

# EARLY EDUCATION

- ▶ educators
- ▶ caregivers

Nine's early learning initiative provides free, evidence-based educational resources that help educators build social and emotional learning, literacy, social studies and fine performing arts skills for children in underserved families in the St. Louis region.



# Regional Realities

## Educational Challenges

Nine percent of children live in high-poverty areas in Missouri, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which increases the need for early education facilities. The increased need has pushed most facilities to maximum capacity.

Even when kids can enter preschool, there is a lack of resources for educators, which results in some kids not gaining a high-quality education.



**MORE THAN**  
**40%** of kids live in poverty in St. Louis City.



**9%** of children live in high-poverty areas in Missouri.



**54%** of Missouri's young children are not in school.\*

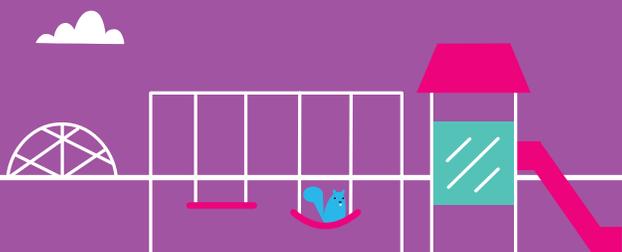


\* SOURCE: ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER, 2016-2018, ACCESSED 3/10/20.



# Nine's Early Learning Goals

To connect partners and educators with PBS KIDS® resources, opportunities and information to promote early learning for our youngest and most vulnerable learners.



**With your support,**  
we can positively impact the future  
of early education by:



Increasing  
**kindergarten  
readiness**



Decreasing  
the **digital divide**



Increasing  
the **quality of  
childcare and  
education**



Increasing **family  
connections**

## Educator & Caregiver Resources

One of the founding principles of Nine Network is education; it defines us. We believe that our community is stronger when all educators have the tools needed to be successful.



### ● Playful Learning for Educators

This professional learning series is designed for educators of children ages 2-8. During each session, educators actively learn and play together with digital and nondigital tools. They construct and share teaching strategies using PBS KIDS resources, with the goal to empower educators to bring media-rich, play-based, and learner-centered experiences to their own environments and communities.

### ● Train-the-Trainer

Nine Network trains participants to effectively use educational media to build science and literacy skills in young children through the Ready to Learn Family and Community Learning and Camp experiential learning models. Allowing more deserving communities to benefit from Nine's in-demand Family and Community Learning series.

### ● Virtual Appy Hours

Nine Network engages local educators with PBS KIDS digital products. During the two-hour PBS KIDS Appy Hour event, educators learn together by engaging in interactive activities using digital content and media to enhance early literacy, math and school readiness.

### ● PBS Learning Media

Nine Network makes available free, curated, standards-aligned videos, interactives, lesson plans and more for

### ● PBS Digital Innovator All Stars

The PBS Digital Innovator All Star program brings together a community of preK-12 educators, who are local thought leaders and classroom changemakers, for ongoing professional learning and growth. The program creates opportunities for participants to share strategies, learn from peers, and leverage Nine Network platforms to elevate their own ideas and voice.

PBS Digital Innovator All Stars are characterized by their ability to seamlessly integrate media and digital technology into their learning environments, inspiring students to use media and emerging technologies in responsible, effective and empowering ways.

### ● PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions

We celebrate educational champions whose bold approaches to teaching create a joyful learning environment with a two-year cohort experience:

**Year 1 Strategy:** Strengthening relationships with stations and local communities

**Year 2 Strategy:** Elevating champion voice and strengthening peer support



### ○ PBS KIDS Edcamp

Edcamp at Nine Network brings teachers together to elevate their voices and empower them professionally. Using an “unconference” professional development model, teachers lead their own learning experiences. The free program is open to those who work in various learning environments, including informal and childcare settings.

Edcamp provides an opportunity to discuss best practices for fostering early childhood development and kindergarten readiness. Attendees are eligible to earn “clock” hours and receive a completion certificate. Edcamp will be virtual in 2020.

### ○ Educator and Caregiver Toolkit

Nine has curated its vast library of PBS content and resources into an online toolkit so that educators and caregivers have easy access to content to serve students while schools are shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. The toolkit has broadcast, online, and mobile resources, as well as learning tools and tips. It includes a broadcast and streaming schedule of kids’ programs available by targeted ages, learning goals, air times, and links to PBS KIDS apps.



### ○ Teaching in Room 9

For many families, distance learning can be overwhelming. As a service to the entire community, Nine is broadcasting teacher-led lessons weekdays. On Teaching in Room 9, a team of educators from across the region teach 30-minute classes in literacy, math, and science for students in pre-k through fourth grade. The curriculum is informed by area education leaders and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Through our on-air lessons and the online toolkit for caregivers, Nine is making an impact on our region’s early learners, today and for years to come.



Raymel Speed, City Academy, teaches reading, grades 2–4.



**Watch Now!**

Over the Air: 9.2 | Spectrum Digital Cable: 710



## EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Albert Sanders**

St. Louis Public School District

Adams Elementary,  
Pre-kindergarten

18 Years in Service



“PBS KIDS content is a great supplement to our current curriculum and helps meet the district and state standards. We use videos featuring Daniel Tiger on social emotional development to help students work through some of the preschool jitters and guide them to understanding their feelings.”

—Dr. Albert Sanders



**To help overcome some of the challenges he was facing, Dr. Sanders** participated in Nine’s free professional development opportunities that introduced evidence-based resources from PBS KIDS into his classroom. Positive outcomes included:

- **A dive into fields outside** of his own public-school setting.
- **Professional and personal relationships** with educators who are making a difference.

- **Introduction and reintroduction** to PBS’ wide-ranging resources, positively impacted his professional learning and growth and the quality of student educational offerings he could provide.
- **Learning, meeting and listening to the other PBS** early education champions enhanced his understanding of different teaching approaches to use with students.
- **Sharing PBS KIDS** resources with students and parents so that learning doesn’t stop at school.



## Since PBS' founding in 1967,

free educational content has been a core part of its mission. From Sesame Street to Mister Rogers to Clifford, PBS has provided thousands of hours of content to public media stations like Nine Network.

Over the past few years, Nine has expanded on this educational mission using seed money from the U.S. Department of Education's Ready to Learn program. Ready to Learn aims to engage educators around the value of PBS KIDS' evidenced-based content on television and through videos, interactive games, mobile apps and hands-on activities on the ground in the St. Louis region.

Hands-on activities are making a difference in ensuring that kids who live in the highest need areas (St. Louis City, North St. Louis County and East St. Louis) are kindergarten-ready, increasing their chances of success in school and life!



**Thanks to our sponsors for their support.**



**Norman J. Stupp Foundation**

