

## **Partnership with PBS Kids enhances learning opportunities**

Thanks to a partnership with PBS Kids, parents and youth in shelters are receiving access to materials designed to educate and engage.

The community engagement arm of PBS Kids has generously donated several educational resources for families served by DHS Homeless Services and Supports Coordinators (HSSCs), including activity books and booklets focused on literacy, nutrition, and social and emotional development, as well as more sensitive topics like grief and loss. One of the most well-received items provided through the partnership, however, has been the Playtime Pad. These kid-safe tablets include video clips, songs, and educational games designed to reinforce skills in science, math and literacy. HSSCs received five Playtime Pads to use while working with families.

“Children in homeless situations have had their lives uprooted, and characters like Daniel Tiger and Bob the Builder may be the only consistent, familiar thing they see as they resolve their housing crisis. Something as simple as watching a favorite TV show can play a big role in providing comfort for that child,” said Kristen Armstrong, HSSC supervisor. “We are always looking for resources to support our families, and we are thrilled that we can use these Playtime Pads and educational materials to not only put children at ease during a very difficult time but also help them learn and grow.”