



Activities to Build On What You've Watched

The learning doesn't have to stop after you turn the TV off or close a book. In fact, after you watch something on TV or read a story, the learning can grow and grow.

Below are a few activity ideas for building on what you watch on TV or read in a book. The following activities are related to the goal of developing self-confidence and awareness of others. This is an important goal in all of the programs on PBS.



Make an "I Can Do List"

Hang up a long sheet of paper in a place where your children can see it easily and write the title—"A List of Things I Can Do." Whenever your children learn a new skill, such as "I can slide" or "I know about dogs," add it to the list.



Celebrate Your Children's Work

Create a special area to display your children's artwork, drawings, and graphs. If you watch a show on kites and then make kites, include a sign that says something like, "We learned to make kites." Or, "We took a nature walk." Let your children choose what gets put up and when it should be taken down.



Do Activities with Your Kids

These next two activities relate to the goal of nurturing your child's imagination, a goal that is important in all of the programs and services that make up *Ready To Learn*.

✓ Play the "What-if Game"

This is a good activity for long car rides, waiting in lines, or drying off after the bath. Give your children a situation and ask them to figure out what should happen. "What if you got to day care and your new teacher was a giraffe?" Use examples from the programs you watch to

talk about how to solve problems. For instance, "What if—name a character in a show you've watched—didn't finish his/her homework? What did he/she do? What would you do if you didn't finish your homework?"

✓ **Play "The Continuing Story Game"**

Start a story and stop right in the middle of a sentence. For instance, "One day, when I was in the park and saw three elephants..." Ask your children to add to the story and to stop when they want you to take it over. Keep the story going until one of you comes up with an ending.

These next two activities relate to the goal of thinking about what we hear and see. These are goals important to school readiness and are a part of many programs on PBS.

✓ **Become "Sound Detectives"**

Pick a place to go for a walk with your children. Perhaps to:

The park

A grocery store

The post office

A place you saw on TV

A construction site or where a new house is being built

Encourage your children to listen to all of the sounds they hear along the way. Then:

Help your children name each sound

Write them down

After the walk, ask your children how many things on the list they can remember. Read the list together and imitate the sounds.

If you go on several trips you can put your lists together and make a "Sounds In My Neighborhood" book.

✓ **Play "The Look Closely Game"**

Gather together a few indoor and outdoor objects, such as leaves, stones, paper napkins, and coins. Don't be afraid to use someone's newly lost tooth, hair, a bug, or a spider web! Let your children look at the objects under a magnifying glass. Describe how it looks, both with and without the magnifying glass. Encourage them to draw what they see and label their drawings.