

GLR Learning Tuesdays | Learning Loss Recovery Series

Using PBS KIDS Media to Unlock Early Science Learning With *Elinor Wonders Why*

September 8, 2020 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

MODERATOR & PRESENTER BIOS

MODERATOR

Pamela Johnson, Ph.D. is executive director of the CPB-PBS Ready To Learn Initiative, a school readiness program that teams public media content with community collaboration to support improved educational outcomes for children, especially those from low-income families. The work is conducted in partnership with PBS KIDS, the U.S. Department of Education, PBS member stations, and other content, engagement, and research collaborators. Prior to joining CPB, Pam was vice president for education and engagement at WNED/Buffalo, New York where she spearheaded ThinkBright TV, the Buffalo Professional Development and Technology Center, PBS TeacherLine NY, and Reading Rainbow’s national outreach and web efforts.

PRESENTERS

Shannon R. Bishop is the director of content at PBS KIDS Digital where she oversees development and launches for leading PBS KIDS series digital portfolios. Under the CPB-PBS Ready To Learn Initiative, Bishop has focused on designing science inquiry experiences for children ages two to eight and pioneering production of PBS KIDS’ first adaptive games. She continues to evolve PBS KIDS Digital’s approach to play, gaming, and education and guides strategic experimentation involving new platforms.

Jorge Cham is the cartoonist behind the popular online comic “Piled Higher and Deeper” (a.k.a. PHD Comics). He holds a PhD in Robotics from Stanford University and is a former Instructor and Research Associate at Caltech. His work as a researcher focused on Biomimetic Design and Neural Implants. Jorge is the co-creator of the all-new PBS KIDS early science property, *Elinor Wonders Why* that has been developed as part of the CPB-PBS Ready To Learn Initiative.

Jean B. Crawford is senior manager of parent and teacher content, Ready To Learn at PBS. She oversees the development of print and digital resources designed to help parents and educators engage with young children to build early math, literacy, and science skills. She joined the Ready To Learn team in 2003 as Director of PBS’ award-winning website for parents. Prior to that, she was director of AOL’s content areas for parents, and an editorial director at Time-Life Books, where she led the development of an innovative 12-volume book series for children that threaded math concepts through stories and activities.

Anthony Durborow is the Director of Professional Learning & Engagement at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In this role, he oversees the development of professional learning resources for early childhood practitioners and provides content leadership for NAEYC’s annual meetings. Anthony is also a frequent presenter at national and regional conferences and has extensive experience developing and facilitating training-of-trainer workshops. His past experience includes training and technical assistance for NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Programs and Keystone

STARS, Pennsylvania's quality rating and improvement system. He has also served as a preschool teacher, NAEYC-Accredited center director, early childhood regional trainer, and adjunct instructor.

Tania Ghee is the Director of Early Learning Program Development at PBS and provides direction and guidance on the design, implementation, and management of programs and initiatives that support children, teachers, and parents/caregivers. She also serves as a senior advisor with expertise on the early learning field and with an emphasis on early childhood educators (Pre-k). As an advisor, she analyzes and curates research, promising practices and emerging trends to help build knowledge and capacity to create and support innovative initiatives that enhance the early childhood education profession. Tania Ghee, MSPH, joined Public Broadcasting Service in 2014. She has over 20 years of experience working within the early learning community and examining the services and systems of nationwide programs.

Anne Lund is the director of curriculum and content for PBS KIDS and Ready to Learn. In this role, she supports PBS KIDS Programming and Digital, as well as other areas of Children's Media & Education to ensure integration of curriculum across platforms. As curriculum point-person for the CPB-PBS Ready To Learn Grant Initiative, she works closely with producers to ensure that a show's content and curriculum accurately reflect the premise and learning objectives. Anne has spent years in children's media specializing in educational curriculum development and research. Before PBS KIDS, she worked with various media and research groups including *Nick, Jr.* and *Sesame Workshop*. She also served as Director of Research and Curriculum for the *Disney, Jr.* show "Little Einsteins". She received a B.A. in Psychobiology from Swarthmore College and an M.S. in Developmental Psychology from UMass, Amherst. She has experience as an elementary school teacher and preschool director.

Lavanya Mohan is the director of PBS KIDS Community Engagement Content. Ms. Mohan builds, develops and manages opportunities for educators to make deep connections with their peers, their students, their communities and their local PBS member stations. She also develops materials and resources for educators and caregivers that enhance the learning experiences of young children in both traditional and non-traditional education and care settings. Prior to PBS, Ms. Mohan held policy, research and training roles with the Aspen Institute, Center for Law and Social Policy, and the Henry Street Settlement Workforce Development Center. Ms. Mohan holds an Ed.M. in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a bachelor's of business administration from the University of Michigan.

Mayra Monterroso is Coordinator of Family Literacy at Rhode Island PBS, responsible for developing and delivering early childhood, Ready To Learn, and adult basic education/GED resources. She has over 6 years of local experience in the early childhood education field, including most recently as Bilingual Program Assessment Specialist with the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children and Professional Development Facilitator with the Center for Early Learning Professionals. She holds a B.A. degree from University of Rhode Island in Human Development and Family Studies, with a concentration in childhood settings and minor in Psychology.

Alicia Narvaez is a seasoned educational content specialist, leading development and implementation of innovative early learning programs at the intersection of education, digital media, and measurable impact. She currently leads content development for early childhood educators at PBS as part of the U.S. Department of Education's Ready to Learn grant. Prior to this, she directed family and community engagement for Sesame Workshop's initiatives in formal learning, and spent 12 years in Chicago Public

Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education leading a national teacher and family engagement initiative called Virtual Pre-K. Ms. Narvaez holds a bachelors degree from Columbia University and received her masters in Public Administration from the City University of New York as a National Urban Fellow.

Shelley Pasnik is Director of the Center for Children & Technology and Vice President of the Education Development Center (EDC), where she leads the global nonprofit's early childhood initiatives. Her long-term research on young children and technology is providing evidence of effective strategies to foster school readiness and success—especially for young children living in low-income communities—that is helping inform policy-making and practice in the U.S. and around the world. Since 2006, she has served as the Principal Investigator of the CPB-PBS Ready To Learn initiative, overseeing studies that make the evidentiary case for ongoing public investment. In 2019, she edited the collected volume, *Getting Ready to Learn: Creating Effective, Educational Children's Media*, which describes how educational media have played and are continuing to play a role in meeting the learning needs of children, parents, and teachers.

Sara S. Sweetman, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of education in the College of Education and Professional Studies at the University of Rhode Island (URI) and directs URI's School of Education's Guiding Education in Math and Science Network (GEMS-Net), a school-university partnership focused on translating research into practice for continual improvement in teaching and learning. Dr. Sweetman's interest in research, teaching, and practice involve engaging the community in fun and meaningful science learning through manipulation of materials and social interactions. She has been an advisor on a variety of children's productions, including Sesame Street and Ready To Learn-funded seasons of *The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!* and *Elinor Wonders Why*.

Daniel Whiteson is a professor of physics at the University of California, Irvine, and a fellow of the American Physical Society. He earned his PhD in Physics from the University of California at Berkeley and is an active researcher, using the Large Hadron Collider at CERN to search for exotic new particles. Daniel is the co-creator of the all-new PBS KIDS early science property, *Elinor Wonders Why* that has been developed as part of the CPB-PBS Ready To Learn Initiative.