

News Release – January 10, 2012

## **Children Explore the Outdoors and Create an Adventure Story With New Fred Rogers Center iPhone App**

LATROBE, PA – The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College has launched Out-A-Bout, a new iPhone app for children ages 3 to 5 to encourage physical activity, outdoor play, early literacy, and parent-child interaction. An introduction to the application can be found at [www.fredrogerscenter.org/resources/play-and-learn/](http://www.fredrogerscenter.org/resources/play-and-learn/).

Out-A-Bout allows parents to use their iPhone to take photos of their children engaged in outdoor activities (such as running, jumping, and climbing) and embeds those photos into an adventure story for subsequent viewing and reading together. Out-A-Bout features original music as well as voiceover narration by Jessica Trybus, founder of Etcetera Edutainment, and Anthony Daniels, who portrayed C-3PO in the Star Wars series of films.

“Out-A-Bout is a wonderful example of the creativity and the child-centered work that the Fred Rogers Center Early Career Fellows program is designed to support” explained Rita Catalano, Executive Director of the Fred Rogers Center. “We hope that young children and their parents, teachers, and caregivers enjoy this delightful, story-based game that uses the power of digital, mobile media to bring children and adults together in playful learning.”

Out-A-Bout™ (©Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College) was developed by the Fred Rogers Center, with contributions to development by Mary Gillis and Julie Polvinen, Fred Rogers Center Early Career Fellows for 2009-2010, and by Children’s Hospital Boston (CHB) through Julie Polvinen, Michael Rich, MD, MPH, and the Center on Media and Child Health at CHB. Support for development of this game included a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This product includes art, music, and programming developed for the Fred Rogers Center by Carnegie Mellon University Entertainment Technology Center and its students, Class of 2010.

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