



storytime in the commons



In partnership with



Series presented by



Storytime in the Commons presents PBS KIDS content, characters and family-friendly themes that focus on learning and character building.

Storytime in the Commons is a free family event series hosted by the Nine Network of Public Media in the Public Media Commons. It brings the evidenced-based PBS KIDS® learning model to life each summer with appearances by beloved characters and activities that reinforce a love of learning.

The series was launched in 2016 to attract new families and bring other families back year after year.



BE MY NEIGHBOR DAY

Every year, we end the series with a special day dedicated to Mister Rogers and the positive messages his show promotes. Be My Neighbor Day was presented by Fred Rogers Productions and PNC Grow Up Great.

Mister Rogers believed “we are all neighbors” and the September 2019 Storytime explored what it means to be kind to your neighbors, a lesson both young and old can appreciate. Close to 700 people attended Be My Neighbor Day and enjoyed stories, meeting Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittycat, playing games, and other theme-related activities.

The five 2019 Storytime in the Commons events were themed to enhance the learning opportunities for children:

- Space Oddity
- Creative Genius
- Water Waves and Fitness
- World Explorer (with stories in English, Spanish, and Bosnian)
- Be My Neighbor Day

Activities included reading, meeting and taking photos with PBS KIDS characters, games that help children grow, the St. Louis Children’s Hospital Healthy Kids corner and the PNC Grow Up Great career station.

87% of survey respondents rated the event **EXCELLENT or VERY GOOD.**

91% of survey respondents said Storytime made reading **FUN and EXCITING** for their children.

2019 event survey

“You can never have too many events and outlets for kids to come and create and have fun and learn.”

—Marquis Terrel
Local artist appearing at Storytime





More than half of America's 3- and 4-year-olds do not attend preschool. PBS helps to close the achievement gap. It reaches:



Source: Nielsen NPOWER, September 2017–2018

Parents rank PBS KIDS as the most-trusted destination

for children to watch TV and the best use of families' screen time, beating out Disney Channel, Disney Junior, Universal Kids, Nickelodeon, Nick Jr., and Cartoon Network.

(Source: Marketing & Research Resources, Inc., January 2019)

AS A RESULT OF OUR WORK IN EARLY EDUCATION, TEACHERS AND CAREGIVERS:

- Are more aware of the importance of early learning.
- Better understand their critical role in early learning/kindergarten preparedness.
- Are more aware of and better understand the value of early education resources available to them to support their children.
- Report using more PBS KIDS resources to support early learning

FRIENDS OF STORYTIME

These local organizations helped make the 2019 season special.

- CEO Mom
- Fire Dog
- Great Rivers Gateway
- KIPP St. Louis
- Lock It for Love
- Magic House
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Operation Food Search
- St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature
- St. Louis Community Credit Union
- St. Louis Public Schools
- St. Louis Science Center
- Village of Moms STL
- Vroom/LUME

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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

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The kids in our region all deserve the opportunity to succeed in school and in life. Nine Network and PBS KIDS are providing the tools and resources to improve the early education outcomes of our most valuable asset. Storytime in the Commons is part of the Nine's early education work.

