

The Muppets® on Sesame Street

Aloysius Snuffleupagus (a.k.a. Snuffy) and Big Bird are best friends who love to play together. The two share many adventures and help each other make sense of their world. Like most four-year-olds, Snuffy is still learning how to cope with simple things, and his first impulse is often to give up. But with encouragement from his feathered friend—and the other *Sesame Street* characters—he usually finds a solution to his problems.

Baby Bear, borrowed from the enduring “Three Bears” story, continues to engage young viewers through his adventurous spirit and by his role as a wonderful older brother to his baby sister, Curly Bear. This season, Baby Bear is encouraged to try new foods. For instance, when he goes to Mr. Hooper’s Store for a bowl of porridge and there is none, he tries a healthy fruit salad instead. Similarly, he tries to encourage Curly Bear to try new healthy foods as well.

Curly Bear, a toddler, has a very special relationship with her big brother, Baby Bear. Her brother, whom she calls, “Bebo” (pronounced *bee-bo*), is always helping her to learn and explore new things (like healthy foods). She also has a very special gift- a very LOUD GROWL that is even louder than Baby Bear OR Papa Bear’s growl!

Bert is the long-suffering sidekick of Ernie. He is more mature, analytical, and considers himself the voice of reason in their relationship. Though seemingly older and wiser, Bert can be rather eccentric. He collects bottle caps and paper clips, plays the tuba, and loves Bernice, his pet pigeon. Bert is not always a willing participant in Ernie’s escapades; he correctly senses that the tables are destined to be turned on him, or that he will end up on the short end of the stick. In the end, however, Bert always forgives Ernie, forever remaining his “old buddy.” In Season

36, children will see a special version of the popular "Journey to Ernie" called "Journey to Bert," where Big Bird seeks to find Bert in a Food World where many healthy foods are floating around.

You could probably guess by his name that **Big Bird** is big. How big? He's 8 feet, 2 inches tall!! Big Bird is a very curious creature who makes friends easily. He is six years old and shares his nest with Radar, his teddy bear. In Season 36, Big Bird, with Alan's help, bakes birdseed cookies with some very healthy ingredients for his grandmother who is coming to Sesame Street!

Cookie Monster is a frenzied-but-cuddly character who preschoolers can identify with, specifically with his efforts to master words and phrases, and learn basic problem-solving skills from his eternal quest to find more food. This season, Cookie Monster learns a lot about health, nutrition, and the importance of eating in moderation. Hoots the Owl explains in a song that "A Cookie is a Sometime Food," and he joins Wycleff Jean in a rap song, "Healthy Food."

Count Von Count bears a comical resemblance to Count Dracula, but that is where the similarity ends. The Count thirsts for numbers, not necks. He will count anything and everything, and his totals are usually punctuated by a bone-jarring thunder clap. In Season 36, The Count continues to present the "Number of the Day."

Elmo, Sesame Street's high-spirited, little red monster, returns for a seventh season of "Elmo's World." This year, Elmo, Dorothy (his pet fish) and Mr. Noodle cover topics such as Jumping, Skin, School, Cameras, and Cats. In a street story, Elmo plays "The Healthy Food Game," where he has to find four healthy foods of various colors on Sesame Street. Once he and his friends have found all four healthy foods, they get to eat all their delicious and colorful finds.

Ernie, the outgoing foil to the more serious and responsible Bert, will be enjoying his role in "Journey to Ernie." Children are treated to more classic Bert & Ernie sequences following every "Journey to Ernie." As always, he is great at explaining things, but can sometimes be a bit too smart for his own good. Ernie talks himself into some tight corners, and often falls prey to his own jokes, yet his free-spirited approach to his successes and failures makes him one of *Sesame Street's* most enduring and likeable characters.

Grover, *Sesame Street's* gregarious blue monster, continues his new role as "Global Grover" in Season 36. In this segment, Grover introduces children to the world around them, and teaches them to be sensitive and respectful of our differences. He brings back, in the form of short films, something he has learned about cultures from around the world. In Season 36, Grover travels to such places as Bangladesh where he learns how to fish and make toys from coconut leaves, in England, he learns how to play the game cricket, and in France, he visits a Parisian market. Needless to say, Grover accomplishes this with the childlike exuberance that has been making young viewers laugh (and occasionally cringe) for more than three decades. He is excitable, caring and compulsive—a combination that proves particularly volatile when he rushes into situations without analyzing the consequences. Children connect with Grover when he is confounded by adult logic, and share his fantasy of competence and control when he becomes "Super Grover," a problem-solving super hero who can do no wrong.

Super Grover is Grover's furry, blue, and enormously cute alter ego. A super-hero more exuberant and well meaning than actually helpful, he is known for his cape and medieval knight's helmet (which always seems to close at all the wrong moments) and his accident-prone tendencies. More often than not, Super Grover lands right

in the middle of problems, and as he makes ridiculous suggestions and offers help that is in no way helpful, the problems get solved without his contributions. Convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt that he's the one who's saved the day (and the world in general); he contentedly flies off in search of new, exciting, heroic adventures (undoubtedly messing things up once again).

Oscar, the resident Grouch on *Sesame Street*, despises all things nice and sweet. He loves collecting junk, standing in line, arguing, rainy days, and anchovy milk shakes. One thing Oscar does not like is children playing in front of his garbage can. In Season 36, Oscar continues to reads to his pet worm, Slimey, adventures from his favorite bed time story: "The Adventures of Trash Gordon," starring our own Super Hero- Gordon. Through Oscar, children learn about respect and tolerance, and discover that people whose views and lifestyles are different can still be great friends.

Rosita is an exuberant, playful girl whose full name (Rosita la Monstrua de las Cuevas) means "The Monster of the Caves." She hails from Mexico, and speaks both Spanish and English, often mixing words from both languages when she speaks. Rosita uses her hands when she communicates with others, conveying her warmth with lots of touching and hugging. She will also continue her role on the show with the "Spanish Word of the Day," teaching children new words such as *canta* (to sing) and *siesta* (to take a little nap).

Telly Monster is Baby Bear's best friend, and the two boys are very protective of each other. Through this relationship, young viewers gain an understanding that friendships have ups and downs, and can sometimes take a lot of work. In Season 36, Telly gets a few pointers on how to catch a ball from New York Yankees Manager, Joe Torre.

Zoe, a furry, three-year-old girl monster, gets so excited sometimes that her words cannot get out fast enough. After ten seasons on *Sesame Street*, she has become one of the show's most popular characters. In Season 36, Zoe and children from the Little Theatre of the Deaf, introduce the sign language word of the day "dancing." They encourage viewers to sign the word with them while dancing.