



What We Can Continue to Learn from Fred Rogers



A Love of Learning



I've always felt good about calling this newsletter "What we can continue to learn from Fred Rogers." And it's been especially heartwarming to hear from so many of our readers that you, too, appreciate learning from the way Fred approached children, families, the world, and life in general.

I was thinking of that because March 20th would have been Fred's 89th birthday. And it was obvious to all of us who worked with Fred that learning was an essential part of his work and his life.

Fred spent a great deal of his life learning about children and families so that he

could offer meaningful television programming. But his love of learning wasn't just ABOUT children and families. Fred loved learning FROM everyone -- and he modeled that with all of the guests on the *Neighborhood* program. Watch his delight in learning when he visited with the Kenyan musical group, Jabali Afrika.



Wonder about things

On the video you can see and hear how curious Fred was about the unique instruments. When the musicians saw he was wondering about the instruments, they helped him learn how to play them. Wondering can be the start for all kinds of learning. Of course, you can't let children try everything they're curious about, and no one can give them answers to all their questions. But just by appreciating what they wonder about, you're setting them on a path for lifelong learning.

Look and listen carefully

I thought it was interesting that on the video Fred took the time to go from one musician to the next, asking about their instruments and trying them. He studied each piece and listened carefully to its sound. We seem to be moving so quickly through each day, and yet think about how much you learn -- and how good it feels -- when you have time to look and listen. And think about what it can mean to the children when you give them time to look and listen, to explore and experiment, to digest and integrate. Those kinds of opportunities often stimulate them to keep on investigating -- and to keep on learning.

Teach by example

Children are always watching what we do. And they want to be like the important adults in their lives. That reminds me of the Quaker saying that Fred often quoted, “Attitudes are caught, not taught.” That’s why your modeling -- your example -- is so powerful. Think about the impact you have on children when they see how interested you are in learning.

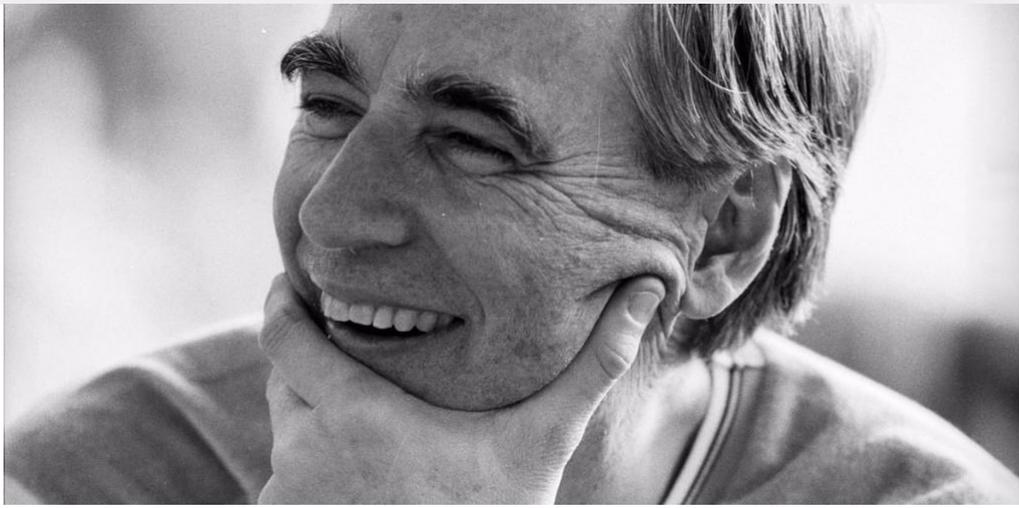
As a tribute to Fred and all that we’ve learned from him, why don’t you join us in the tradition we started years ago of wearing a sweater on March 20th to honor his birthday. I’ve always thought of wearing a sweater as a way to warm us with the memories of Fred and the impact he’s had on us. And I’m grateful to have the opportunity through this newsletter to continue to learn from him, reflecting on his wisdom and the incredible library of videos we’ve produced over the years.

Thank you for being our neighbor,



Hedda Sharapan
M.S. Child Development
PNC Grow Up Great Senior Fellow
hedda.sharapan@stvincent.edu

Timeless Wisdom from Fred Rogers



Everything I ever needed to know, I learned from Fred Rogers:

Wonder about things.

Accept people as they are.

Look and listen carefully.

We all have feelings.

Ask a lot of questions.

Haircuts don't hurt.

Teach by example.

Feed the fish.

Be yourself.

Share. Play. Love.

[MORE QUOTES](#)



[Subscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View past issues](#)

[Update your profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

© 2017 Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning &
Children's Media

You are receiving this email because you opted

**Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning &
Children's Media**

Saint Vincent College

300 Fraser Purchase Road

into receiving information from Hedda Sharapan
about child development.

Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650-2690

Photos courtesy of the Lynn Johnson Collection:
Ohio University Libraries.