



PBS KIDS Island and *readytolearnreading.org* FACT SHEET

What is PBS KIDS Island?

PBS KIDS Island is the centerpiece of www.readytolearnreading.org, a website which provides FREE literacy tools and activities for children, parents, caregivers and teachers to use at home or in the classroom. PBS KIDS Raising Readers, PBS KIDS Island and readytolearnreading.org are funded by a Ready To Learn grant, from the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and The Ready To Learn Partnership.

PBS KIDS Island lets children build their own online island by playing reading games with PBS KIDS Raising Readers characters. The research-based program guides children through eight different gaming levels that address seven skills: rhyming, letter identification, alliteration, phonics, letter sequencing, phonemic awareness and reading/vocabulary.

PBS KIDS Island offers a fun and safe online environment that serves children ages two-to-five. The site will be expanded to offer literacy games and activities for children ages six-to-eight.

Key Features for Children

- **Fun Reading Games Based on Familiar PBS KIDS Shows and Characters:** PBS KIDS Island features dozens of reading games. Favorite characters from PBS KIDS Raising Readers programs, including SUPER WHY!, WORDWORLD, BETWEEN THE LIONS and SESAME STREET, guide and help children learn critical reading skills.
- **Customization:** PBS KIDS Island offers a total of eight levels of reading games and activities, starting with letter recognition and moving children along the path of learning to read with vocabulary and build simple sentences. Starting with the Carousel, kids build their own rides as they play games, learn new skills and track and save their progress in the eight areas. Every time a child successfully completes the games within a level, they add a new ride to their island, such as the Bumper Cars, Roller Coaster or Ferris Wheel, all of which feature skill-building games.
- **Prizes:** Upon completing each game's learning objective, kids receive tickets that can be redeemed for prizes. Prizes include show clips, printable coloring sheets and virtual toys such as peacocks and flamingoes.
- **A Personalized Virtual Treehouse:** Prizes are stored in a child's online treehouse, which can be customized by changing the wall color and arranging new prizes. Children can return at any time to their own familiar treehouse to play with the prizes they have earned.

Key Features for Parents, Caregivers and Teachers:

- Guided Tour: Parents, caregivers and teachers can tour PBS KIDS Island and preview the games children will be playing.
- Detailed Reading Skill Information: As they click on a game, an overview of the game and its corresponding reading skill appear on screen. This information is made available in English and Spanish, and allows for low-literacy adults to play and build their reading skills alongside their child.
- Progress Tracker: The Child Progress Tracker lets parents, caregivers and teachers understand and cultivate their child's learning.
- Printable, Off-Line Reading Activities: The site offers online activities, including a new Reading Activity Calendar, featuring reading activities for every day of the year as well as offline activities, including printable, customizable rewards coupons.
- Additional Information: Readytolearnreading.org offers additional information about the national PBS KIDS Raising Readers reading campaign and details about research, content, community engagement, partners and other resources, all funded by a Ready To Learn grant from the U. S. Department of Education.

System Requirements

PBS KIDS Island is easy to access and simply requires the following specifications:

- A Windows PC or Macintosh computer
- A current version of any of these browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari; Internet Explorer 7 and Firefox versions 2 and 3 are recommended.
- An Internet connection
- Adobe Flash 9.0.124 (a flash detector automatically prompts users to download the appropriate version if it is not already installed on their computers)



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