



The Eddie Files

Mathematics

Sixteen 20 – 25 minute programs for grades 4-7

Produced by PBS

Year to Year Tape and Keep Rights

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website: www.eddiefiles.org

This series features East Harlem mathematics teacher Kay Toliver. Kay was the subject of the Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education (FASE) production, "Good Morning Miss Toliver," a 1993 Peabody Award winner. **The Eddie Files** is based on investigations into the world of careers conducted by Eddie, a fictional student in Miss Toliver's classroom. In addition to offering a view of Kay Toliver's inspiring teaching, Eddie takes viewers to the world outside the classroom, where they meet real people in real jobs. Classroom math is put into focus as students discover the application of math concepts in the real world.

101: Welcome to Math: You Gotta Start Somewhere – It's the first week of school in Kay Toliver's math class. The assignment: find out about jobs that people have and how they use math. Eddie's father gives him a camera and Vincent, the local photo shop owner, takes Eddie under his wing. Eddie takes his camera along as he tackles his assignment, and his files "take off." Along the way, he meets a doctor, a judge, a dancer, a restaurateur, a telephone technician, a sunglasses designer and a TV director and gets some help from his Aunt Rosa. His work brings glowing praise from "Miss T," and a real awareness that math is everywhere. **SOL 5.3, 5.21, 6.12, 6.23, 7.23**

102: Estimation: Going to the Dogs It all starts when Eddie agrees to babysit Hector, his Aunt Rosa's dog. If only Hector could talk, maybe he could help Eddie with his assignment--estimating how many dogs there are in New York City. **4.6, 5.3**

103: Geometry: Invasion of the Polygons – After "Miss T" talks about

polygons in class, Eddie starts seeing them in everything he looks at--the blackboard, notebooks, windows, the clock--and even in some humorously scary daydreams. **6.14, 6.17**

104: Fractions: Any Way You Slice It – Kay Toliver's story about the history of pizza sends Eddie on a trail that leads to Sal's pizzeria, where the self-proclaimed "best pizza maker in the world" reveals a trade secret. **3.5**

201: Distance, Time and Speed: Hot Dog Heaven – When Aunt Rosa places her dog, Hector, in Eddie's charge and Hector wanders off, Eddie is in a panic. With some help from an eager subway guard and Hector's favorite hot dog vendor (Jerry Stiller), Eddie and Johnny get on the right track. But in the final stretch, rescuing the dog depends on an understanding of distance, time, and speed. **6.2**

202: Statistics: The Lucky Batting Glove – Eddie had always dreamed of being in the dugout with the New York Yankees, but he never imagined that the trail that would lead him there would start with Miss Toliver's lesson

on statistics. While viewers go behind the Yankees scoreboard to meet the people who make careers out of baseball statistics, Aunt Rosa and Eddie try to stage a ninth-inning recovery for their losing team. **5.17, 6.18, 6.19, 7.19**

203: Circles: Eddie's Veggie Stash-O-Matic – After Miss Toliver's lesson on circles, Eddie's homework assignment is to invent a machine. While viewers meet designers and product managers at GT Bikes and American Honda, Eddie gets to work on the "Veggie-Stash-O-Matic." He even comes up with an "infomercial" to sell it, featuring frenetic salesman. Eddie's idea may or may not work, but either way, viewers will learn a lot about the practical uses of geometry. **6.12, 7.9**

204: Decimals: The Fake Money Capers The math topic is decimals, the subject is money, and Eddie once again finds himself in the middle as he and his friend Vincent help a Secret Service agent track down a counterfeiting ring. Eddie also consults with people whose job it is to create, safeguard,

and trade our money supply, and learns something about foreign money from his Aunt Rosa and his friend Johnny. **6.8, 7.9**

301: Length and Area: Sleep Like a Dog Aunt Rosa's dog Hector displays true talent and is cast for a commercial by an eccentric Italian director. Producing the commercial turns out to be a little more adventurous than anyone had expected, but the biggest surprise is the amount of math used by interior decorators, and people who design and make the sets and models for "Star Trek." **4.2, 6.10**

302: Patterns: The Big Concert It's December at P.S. 72, and to Eddie that means just one thing: getting ready for his big part in the annual holiday concert. Eddie tries to get some tips as he watches his sister, Dee, prepare for a singing solo, his Aunt Rosa practice for her debut with the Hudson String Quartet, and his friend Vincent jamming with his jazz band. **4.21, 5.19, 6.21**

303: Volume: The Day Manhattan Ran Dry – Manhattan has millions of people, and they use lots of water. But what if that supply were cut off, just for one day? It's that thought that launches Eddie on a creative essay on the consequences of no water. But it would also give Eddie a chance to meet the people who build water tanks, reservoirs, and huge underground tunnels to supply water to the city

304: Counting Principle: Eddie Goes Barbie **7.18**
Eddie would do almost anything for his little sister Dee, but this time his Mom's request goes too far: Eddie is to buy doll clothes for Dee's birthday. Though he learns a lot in Miss Toliver's lesson on clothing combinations and the counting principle, and gets the inside scoop from Mattel toy designers, Eddie still doesn't want the job, and neither does his friend Johnny. So, naturally, he recruits Vincent. Unfortunately, the result is not something he would have predicted...even with the

counting principle. **6.10, 7.9**

401: Ratios: The Lonesome Pine
Eddie faces one of his biggest challenges when, courtesy of a friend who recently moved out west, a young Ponderosa Pine ends up on his doorstep, in need of a place to put down roots. After all, there aren't many places to plant a tree in Manhattan. Yet trees are an important part of the balance of nature, as we learn from Ms. Toliver's lesson, and from foresters and engineers who manage 22 million acres of national park land in the New Mexico wilderness. **6.2**

402: Variables: The Green Thumb In order to complete a school project, it looks to Eddie as though he is going to have to solve one of life's great mysteries: What is a "Green Thumb"? **5.20, 5.21**

403: Charts & Graphs: The Desert Derby – Every year Eddie's Aunt Ida enters one of her unusual culinary creations in East Harlem Community Center's annual dessert derby, and every year she wins...nothing. She knows that a good cook doesn't leave anything to chance, so she follows the advice of food professionals by using charts and graphs to carefully prepare her recipe. **4.19, 5.17, 6.18**

404: Percents: Take A Bite - It looks like Eddie's photography hobby could pay off in a big way. Ms. Brooks, New York City's Deputy Mayor, has chosen one of his photos as the centerpiece of a major new campaign to bring tourists into New York City. Eddie sees first hand how Ms. Toliver's percents lesson applies to the world of graphic design as he watches his photo resized and retouched for use in magazines, buses and billboards. **6.1, 7.1**