

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AN AWARD FROM THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE TO SUPPORT THE WLRN READY TO LEARN SERVICE

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS:

- I - EARLY INTERVENTION
- IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

The Public Broadcasting Service's (PBS) Ready to Learn (RTL) service is a national educational program that has been developed to help ensure that children begin school "ready to learn." The program is designed for preschool and elementary grade children as well as for their parents and caregivers. It builds upon PBS's line-up of award-winning children's programs.

The WLRN RTL service presently provides a total of 50 hours of children's programs each week including *Barney and Friends*, *Sesame Street*, *Puzzle Place*, *Wishbone*, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, *Kratts' Creatures*, and *Reading Rainbow*. Also on the WLRN schedule are two programs for parents and caregivers that focus on child development and early childhood education.

The RTL outreach service provides teaching techniques to teachers, caregivers, and parents. Concepts introduced on television are linked to children's cognitive, emotional, and social skills development. This past year 317 RTL workshops involving more than 2,498 parents and caregivers and more than 20,400 children were organized by the WLRN RTL Coordinator.

To ensure that RTL trained caregivers continue to make the most effective use of the television lessons, 35,000 copies of the RTL newsletter (*PBS Families and PBS la Familia*) are distributed four times a year to those on the RTL mailing list and to local social service agencies.

The RTL steering committee is linked to community leaders and to cooperating local social service agencies. Thirty public and private sector agencies support and volunteer to serve on RTL committees. While the School Board provides basic support for RTL, WLRN and Friends of WLRN actively seek funding for outreach activities and print materials.