



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2014, internationally acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma was the inaugural recipient of the Fred Rogers Center Legacy Award at Saint Vincent College. Yo-Yo Ma was a long-time friend of Fred Rogers, appearing twice on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood where he shared his music with Fred Rogers and television viewers.



Mister Rogers Visits with Yo-Yo Ma

When Fred was quite ill before his death, Yo-Yo would call him on the telephone and play the cello to comfort him. Yo-Yo Ma recently launched [#SongsOfComfort](#) where he and others offer solace to all of us who are affected by the coronavirus in one way or another. We hope that you are finding ways to create calm and soothing spaces in your lives during this time of stress. We also know that many of you have children and youth in your families or communities who need your support. We thank you for being there for them to offer messages of hope and comfort as they struggle to understand why their lives have been upended during this crisis.

In this issue of the newsletter, we've included some information that you might find helpful in supporting the children in your work, family or, community settings.

Fred Rogers often said that in times of crisis, it's important for us to look for the helpers...because if there are helpers, then there is hope. Our hope is that you will keep in mind all the workers who are offering assistance in our communities, medical establishments, and through on-line support centers. We join you in thanking them. And, most of all, we offer our gratitude to each of you for the "many ways" you are reaching out to and supporting others during this time.

Stay Well,



Roberta L. Schomburg, Ph.D.

"Anyone who does anything to help a child in this life is a hero to me." –Fred Rogers

IN THE ARCHIVE



In 2001, in response to the events of September 11, Fred Rogers offered advice on comforting children during difficult times. His words can still be helpful to parents, almost twenty years later. Especially prescient right now is the idea of establishing and keeping a routine. When many of us are suddenly dealing with

being home all day, a routine can help us keep on track physically and mentally. Also in this excerpt is Fred's thoughts on how families can appreciate quietude and use a hard time as an opportunity to reflect and learn more about ourselves and our loved ones.

FROM THE CENTER TOPSY-TURVY



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

"At many times throughout their lives, children will feel the world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not the ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns right side up again."

- Fred Rogers

These days are uncertain and challenging for all of us. What a gift to know we are all in this together. The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at Saint Vincent College is committed to supporting children and their helpers – especially in times of need. With the continuing news about the

coronavirus (COVID-19), we know families and communities are working together to help children and one another.

To support you as you navigate this evolving situation, the Fred Rogers Center has created and compiled resources about the following topics on our website:

- Talking with children about coronavirus
- Caring for children and yourself
- Learning with children through play
- Learning with children through digital media
- Bringing Mister Rogers to your neighborhood
- Fred Rogers' six basic necessities of learning

You can find these resources on our website, at:

<https://www.fredrogerscenter.org/what-we-do/child-wellness/coronavirus-response>

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Everyone in the whole world needs other people to talk to. Everyone has feelings that need to be talked about—grandmothers, grandfathers, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, friends. I hope you are learning to tell the people you love how you feel—whether you sing about it or play about it, or just say it straight and plain." - Fred Rogers

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