



FRED ROGERS CENTER
for early learning and children's media
at Saint Vincent College

STAYING CONNECTED

Message from the Executive Director

Throughout my life I have been very fortunate to be at the right place at the right time. I will say it again as I raise two young children and have the incredible good fortune to work at the Fred Rogers Center. You can't help but feel inspired by Fred's words and actions. Working with and meeting some of the most brilliant people in early childhood education is a great opportunity.

Inspired by Fred's approach and the projects of my colleagues, I recently wrote a blog that provides more details on our Simple Interactions and Digital Media and Learning initiatives. Both are providing support to many professionals in the fields of early childhood education. Our goal is to make an impact one neighborhood at a time by growing partnerships from rural school districts to urban settings.

To help us share with our neighbors, we updated our website, and have more ways than ever to connect. Hopefully, the new site reflects Fred's "deep and simple" approach and you'll see how his philosophy is informing our work.

I look forward to hearing your comments and exploring your interest in expanding our initiatives to your neighborhood. As Fred once said, "In every neighborhood, all across the country, there are good people insisting on a good start for the young, and doing something about it."

Thank you for all you do in service to young children and their families, and have a wonderful autumn.

Sincerely,
Rick Fernandes

New On the Blog

In this edition, we talk about our new focus in [What Would Fred Do? 2.0](#). Be on the lookout for upcoming posts, You'll hear our thoughts on everything from growing imagination to the discoveries we're making from studying the Fred Rogers Archive.

Congratulations!

Two of our Advisory Council members were recently honored for their achievements. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Milton Chen, Senior Fellow at the George Lucas Foundation, for winning the President of NHK Prize for his outstanding work in educational media.

Congratulations are also in order for Bill Isler, President of The Fred Rogers Company, on being named Urban Educator of the Year by the Council of the Great City Schools.

In the Archive



The Fred Rogers Archive is home to a colorful collection of art pieces, some made by *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* viewers as fan mail and some made to be used as props on the television program. The chalk drawing shown above was used during a week of programs about competition in 1981. Big Bird visited the Neighborhood of Make-Believe to submit this entry in a drawing contest. It's an artifact from one of the most famous *Neighborhood* programs and evidence of the connection between *Sesame Street* and *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. To see more artifacts in the Archive and read their stories, check out our new [gallery](#). New additions will be made monthly.

Growing Partnerships



Fred Rogers Center Co-Director Dr. Junlei Li delivered keynote addresses and conducted in-field workshops at the 2015 Early Childhood Development and Education Symposium in Shanghai, China. The symposium, titled *Observe, Interact, and Grow*, is organized by China Welfare Institute's Center for Child Development. It brings together over 300 early childhood educators and leaders from throughout China, as far as Tibet and Mongolia. Dr. Li's keynote address, "Ordinary Teacher-Child Interactions as Active Ingredient," highlighted the importance of

Continuing Education

Tanya Baronti, Fred Rogers Center Digital Learning and Media Project Manager, will be giving the keynote presentation at the *Kids Are Customers, Too! Conference* on October 15. Her presentation will provide participants with the skills and knowledge families need to effectively use technology in developmentally appropriate and intentional ways with young children. To learn about how you can request training from Tanya, click [here](#).

143 Club

Fred's favorite number forms the foundation of our new giving club that recognizes a special commitment to the Center and acknowledges the important role that members have in its success. To learn more about the 143 Club, please visit our new [website](#).

normal, ordinary, unhurried interactions between teachers and children, and the cultural and social myths that led to the highly competitive and pressurized environment for early education in China. His subsequent workshops, taking place both within the conference space and in actual child development centers, helped attendees to identify, capture, and analyze such interactions in actual practices of Chinese teachers.

This is the second time Dr. Li headlined national conferences in collaboration with the Child Welfare Institute. The Institute, established in 1932 by Madame Soong Ching-ling (the wife of China's first democratically elected President Sun Yet-Sen), is a national leadership organization to promote social welfare in China for children, families, and seniors. Its Child Development Center, named after Madame Soong, plays a leadership role in organizing and providing professional development for early childhood educators throughout the country.

Carrying the Legacy Forward -- In My Own Words

Some of the greatest gifts we receive throughout the year are letters and emails from friends telling us how Fred Rogers made a difference in their lives. Our redeveloped website has a great way to connect with "In My Own Words." Please [share your Fred story](#) with us, and with your permission, you may see it in coming issues of Staying Connected.

Words of Wisdom



"Learning and loving go hand in hand. My grandfather was one of those people who loved to live and loved to teach. Every time I was with him, he'd show me something about the world or something about myself that I hadn't even thought of yet. He'd help me find something wonderful in the smallest of things, and ever so carefully, he helped me understand the enormous worth of every human being. My grandfather was not a professional teacher, but the way he treated me (and the way he loved me) and the things he did with me served as me as well as any teacher I've ever known." - Fred Rogers

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