

Message from the Executive Director

A new year often brings the excitement of new adventures and resolutions to improve yourself. I can say confidently after accepting my new role at the Fred Rogers Center that definitely applies to me!

The Fred Rogers Center has done great work under Rita Catalano and she is a very tough act to follow. I am fortunate that she has assembled a wonderful team as well as an incredible advisory council to give me guidance and advice as I start my new position. In the upcoming months, I will reach out to many of you and ask for your thoughts as far as where you would like to see the Fred Rogers Center as we move forward.

The Fred Rogers Center will continue its wonderful programs such as its biennial *Fred Forward Conference* (which will be held June 1-3), Early Career and Senior Fellows and the *Ele* website.

As you are aware, we are living in an age of rapid change, and now more than ever we must focus on what is best for the children. As the Center evolves, we will continue to create new partnerships and adapt to new circumstances.

On behalf of the Fred Rogers Center, I thank you for your support and look forward to the opportunities before us.

Rick Fernandes

New Apps for Android Available for Free on Google Play

The Fred Rogers Center has just released two brand new free apps for Android smartphones!



[Nina and Peanut: Make The Animal Sounds](#) is an interactive storybook that can help young children develop English and Spanish vocabulary. Nina is visiting her grandparents' ranch where everyone speaks Spanish, including the animals. Nina needs

your child's help to learn all the animal sounds in Spanish!



[Museum Mix Up](#) is a game for children ages four and older, and their caregivers, to play together to re-create and discover great works of art. With help from their caregivers, children help sort a mixed-up delivery to a museum by following clues to take photos,

make videos, and record silly sounds, unlocking beautiful paintings and sculptures from museums in the United States.

Carrying the Legacy Forward- In My Own Words

Just as Fred Rogers understood the importance of community, we know that it takes advocates, collaborators, donors, and so many other friends, to help achieve our mission.

I believe the work of the Fred Rogers Center is a gift to parents and teachers. The Center is a leading voice on how to use digital media creatively as well as sensibly. As a parent, Fred Rogers Center Blog posts, especially articles like "For Infants and Toddlers in the Digital Age: Time with Adults Still Matters Most," are a precious reminder that relationships make all the difference.

-Alice Birch
East Liverpool, OH

New Blog Post Offers Pointers on Educational Apps



In the Center's newest blog post, "[Finding Ways to Put the 'Education' Back in Educational Apps](#)," Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Roberta Michnick Golinkoff say that humans learn best in active, engaged, meaningful, and interactive contexts.

Ele Welcomes Two Great New Content Partners!



Support early literacy and scientific understanding with this collection of new videos from the [Carnegie Science Center](#).

Also, learn simple techniques to make reading time more effective and enjoyable with Power of Moms' video, [Sharing the Joy of Reading With Toddlers](#).

Connect with *Ele*



Words of Wisdom



In honor of Martin Luther King Day...

"As different as we are from one another, as unique as each one of us is, we are much more the same than we are different. That may be the most essential message of all, as we help our children grow toward being caring, compassionate, and charitable adults."

-Fred Rogers