

Third Quarter 2015 Children's Program Descriptions

Regularly scheduled programming furnished by the NBC Network is specifically designed to serve the early educational and informational needs of children 16 and under. Each of these programs is identified on-air as educational and informational with the "E/I" icon, and is similarly identified to the national listing services. Please note that the age target for NBC Kids programming is identified as 2-5 years old.

3rd QUARTER 2015 SHOW SUMMARIES

Ruff Ruff, Tweet, and Dave is a preschool adventure/activity show where the lead characters travel to faraway lands to have adventures with their guide, a hamster named Hatty. Ruff Ruff, the dog, is the most playful of the three; Tweet is a little bird who loves to fly and get creative with her suggestions; and Dave the Panda has a thing for bananas. **RRTD** might go to the beach, or the mountains, or to strange lands with pillows everywhere; just the sort of place where imagination and logic come together. The settings are always brightly colored and beautiful. And their transport vehicles are Roly-pods, artful go-carts that fit on a spiral ramp that folds in and out of the Spin-Again, a colorful round spinning top with special compartments designed to anchor each vehicle right on the outside rim during the journey.

Astroblast, based on the book series by author and illustrator Bob Kolar, is set on a space station in an unknown solar system. Five animal characters and one three-eyed octopus of unknown derivation populate the station. Each episode begins with an everyday conversation or incident that grows into a predicament needing a solution. While these predicaments take place in a fantasy environment, the issues and resolutions resonate for a preschool audience. Through comedy and zippy action, our target audience sees how the characters learn lessons for practical living such as how to keep track of things that belong to you, practice good habits, clean up when you've made a mess, rebound from a failure or an embarrassing incident, or resist the urge to blame others for your mistakes.

Lazy Town encourages fitness and healthful habits for preschool children. In the imaginary setting of Lazy Town, characters' eating and fitness habits are linked to problem solving in their world. The lead character is Stephanie, a young girl who guides the audience through the story as she and her friends ("human" puppets) and her Uncle (Mayor Milford Meanswell) navigate life within Lazy Town. Robbie Rotten, the underground spy and influencer who personifies the ethos of Lazy Town, is determined to ruin the health and fitness practices of Stephanie and her friends. When the kids have difficulty with Robbie Rotten, Sportacus (a gymnast/athlete prepared to answer any call for help) comes to the rescue from his home in a zeppelin-like aircraft that hovers over earth. The underlying themes of Lazy Town stress the importance of eating "sports candy" (aka fruits and vegetables), always obtaining sufficient sleep, and going outside to engage in a wide range of physical activities that include playing games, competing athletically, and even building forts and play structures.

Earth to Luna is a Brazilian animated series about 12 year old girl, Luna, who loves science and the outdoors. There is nothing she doesn't question, and she shares everything she learns with her little brother, Jupiter, her parents or her friend Alice, and Clyde, her pet ferret. In each episode Luna and her brother develop questions about whatever they find curious, e.g., what goes on inside the snails' shell?" or "Why does a firefly blink?" In pursuit of answers, Luna, Jupiter and Clyde go off on an imaginary adventure to do their research. They transform into the object or creature they are studying so they can personally experience the answers to their questions. When the threesome is finished with the "field trip" Luna summarizes everything they have learned with a show and a song.

Poppy Cat based on a book series by Lara Jones, models the use of imagination and storytelling to encourage creative thinking in viewers. Each episode features the narrator Lara, reading a story about Poppy Cat, to her own cat (who is also named Poppy). She weaves an exciting tale following her imagination, which leads her to distant lands reached by boat, plane, hot air balloon or train. Each story features Poppy Cat as the leader of a group of animal friends, including the resident bully Egbert the badger, and other occasionally recurring characters. A prevailing message emerges within each episode to be nice to your friends and always work together. There remains an overarching implicit message within every episode as well; think creatively and exercise your mind through reading and storytelling – for these activities always lead to enjoyment and adventure.

