We envision a strong & healthy community working together through public media

Storytime in the Commons is the Nine Network’s free monthly, summer reading series for families on Saturday mornings in the Public Media Commons in Grand Center. Storytime features a favorite PBS KIDS character, storytelling, video walls, crafts, games and other family activities geared toward young children. It was launched in 2016 as part of the Nine Network’s American Graduate initiative to engage families in early learning and school readiness.

Learn
Discover
Experience

The scale of Nine Network’s reach across the region is a distinctively unique asset. We are a trusted convener and storyteller around issues affecting our region, like early education. Our work raises awareness, increases understanding, and moves our community to action around important issues.
Storytime in the Commons combines literacy and family activities in an enriching environment for parents and children.

Storytime in the Commons instills an appreciation of the Nine Network as an agent of positive change and committed to the St. Louis region.

“The games, Curious George, the fire truck were all great things for the kids to play on/with while waiting for the character or story. We came last year and enjoyed it so much, we came back!”

“I learned the network does many things for the community, including fun outings for adults and children alike. It is not just a TV station, but an outreach to make the best of the Saint Louis area.”

3,300 individuals and families participated in Storytime in 2017

78% of attendees were new to Storytime

44% of parents learned something new about the Nine Network during Storytime

97% of guests rated Storytime excellent, very good or good since its start in 2016

95% agree that the event provided a welcoming environment*

90% agree that the event made reading fun*

*2016 event survey
PBS KIDS

Nine’s commitment to early childhood education at a glance:

**32.5** The number of hours of curriculum-based, scientifically proven educational content aired by the Nine Network each day across two broadcast channels and streamed online.

**77%** The percentage of children aged 2-8 who watch PBS KIDS programming.

**88%** The percentage of parents who agree PBS KIDS is a trusted and safe place for children to watch television.

**146,200** The number of PBSKids.org users across Missouri, a higher-than-average usage when compared to the national system.

**2,600** The number of K-12 Missouri educators who make use of PBS LearningMedia resources in the classroom.

“...I really felt like I was taking my 3 year old to Disney World. Thank you so much for providing such an incredible event for the kiddos in our city.”

**Committed to Young Learners**

The Nine Network has partnered with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS in the Ready to Learn Initiative, supported by the U.S. Department of Education. The initiative brings educational television and digital media resources to children ages 2-8, promoting early learning and school readiness, with an emphasis on supporting children from low-income, underserved communities.

In 2017, more than 50 agencies that serve families received early learning resources through Ready to Learn. Families who lacked access to quality early educational programming participated in enriching, research-based Family Creative Learning sessions featuring PBS KIDS characters. The Nine Network runs these facilitated, multigenerational experiences to honor the time and space necessary for families to play and learn together.

**Our Videos Extend Learning**

Based on our partners’ insights, Nine developed 10 core messages using short video segments based on key concepts or activities parents can use to extend their children’s learning. The segments were shared across Nine's media platforms on-air, online and in the community, and through partner channels like the LUME Institute.

Supported by: PNC Grow Up Great
With the support of the community, the Nine Network can aspire to:

- Create and share content for the public good.
- Listen to what’s important and bring people together around things that matter to them and to the community.
- Help people experience things that they wouldn’t otherwise experience.
- Shine a light on the things that make us St. Louisans.
- Care and act for the well-being of our most vulnerable and youngest community members.

We believe that when we succeed, we ignite the spirit of possibility in St. Louis.