

PBS KIDS and Ready To Learn-Funded Media Support Young Children's STEM Learning



RESEARCH
BRIEF

Ready To Learn Hartford/Burt Granofsky

PBS KIDS media, funded by Ready To Learn, offer parents and educators free, fun, and accessible ways to meaningfully supplement young children's early Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning. Research has demonstrated how these resources help children learn and how they empower parents and educators.

PBS KIDS media help children learn science, engineering, math, and computational thinking

Ready To Learn-funded PBS KIDS media have been shown to help young children learn a range of STEM concepts.¹ A study of *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!* found that children who used the media resources demonstrated improved understanding of physical science concepts related to matter and force, as well as increased interest and engagement in science, compared to those who did not.² Children also have shown gains in a range of other science, engineering, math, and computational thinking skills.

PBS KIDS media empower parents and educators

Ready To Learn studies show that using PBS KIDS media and resources at home, in the classroom, and in afterschool programs promotes knowledge and skill development, not only for children but also for educators and parents. While parents and educators agree that early STEM learning is important, many do not feel they have the training or knowledge to support it effectively.⁸ Parents who used the resources reported increased confidence in talking to their children about science and helping them learn math and problem solving.⁹ Teachers who used PBS KIDS resources in their classrooms gained confidence in teaching with technology.¹⁰

Research shows PBS KIDS resources help kids learn:

- Physical science and engineering concepts³
- Science vocabulary⁴
- Counting and patterning⁵
- Recognizing and ordering numbers⁶
- Representing and identifying shapes⁶
- Computational thinking skill of sequencing⁷





Explore the Resources

PEG + CAT

PreK-K

pbskids.org/peg/



The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!

PreK-K

pbskids.org/catinthehat/

Work It Out Wombats!

PreK-K

pbskids.org/wombats



Elinor Wonders Why

PreK-K

pbskids.org/elinor

Lyla in the Loop

K-2

pbskids.org/lyla



Odd Squad

K-2

pbskids.org/oddsquad/

Digital media help parents and educators introduce STEM concepts early

Early exposure to STEM concepts lays an important foundation for future academic and career success.¹¹ Engaging with STEM concepts early helps young children establish curiosity in these subject areas, build vocabulary, and develop a sense of inquiry and discovery.¹² Additionally, early STEM learning can help children develop problem-solving, critical-thinking, and self-regulation skills.¹³ With funding from the U.S. Department of Education Ready To Learn Program and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS KIDS collaborates with leading children's media producers to design STEM-focused media for children ages 2–8.

Find more resources at
pbskidsforparents.org
 and pbslearningmedia.org.

Sources

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