



## about the show

[Super Grover 2.0](#)  
[Episodes](#)  
[Parodies](#)  
[Word on the Street](#)  
[Curriculum](#)  
[Artwork](#)  
[Clips](#)  
[Celebrity Clips](#)

## news

[Press Release](#)  
[Press Contacts](#)

## behind the scenes

[Cast Bios](#)  
[Monsterbook](#)  
[Puppeteer Bios](#)  
[Production Bios](#)  
[Sponsors](#)

## more

[Favorite Street Tweets](#)  
[Celebrity Airdate Schedule](#)

[press room home](#)



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### SESAME STREET LAUNCHES 41<sup>st</sup> SEASON SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> ON PBS KIDS® AND FEATURES A NEW SEGMENT STARRING THE ALWAYS-LOVEABLE SUPER GROVER

#### Fresh Episodes Emphasize Science-Based Curriculum

#### Plus Hilarious Segments with Celebrities including Amy Poehler, Will.i.am, Jude Law, Jennifer Garner, LaDainian Tomlinson and Wanda Sykes

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (New York)** – On the heels of its impressive ratings growth and incredible eight Emmy wins for its landmark 40th anniversary season, *Sesame Street* is back with more of what you love for season 41. Premiering September 27 on **PBS KIDS** (check local listings) and produced by **Sesame Workshop**, the nonprofit educational organization, the new season of the program continues to address the immediate needs of preschoolers with an emphasis on science education. Heading into the second term of its two-year curriculum, season 41 emphasizes everyday science investigation and encourages kids to ask specific questions and get excited about how the world works. Additionally, everybody's favorite furry and blue superhero gets his own new segment in *Sesame Street*'s block format, "**Super Grover 2.0**."

In six new six-minute segments, Grover is coming to the rescue in "Super Grover 2.0." As he observes, questions, investigates and reports, our hero literally stumbles across solutions to problems all across the planet. "Super Grover 2.0" is a continuation of this season's curriculum, science investigation, allowing young children to become active participants in the processes of scientific inquiry as they make observations, formulate questions, and investigate answers. Encouraging children to explore the fascinating worlds of science, technology, engineering and mathematics is what connects *Sesame Street*'s 41st season with the current national focus on these STEM concepts.

"Children are naturally inquisitive – they are always questioning and analyzing the world around them," says Dr. Rosemarie Truglio, Vice President of Education and Research, Sesame Workshop. "The goal of the curriculum is to introduce young children to vocabulary and process skills that are integral in developing scientific reasoning abilities. Having our characters model these skills, especially 'Super Grover 2.0,' is a perfect age-appropriate way to engage children while they learn science concepts and build knowledge about how the world around them works."

Science is featured throughout the new season in street stories, animations and new live action films. In a street story, Elmo and his friends learn all about the concept "camouflage" from Camouflage Carla, played by Kyra Sedgwick, while they look for six things around *Sesame Street* that blend into the scenery. In three newly commissioned films with **NASA**, kids will be exploring the wonders of space as an astronaut in orbit at the International Space Station presents letter and number of the day segments.

"We're really excited that our audience, both children and their caregivers, have responded in such a positive way to last season's changes," commented Carol-Lynn Parente, Executive Producer, *Sesame Street*. "This year, we're building on that success with a distinctive curriculum that will help unleash children's innate feelings of awe and wonder to the scientific world and will allow them to be active participants in the learning process."

In true *Sesame Street* fashion, this season will feature an exciting roster of celebrities and original parodies. Featured celebrities include: Academy Award-nominated actor, **Jude Law**; Golden Globe Award-winning actors **Colin Farrell**, **Jennifer Garner** and **Jason Bateman**; Emmy Award-winning comedian **Wanda Sykes**; NFL superstars **Reggie Bush** and **LaDainian Tomlinson**; Grammy Award-winning artists **Will.i.am**, **Usher** and **Michael McKean**; *American Idol*'s **Kara DioGuardi**; *Modern Family*'s **Julie Bowen** and **Ty Burrell**; *Grey's Anatomy*'s **Ellen Pompeo**; *Parks & Recreation*'s **Amy Poehler**; rap and TV star **Rev Run**; *The Closer*'s **Kyra Sedgwick**; Actors **Ryan Reynolds**, **Rebecca Romijn**, **Zoe Saldana**, **Taye Diggs**, **Idina Menzel**, **Chris O'Donnell**, **Jim Parsons**, **Rachel Griffiths**, **Anna Faris**, **Terrence Howard**; *The View*'s **Sherri Shepherd**; *Today Show*'s **Natalie Morales**; *The Insider*'s **Samantha Harris**; and Food Network star **Alton Brown**.

Parodies include: "True Mud," a play on the popular HBO series, *True Blood*; "The Furry Four," a humorous take on *The Fantastic Four*; "Ironing Monster," a parody of the comic book superhero Iron Man; "The Closer," a parody of the television show *The Closer*; and "A Team," a parody of the television show *The A-Team* with Ryan Reynolds as big 'A.'

Additionally the 41st season will feature new original animations. "Pinball Animation Stop Motion," from Florence Animation, was the winner of the worldwide competition, **Aniboom Awards 4 Sesame Street**, sponsored earlier this year by Sesame Workshop

and Aniboom. Finally, *Sesame Street* collaborated with renowned children's author, [Todd Parr](#), on a new film about childhood fears.

Season 41 of *Sesame Street* is funded in part by a grant through the Public Broadcasting Service and the [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#), and public television viewers. *Sesame Street* is underwritten in part by the [Beaches Resorts](#), [PNC](#), [UnitedHealthcare](#), [Earth's Best Organic](#), and [The Good Egg Project](#).

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**About Sesame Workshop**

Sesame Workshop is the nonprofit educational organization that revolutionized children's television programming with the landmark *Sesame Street*. The Workshop produces local *Sesame Street* programs, seen in over 140 countries, and other acclaimed shows to help bridge the literacy gap including *The Electric Company*. Beyond television, the Workshop produces content for multiple media platforms on a wide range of issues including literacy, health and military deployment. Initiatives meet specific needs to help young children and families develop critical skills, acquire healthy habits and build emotional strength to prepare them for lifelong learning. Learn more at [www.sesameworkshop.org](http://www.sesameworkshop.org).

**About PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO!**

PBS KIDS, for preschoolers, and PBS KIDS GO!, for early elementary school kids, offer all children the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television, online and community-based programs. With positive role models and content designed to nurture a child's total well-being, family and educator resources – including PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO! television series, [PBSKIDS.org](#), [PBSKIDSGO.org](#), [PBS Parents \(PBSPARENTS.org\)](#), [PBS Teachers \(PBSTEACHERS.org\)](#). PBS is a nonprofit media enterprise owned and operated by the nation's nearly 360 public television stations, serving more than 124 million people on-air and online each month. For more information on specific shows supporting literacy, science, math and more, visit [PBS.org/pressroom](http://PBS.org/pressroom).

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