Season 49 Curriculum

The 49th season of *Sesame Street* explores a “Learning Through Play” curriculum that models how children can build school readiness skills as they embody different career roles during play. If kids can see it, they can **play it**, they can **be it**!

Spotlighting the power of guided pretend-play, the season shows how kids can get more out of playtime with a bit of planning and guidance from helpful adults – and from one another, too. In each episode, the *Sesame Street* gang learns about a new career in a hands-on way as they pretend to be bus drivers, chefs, directors, doctors, and more. Each pretend-play session is complete with homemade props and scenery made from everyday objects, modeling a vital play skill for kids at home.

Simple career-oriented play is common among children, but when kids feel empowered to plan their own play, playing “restaurant” or “train” can turn into an opportunity to foster both academic and social-emotional skills.

“Children learn best through play because they are actively engaged in joyful and meaningful activities that can be also be socially interactive and iterative,” said Dr. Rosemarie Truglio, SVP Content and Curriculum, Sesame Workshop. “It is through their play that kids learn to collaborate, self-regulate, communicate, and empathize with peers, motivated by their own interests and curiosities.”

By focusing on career-based pretend play, this year’s curriculum will help children develop critical life skills and imagine new paths for themselves. Whether they’re building a school bus out of cardboard boxes or creating their own newspaper about life on Sesame Street, Elmo, Cookie Monster, Abby Cadabby and friends model how – with a little help! – children can start to see themselves in exciting futures while having fun together.

In line with the new curriculum, the season will start with a new primetime special that puts a madcap spin on pretend-playing different careers. Also debuting this season is “Abby’s Amazing Adventures,” a new animated segment starring Abby Cadabby and her stepbrother Rudy that shows how girls can take on many roles and be anything they want to be.