



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

Message from the Executive Director

Spring has finally arrived here at the Fred Rogers Center, and with it Month of the Young Child and a wonderful new partnership. We are very pleased to announce that we will be joining with the TEC Center at Erikson Institute to release an inaugural report on technology and interactive media for young children.

The technology and interactive media report will build on the recommendations of the National Association for the Education of Young Children-Fred Rogers Center joint position statement. The report will explore key issues, research, and practices that can inform stakeholders on how and why technology tools and digital media should be used to support whole-child development. It will also provide recommendations on the selection, use, integration, and evaluation of technology and interactive media.

This project, funded through the generosity of The Grable Foundation, is a great opportunity for both of our organizations, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Chip Donohue and his team once again to advance 21st century learning.

As we reflect on Month of the Young Child, we are reminded of how important those early years are in the life of a youngster. Whether you are a parent, teacher, caregiver, advocate, media creator or researcher, thank you for all you do to help children become confident, competent, and caring. To quote Fred, "All our growth is rooted in the firm trust that all of those who first cared about us maintained."

In gratitude,
Rick Fernandes

In the Archive

Fred Rogers

I really wanted an organ, and my grandmother told me she would match whatever money I got to save for one. So the day I got my first allowance, which was a quarter, I took it to Nana and she matched it with 25 cents. The next day I took her 50 cents. Nana said to my parents, "Don't let anyone tell you that Freddie isn't good at math."

We all listened together to *Fibber McGee and Molly* and *Easy Aces*, and I wonder if some of my whimsy came from those programs. I remember an Uncle Fletcher who lived at the Ohio Home for the Bald—I always thought that was one of the funniest things.

Every winter we visited my grandparents in Florida. I remember best being allowed to get off the train to see the live alligators at the Jacksonville station. I looked forward to that the whole night before. I loved anticipation. Friday was my favorite day because the whole weekend was ahead, and I loved spring because summer was coming.

TV host Rogers, born in 1928, played organ when Mr. Rogers' neighborhood was Latrobe, Pa.

New On the Blog

Dr. Junlei Li discusses the active ingredients needed in child development in the Fred Rogers Center's latest blog post [The Toothpaste Theory of Child Development](#).

Day of Giving

On Tuesday, May 5, the Fred Rogers Center will be joining with regional nonprofits for the Westmoreland Day of Giving. Any gift between \$25 and \$1,000 designated to the Fred Rogers Center between 8:00 a.m. and midnight is eligible for a portion of matching funds. Simply visit www.westmorelandgives.org to make a donation. The Day of Giving is part of a national movement, Give Local America, to encourage philanthropy and strengthen nonprofits in communities across the country.

Coming Soon

We are so excited to have Hedda Sharapan as our PNC Grow Up Great Senior Fellow. Not only will she be doing some impressive research, but she will also begin producing her professional development newsletter for us. If you are interested in signing up, simply click [here](#).

Congratulations!

Congratulations to The Fred Rogers Company on their 13 nominations for the Daytime Emmy Awards!

Remake Learning Network Rally

The Fred Rogers Center will be attending the Remake Learning Network Rally on Thursday,

The month of April inspires two searches in the Fred Rogers Archive--humor and springtime. Above is a magazine clipping that focuses on both of these topics. Fred Rogers' sense of humor developed in his childhood through his own puppet shows, as well as popular radio programs. He names a few in this article: Fibber McGee and Molly; Easy Aces; Vic and Sade. He credits these radio programs with developing his whimsical sense of humor. In this article he also tells about his excitement and anticipation associated with spring: "I loved spring because summer was coming." This clipping originally appeared in the Spring 1990 issue of *Life Magazine*. It was reprinted in the *Vic and Sade Newsletter* in January 1991.



Ele's Corner provides tools for parents and educators every month. Here are some of the newest activities and ideas for spring.



- If you haven't checked out the National Center for Families Learning's [Wonderopolis](#), it's time to visit! Wonderopolis is an excellent site for talking about the wonders that surround us with your children!
- What does it mean for children to "talk"? In this video from [Videatives](#), try to figure out what children are "saying" by the sounds they make. How can adults use these sounds to guide their interactions with children?

Connect with *Ele*!  

Carrying the Legacy Forward

The archives at the Fred Rogers Center are a wonderful research tool for anyone. Sam Halulko utilized the archives for his eighth grade National History Day project - MISTER ROGERS: America's Neighbor. Below is an excerpt from his paper submission.

"Fred may be long gone - his final episode filmed before I was born - but America still remembers his name. We have him to thank for our total reinvention of parenting and for acknowledging that the disabled are people too [...] My mother cries every time she hears the song "It's You I Like" from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* because it was more than a program - it was a conversation with a friend. His reimagining of children's television, the thought of "You are Special" still reverberates through three entire generations."

-Sam Halulko

April 23, at WQED Studios. Drop by our booth to learn more about our newest initiatives and collaborations in the Pittsburgh region.

In the Classroom

The Fred Rogers Center continually searches for opportunities to foster Fred Rogers' legacy within the hearts and minds of students. A new psychology course entitled "What Would Fred Rogers Do?" offers this opportunity. The course aims to answer the question: how can we change the world?

The seminar course engages students through in-depth online discussion groups, interactions with experts in the areas of child development and clinical psychology, and projects that are meant to challenge students to go out of their comfort zone in order to really internalize what Fred would do. Maura Snyder, a sophomore Psychology major and Children Studies minor enrolled in the course, is more than thrilled to be learning with this group of students. "This class is teaching us how to change the world-something we don't really learn that in our everyday college courses," she said. "It gives a new perspective on what it means to be educated."

Words of Wisdom



"Here's a gift you may not have expected. It's a gift for you to give yourself. Sometime in your day today, try to turn off all the noises you can around you, and give yourself some 'quiet time'. In the silence, let yourself think about something. Or if possible...think about nothing."

-Fred Rogers

