identifying different sounds (How does the cow go?) and different sounds also make up music. Look for recordings that introduce the sounds of different instruments. Identify them for children as you hear them being played. Differentiating sounds is the basis of two fun games on PBSKids websites listed below.

### Online:

[pbskids.org/arthur/globalgizmo](http://pbskids.org/arthur/globalgizmo): a concentration game featuring the pictures and sounds of different international instruments.

[pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/cowsdontquack](http://pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/cowsdontquack): the animal sounds all mixed up and you have to move the right sound to the right animal.





# A Good Read

Souperchicken by Mary Jane and Herm Auch

Reading can save your life. Just ask Henrietta, a reading super chicken, whose mission is to her fellow animals from becoming soup, sausages and hamburgers.

Bridges Are To Cross by Philemon Sturges

This non-fiction book takes the reader all over the world to visit bridges and explore the different ways they are constructed.

More Than One by Miriam Schlein

Sometimes it takes more than one, especially when you are talking about shoes and mittens and socks.

First Flight by David McPhail

A first flight, all alone, can be exciting, and scary! Maybe if Bear comes along, it won't be so bad. We'll help each other along the road.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems

The reader is drawn into this book when the bus driver asks for our help. All we have to do is...Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!!



## Surf's Up!

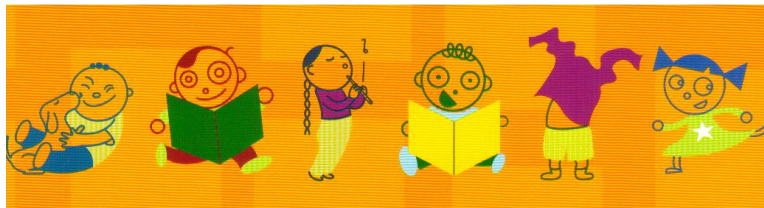
If you have favorites you want to share, send them my way! (see address below)

**parents-choice.org** This is the organization that rates toys, books, videos and other items of interest to parents and young children.

**theartgallery.com.au** Interesting artwork by children from all over the world. You can look it over and see if it is the proper setting for art from your young artiste.

**rosemarywells.com** is the home for this great storyteller and illustrator. Visit Max and Ruby and other great characters here.

**tolerance.org** a site with information for adults who want to fight hate and promote tolerance in children.



## Contact Info

**I invite your inquiries, comments and suggestions.**

To stop this communication, send me an email with 'stop mail' in the subject line.

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