

INTERVIEW

Children's Television
Channel 2 and Moscow Channel

Our program is not the only one for children. Several other directorates also prepare programs for children, e.g., education and science programs.

Children's programming includes entertainment, education, instruction (school) programs. The task of this department is to broadcast leisure time programs for children. But, for example, films for children go through the film department and are prepared by the studios.

Our directorate prepares programs from preschool to high school age audiences. The range is from 5 to 16 years. One of our programs is "Good night kids" -- 15 minutes at 8:00 p.m. for four- to six-year olds. Younger children should be in bed by that time. This program has been in the same time period for 25 years. On the Moscow channel it is repeated 15 minutes later.

Another program is called "Why and Because." This is a program of answers to questions sent in by letter and suggested by others from philosophy to space. For example, tonight we will discuss how and when the calendar appeared. Another program we are preparing is the history of the post office. The issue of friendship is frequently featured. Actors and actresses and experts respond to questions. Children also participate in the program. It is taped to be broadcast for 30 minutes each week.

Another program is called "Alarm Clock" for five- to ten- year olds, an entertainment program, musical variety show, every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. This has also been in existence for 25 years.

We have sports programs for kids, musical programs, special events programs, programs in which children ask questions about art and music and artists and musicians answer them.

Another program is "Theater of Young Viewers." This program screens original productions from outdoor or theater performances. Noted authors and playwrights write for this program, and it also broadcasts classical plays.

Another mini-series of ten episodes is "Guest from the Future" -- A Space Action Program.

We also have cartoons and feature films every day.

We receive 260 hours a year, 500 hours counting repeats, for production and distribution. Each day has a different schedule of programs for children. For example, on Monday we have an information program for teenagers 10 to 14 on the first channel at 5:30 p.m., repeated later. It is called "Me, You, and We Altogether."

On Tuesday we have "Before 16 and after" an information program for high school students. It is on the first channel at 5:30 p.m. and the second channel at 7:00 p.m. or

8:15 p.m. Other programs include "Fantastic Worlds", including works by Bradbury, Asimov, and local authors.

On Wednesday we have musical and sports programs, depending on events. On Sundays we have mostly theater performances.

We have a large number of literary programs such as quiz shows for children. Once a month during the school year we have school competition. It is not possible in the summer because school is out and the children are in the country.

There are lots of musical programs for children, variety, festivals, musical competitions, folk music, music made in different regions of the country, we invite children's choirs from Western countries and other republics. These programs are distributed fairly evenly during the week.

New pedagogical experts and theories usually appear on our program "Discussion Club" before they go elsewhere. We also have special documentaries such as one recently about an ordinary Moscow school. That school had a good new director and instituted reforms. We gathered a staff from the university and elsewhere, made three 45-minute programs, investigating how new pedagogical ideas can be applied to an old school. We showed how the new director with his new staff has transformed the school. The idea was proposed to us by a journalist, a free-lancer on pension, shooting lasted for two months, and when aired, many parents called to say how they would like to have their children go to that school. We had no opposition or criticism of the program.

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