



Curriculum Overview

The “WordWorld” curriculum draws from four skill sets that are critical for young children’s emergent literacy. Every storyline incorporates at least one skill from each of the following skill sets.

- Print awareness
- Phonological sensitivity and letter knowledge
- Comprehension
- Self-awareness and socio-emotional skills

Print Awareness

Print awareness is the understanding of the characteristics in print: what print looks like, how print is organized and how print works. The National Reading Panel (2000) ranks print awareness among the best predictors of academic success.

As a result of regularly viewing “WordWorld,” children will develop an emerging sensitivity to and recognition of the following:

- Written and spoken words carry meaningful messages
- Print moves from left to right
- Speech and print are characterized by individual words
- A relationship exists between speech and print
- Many words represent real-life objects
- Print has multiple functions and can be used in a variety of contexts, such as playing games, making lists and writing notes to impart or remember information

Phonological Sensitivity and Letter Knowledge

Phonological sensitivity refers to the ability to recognize, identify and manipulate the sequence of sounds represented in spoken words.

As a result of regularly viewing “WordWorld” episodes and the interstitial “music shorts” that accompany them, children will develop an emerging sensitivity to and recognition of the following:

- Letters as symbols
- Letters as representatives of sounds
- The relationship between letters and sounds



visit: pbskids.org/wordworld



Comprehension

Comprehension is the process of making sense of spoken and written language. “WordWorld” focuses on three important aspects of comprehension that are well established in research:

- Vocabulary acquisition
- Supporting and expanding prior knowledge base
- Understanding narrative text structures

Understanding the critical elements of a story is an essential step in learning to read. In “WordWorld,” comprehension skills are fostered in narrative form so children can begin to internalize the components of narratives, including characters, settings, problems and resolutions. As children hear comprehension modeled in the verbal interactions between WordFriends™, they are exposed to valuable strategies that will help them make sense of written material as they become readers. Additionally, each storyline sets up a problem early in the episode and viewers are encouraged to find a solution by identifying the word that needs to be built.

As a result of regularly viewing “WordWorld,” children will develop an emerging sensitivity to and recognition of the following:

- New vocabulary items
- Literal question and answer relationships
- Predictions
- Cause and effect relationships
- Concepts underlying structures, including compound words, known as “combined words,” and plurals, known as “the power of ‘s’”
- Problem-solving contexts
- Inferences from statements or actions
- Story elements



visit: pbskids.org/wordworld



Self-Awareness and Socio-Emotional Skills

Self-awareness skills refer to the perception of oneself as a learner. “WordWorld” allows children to experience reading as a fun, empowering and completely attainable activity by offering multiple chances for success.

Socio-emotional skills refer to the set of competencies that allows individuals to work, learn and interact effectively in social situations, which is essential for academic and personal success. In “WordWorld,” children have many opportunities to discover these proficiencies through the WordFriends, learning social awareness skills and behaviors that will positively influence their interpersonal relationships.

As a result of regularly viewing “WordWorld,” children will develop an emerging sensitivity to and recognition of the following:

- Seeing themselves as readers and learners
- Experiencing success in recognizing words they can read
- Viewing reading as an enjoyable, pleasurable and attainable activity
- Identifying and considering the feelings of others
- Showing concern for others
- Sharing with others
- Recognizing and appreciating differences
- Applying appropriate decision-making skills to resolve problems
- Acting fairly
- Identifying positive qualities in others
- Discovering ways to work and play effectively with others
- Identifying common problems and resolutions
- Seeking help when necessary



visit: pbskids.org/wordworld

