



Ready To Learn

Learning Neighborhood: Overview

What is Ready To Learn?

The Ready To Learn Initiative is a cooperative agreement funded and managed by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. It supports the development of innovative educational television and digital media targeted to preschool and early elementary school children and their families. Its general goal is to promote early learning and school readiness, with a particular interest in reaching low-income children. In addition to creating television and other media products, the program supports activities intended to promote national distribution of the programming, effective educational uses of the programming, community-based outreach and research on educational effectiveness.

2020-2025 Ready To Learn Focus

The national Ready To Learn initiative will focus in the development of new content that helps young children build vital skills to help them succeed in school and life, including functional literacy, critical thinking and collaboration — and shows them career options in age-appropriate ways. This will be done by producing multiple forms of content, some that show real-life examples of success by having adult role models share how they turned their childhood interest into their life's work. It will also help parents, caregivers and communities support children's learning and growth, with a goal of putting children on a path to success in learning, work and life. Local PBS stations will work with community partners, including schools, public libraries, museums, businesses, and other stakeholders, to develop a Learning Neighborhood.

What is a Learning Neighborhood Partnership?

A Learning Neighborhood partnership is a group of partners, including a local PBS station, acutely focused on early learning needs of children and their families— especially the specific needs of carefully defined target communities. Learning Neighborhood partnerships foster a community-wide culture that promotes Ready To Learn's "Learn Together" theme, empowering children and adults to learn anytime, anywhere—at home, in the neighborhood, and within local systems and spaces.

Target Audiences

At the center of this work is a focus on equity. With an intentional focus on understanding experiences of traditionally marginalized members of local communities, so that stations can reimagine how to come together with our local organizations to foster young children's learning and development.

- Young children 2–8 years old
- Parents and caregivers
- Home-based childcare providers
- Out-of-school educators (e.g., afterschool, library, and museum educators)
- Organizations that serve families (e.g., clinics, homevisiting programs, libraries, and food pantries)

Learning Priorities

Computational Thinking	World of Work	Everyday Literacy
Computational thinking is a logical, strategic way of thinking that requires cognitive skills such as sequencing and planning and helps young children navigate possibilities, accomplish tasks, and solve problems that are meaningful to them.	The “world of work” can be defined as the career and workforce options that are now or will likely be available and in demand when young children of today enter the workforce.	Everyday literacy refers to the literacy skills people need to meet personal and social needs at home, in the community, at work, and beyond.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem-solving and critical thinking • Flexible mindsets or habits of mind • Collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of job and career options • Executive functioning skills • Social-Emotional skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of language in the world (both oral and written) • Foundational print concepts • Using, creating, and understanding a variety of texts • Social language
Ready To Learn content will encourage these skills by providing opportunities for children to use the design process, think outside the box, make connections, and develop a flexible mindset through play	Ready To Learn wants to support kids in developing not only their awareness and knowledge of the vast array of career and job options that may be available to them, but also the social and emotional learning (SEL) and executive function skills that underlie the processes by which they become better able to understand, express, regulate, and manage their emotions; relate to others; and ultimately navigate the demands of the workplace.	Ready To Learn wants to support young children as they encounter oral and written communication in their everyday lives, thus helping establish a foundational understanding of how print works and the role it plays in the real world. One important aspect of everyday literacy is the focus on using information as a way to navigate the world, to communicate, and to express oneself in practical tasks and activities.

National Partners

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional membership organization. Together with its members, community partners, and a network of Affiliates across the country, NAEYC proudly strives to ensure that the early childhood profession exemplifies excellence and is recognized as performing a vital role in society.

Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an early childhood parenting support program that works with families prenatally through kindergarten. PAT uses personal visits, group connections, screening, and resource networks to meet its program goals: increase parent knowledge of early childhood development; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; and increase children’s school readiness and school success.

US Chamber of Commerce Foundation & Local Chambers of Commerce

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (USCCF) is a new type of national partner for Ready To Learn. With the RTL prioritizing early career readiness and the world of work, there is much stations can learn from USCCF staff and fellows, business leaders, small business owners, and working parents about their needs and aspirations for supporting children in the community.



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