



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 around us, and life in general.

I was thinking of that because March 20th would have been Fred's 92nd 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 programs. 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 Jabali Afrika, the musical group from Kenya.



Here are some messages that can help us pass on our love of learning to children – lessons we can continue to learn from Fred:

Wonder about things

On the video you can see and hear how curious Fred was about the unique instruments. Wondering about the instruments led him to asking to try the instruments so he could learn more about 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 helping them become lifelong learners.

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, playing it again and again. 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 take the time to really 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 about them, their families and the world around them.

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 Neighborhood videos we produced over the years.

Thank you for being our neighbor,

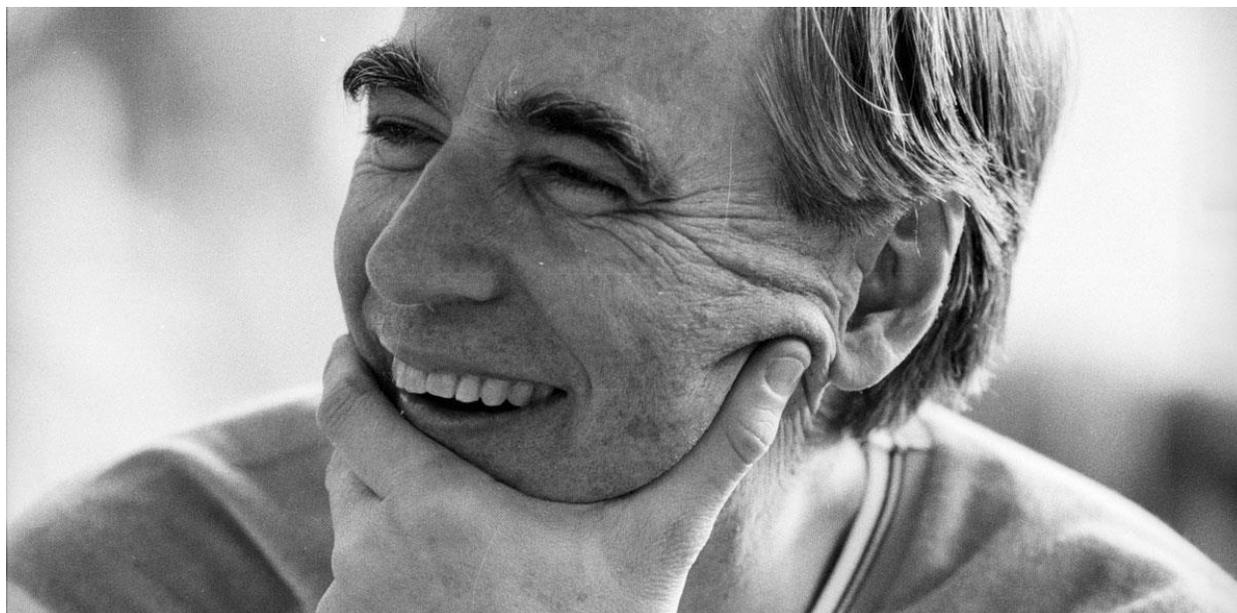


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P.S. You might also want to celebrate Fred Rogers’ birthday by visiting our legacy

website www.misterrogers.org where you'll find treasured video clips and more insight into Fred's messages.

Timeless Wisdom from Fred Rogers



"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 (the way he loved me) and the things he did with me, served me as well as any teacher I've ever known."

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