Tree Fu Tom is a live action/animated series about a little boy who lives in a rural area, and has a rich fantasy life in the woods behind his home. Tom uses specific movements to summon up magic powers that permit him to morph into an animated hero and fly around in Treetopolis, the fantasy version of his woods. While in Treetopolis, Tom and his friends, Ariella, Twigs, Squirmturn and Zigzoo will invariably run into a problem or disaster that needs fixing. Tom calls upon the audience to practice original dance moves that will bring him "Big World" magic so he and his friends can resolve their challenge of the day. Educational messages reinforce positive socio-emotional content, with examples that model: being loyal to good friends, knowing how to ask for help, doing the right thing instead of what is convenient, making the effort to share rather than being selfish and relying on teamwork in order to accomplish a goal.

Note Regarding FCC's Video Description Rules: The programs supplied in the NBC Kids block are video-described to provide a better viewing experience for blind or visually impaired children. *Under the FCC's video description rules that became effective on July 1, 2012, full-power affiliates of the ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC networks that are located in the top 25 television markets must provide 50 hours per calendar quarter of video-described programming during prime time or in children's programming. A video described program may be counted toward the 50 hours when it is originally aired and on one re-airing. Although much of the programming aired with video description is likely to be newly produced, stations may count any program they are airing for the first or second time with video description after the effective date, even if the program aired on that station without video description prior to the effective date. Similarly, a station may count programming toward its 50-hour obligation even if that programming has aired elsewhere with video description, as long as it is airing with description for the first or second time on that station.*

2nd QUARTER 2015 EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

In compliance with the Children's Television Act regulations that became effective January 2, 1997, the **NBC kids** programming block features an on-air icon (E/I) indicating that each program is "educational and informational" for children. **This icon is displayed throughout each program.** Also, in compliance with the regulations, the following document, which includes "early educational and informational" objectives of **NBC kids**, must be placed in your public file.

The **NBC kids** programming block also meets the requirements for video described content, as established by the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, effective October 8, 2010. Full-power affiliates of NBC that are located in the 25 television markets with the largest number of television households must provide video-described content at any time they are providing children's programming. Each episode of content can be aired no more than twice in the calendar year.

Each of the programs listed below, which make up the three hour **NBC kids** programming block, is specifically designed to serve the early educational and informational needs of children ages 2-5. All of the programs have educational objectives and messages that are core to the content and appropriate for the program genre.

From April 4th – June 27, 2015 **NBC Kids** aired five shows returning from the 1st Quarter 2015. These are: **Astroblast, The Chica Show, Lazy Town, Poppy Cat, and Tree Fu Tom.** There is one new show: **Earth to Luna.**

All six shows were developed specifically for a target audience composed of children ages 2-5. They have a narrative format and three of the shows (**The Chica Show, Earth to Luna, and Tree Fu Tom**) use elements of fantasy and imagination to develop the educational content. **The Chica Show** and **Tree Fu Tom** combine live action with animation, while **Lazy Town** is live action with puppets. **Poppy Cat, Earth to Luna** and **Astroblast** are animated series.

Astroblast, based on the book series by author and illustrator Bob Kolar, is set on a space station in an unknown solar system. Five animal characters and one three-eyed octopus of unknown derivation populate the station. Each episode begins with an everyday conversation or incident that grows into a predicament needing a solution. While these predicaments take place in a fantasy environment, the issues and resolutions resonate for a preschool audience. Through comedy and zippy action, our target audience sees how the characters learn lessons for practical living such as how to keep track of things that belong to you, practice good habits, clean up when you've made a mess, rebound from a failure or an embarrassing incident, or resist the urge to blame others for your mistakes.

The Chica Show features a five-year-old “baby” chick that spends her days with her parents in their costume shop, the Coop. The shop's one employee, Kelly, doubles as Chica's nanny and the ensemble is rounded out with Bunji, a large floppy eared rabbit, and Stitches, a straw mannequin that sits in the window. In each episode Chica develops or encounters a problem that she cannot immediately resolve. Usually her issues involve impulse control, distractibility, judgment, and inter-personal behaviors. She and Kelly usually work on the problem through an adventure—a fantasy transformation to animation— where Bunji and Stitches come alive and join Chica and Kelly for the problem solving process. The core educational content is primarily socio-emotional development as Chica learns how to express herself properly, think before she acts, and interact with others effectively. She often learns that it takes hard work and practice to become proficient at different skills.

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