



For Immediate Release

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Leona Lion Creates the FUNdamentals of Literacy and Music for the Local Community!

Leona, the emergent reader from the award-winning PBS KIDS series *Between the Lions*, partnered with *FUNDamentals of Music and Movement* for her encore performance!

April 17, 2008 – Leona the Lion, from WGBH’s popular PBS KIDS series *Between the Lions*, recently had an encore performance on April 16, 2008. Joining the Leona show was Aaron Nigel Smith the creator of *FUNDamentals of Music and Movement*. Little Sprouts is working with Aaron to expand his program that introduces children, from infancy to fourteen years old, to music and movement in an interactive, energetic and educational environment to engage the whole child, physically, intellectually, emotionally, and creatively, throughout Massachusetts. Aaron put on a 20 minute “after show” for all the children after Leona’s performance. Aaron’s performance got the children up and dancing with their teachers and parents in a fun interactive experience for all.

Leona and her puppeteer Pam Arciero, begun their encore tour at Imagine That, where the Little Sprouts @ Methuen joined Leona in reading stories and singing songs. From there, Leona made her way into Boston to visit the students and families of the Little Sprouts in Roxbury. In the afternoon, Leona, Little Sprouts, FUNdamentals and WGBH joined members of the Presentation School Foundation for her final show of the day at the Brighton YMCA in Oak Square. There were over 150 children from the local community and child care centers present at this venue. “We are honored to be working with WGBH’s BTL team who are so committed to doing what’s best for children and communities,” noted Susan Leger Ferraro, President of Little Sprouts. “*FUNDamentals Music and Movement* joining the Little Sprouts team and the Leona show was the perfect match of education, entertainment and inspiration.”



About Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers: Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers has been a leader in providing award winning early education since 1982. A group of humanitarians that believe in the power of literacy to change the world; social, emotional, intellectual and physical literacy for children, youth, teachers and families.

Little Sprouts believes in the commonality in humanity. We embrace that unity is best achieved by celebrating diversity. Little Sprouts has 7 schools in Massachusetts supporting families that reflect 32 cultures speaking 23 languages from all walks of social, economic, religious & ethnic backgrounds. To learn more about how you can join us in making the world a better place, visit us at www.littlesprouts.com

About Imagine That: Imagine That is a first of its kind family and child interactive playspace where human potential has no boundaries. Its unique 12,000 square foot playspace offers an environment where families can create and learn together in a safe and educational way. Imagine That's "Imagination Stations" include a child-sized grocery store, a stuffed animal hospital, a HUGE dinosaur climbing structure, and an arts and crafts area, just to name a few! To find out more about this playspace, please visit www.imajinethat.com.

About Between the Lions: *Between the Lions* is an award-winning PBS television series. Designed to foster the literacy skills of its viewers, while playfully demonstrating the joys of reading. Set in a magical library presided over a pride of lions, *Between the Lions* combines puppetry, live action and animation to give 3- to 7-year-olds some of the experiences they need in order to become successful readers.

Between the Lions "mane" characters, lion cubs Lionel (age 7) and Leona (age 4) serve as role models for younger viewers. Cleo and Theo are playful, understanding, and literary parents, who eagerly demonstrate the power and pleasure of literacy. *Between the Lions* is produced by WGBH Boston, Sirius Thinking, Ltd., and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. (C) 2008 WGBH/Sirius Thinking. BTL TMs WGBH. For more information please visit: <http://pbskids.org/lions/>

About WGBH: WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster, producing such celebrated national PBS series as Masterpiece, Antiques Roadshow, Frontline, Nova, American Experience, Arthur, Curious George and more than a dozen other award-winning primetime, lifestyle and children's series. Boston's last remaining independent TV station, WGBH produces local TV productions (among them, Greater Boston, Basic Black and María Hinojosa: One-on-One) that focus on the region's diverse community, while WGBH 89.7 FM is Boston's NPR Arts & Culture station, offering a rich menu of classical, jazz, blues, news programming and more. WGBH is the leading producer of online content for pbs.org—one of the most-visited dot-org sites on the Internet—a major producer for public radio and a pioneer in developing educational multimedia and new technologies that make media accessible for people with disabilities. For its efforts, WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors, including Oscars, Emmys, Peabodys and duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards. Visit WGBH on the Web at www.wgbh.org.

About FUNDamentals of Music and Movement: Our vision is that children who participate in our programs will blossom into confident, creative, and success. It is our belief that children age's infant-5 years old are a critical time in a child's development. Children at this age are able to easily master skills that will last a lifetime. Studies show that children who practice artistic training also obtain increased skills in mathematics, science, and second-language comprehension. To find out more about this program, please visit www.fundamentalscenter.com