



# RTL eNewsletter

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Ready To Learn



## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Ready to Learn eNewsletter. My goal is to keep this short and useful to you. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at the address listed at the end of the newsletter.

Here we go!

### This Month

**W..o..m..a..n..** Yes, it's Women's History Month! Introduce your children to women who have influenced your life through books, pictures, visits...

**Tis the month of all things Irish.** Maybe you want to do a treasure hunt for whatever is at the end of the rainbow in your home or center!

**In like a lion...out like a lamb.** With the vernal equinox coming up, changes in weather and the effects of wind are always fun to explore.

**Lend a Hand Day** is March 13th. Help children define and understand what helping is.



## Child Development

### Temperament

Every individual is born with unique traits that seem to be hard-wired at birth. We call these collective traits temperament or personality. When these traits are understood and anticipated, it is easier to develop approaches which are applicable to dealing with behaviors. Sometimes an incomplete understanding of a child's temperament can lead parents and caregivers to believe there is something 'wrong' with the care they are providing for a child. Drs. Stella Chess and Alexander Thomas have outlined nine traits that you can use in understanding the temperament of your child.

**Activity Level:** general activity level

**Distractibility:** ability to pay attention

**Intensity:** loudness

**Regularity:** predictable eating and sleeping cycles

**Sensory Threshold:** sensitivity to sensory input

**Approach/Withdrawal:** reaction to new situations

**Adaptability:** handles changes in activities

**Persistence:** stubbornness

**Mood:** general view of the world

Information provided by: [www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/development/temperament](http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/development/temperament)

# View Read Do

Topic: Lend A Hand

**View:** Arthur: *D.W.'s Name Game*

**Read:** *Amber on the Mountain* by Tony Johnston  
*The Best Older Sister* by Sook Nyul Choi  
*Three Smart Pals* by Joanne Rocklin  
*Stellaluna* by Jannell Cannon  
*What Zeesie Saw on Delancy Street* by Elsa Okon Rael



**Do:** Explore ways to help others

**Materials:**

- Drawing supplies
- Paper
- Magazine

**Directions:**

Have children communicate experiences they've had helping other people and being helped themselves.

**Brainstorm:**

Brainstorm with your children on ways they have helped people in the past. You may need to start off the discussion with a few ideas of your own. Select one way everyone can be helpful to others to try for a day...or a week.

**Write and Illustrate:**

Prompt children to think of a time when some one helped them or was particularly kind. Offer drawing supplies and magazines for pictures to illustrate that time. Take dictation and include details to make captions for the artwork. Offer sentence starters such as:

"I remember when..."

"Once \_\_\_\_\_ helped me..."

"I want to thank \_\_\_\_\_ for the time when..."

**Talk About It**

Ask children how positive attention makes them feel. Help them explore ways they can help others in the future, or make other people feel good about themselves. Record their ideas on paper.

Adapted from the [WGBH Web Activities](http://www.wgbh.org).

More information at [pbskids.org/arthur](http://pbskids.org/arthur)





# A Good Read!

Young children begin to learn mathematical concepts through shapes and patterns. Here are some good picture books on the subject.

*Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes* by Roseanne Thong

An excellent shape book told in rhyme about a young Chinese American girl and the shapes she encounters in her life. It mixes ancient and modern, Chinese and American in what makes up a truly multicultural living experience. The illustrations are basic, but with wonderful details and patterns.

*The Shape of Things* by Dayle Ann Dodds

This rhyming book starts with simple shapes and builds pictures from them. The last two pages are set up to be an "I Spy" experience where the reader finds different shapes in a two page spread. This is a book to read before you head to the art center to make shape collages.

*When A Line Bends...A Shape Begins* by Rhonda Gowler Greene

This book provides wonderful descriptions of shapes. It provides more advanced vocabulary for young audiences, so it can be visited again and again, to master, say the octagon.

*Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes* by Stephen Swinburne

Shapes and patterns in nature may inspire young scientists to examine patterns they see on the next trip outside. This book can support both math and science exploration.

# Surf's Up!



**wyoptv.org**—Keep up to date on what is happening on air, plus links to other helpful PBS sites! Look for Ready To Learn in the education Section. It will have archived edition of these newsletters.

**www.zerotothree.org**—has great developmental information for parents and caregivers.

**www.ericcarle.org**—love his books? Who doesn't! Get virtually up close at this website.

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



# Contact Info

We invite your comments and suggestions.

If you want to stop this email communication, send us an email with 'stop mail' in the subject line.

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