

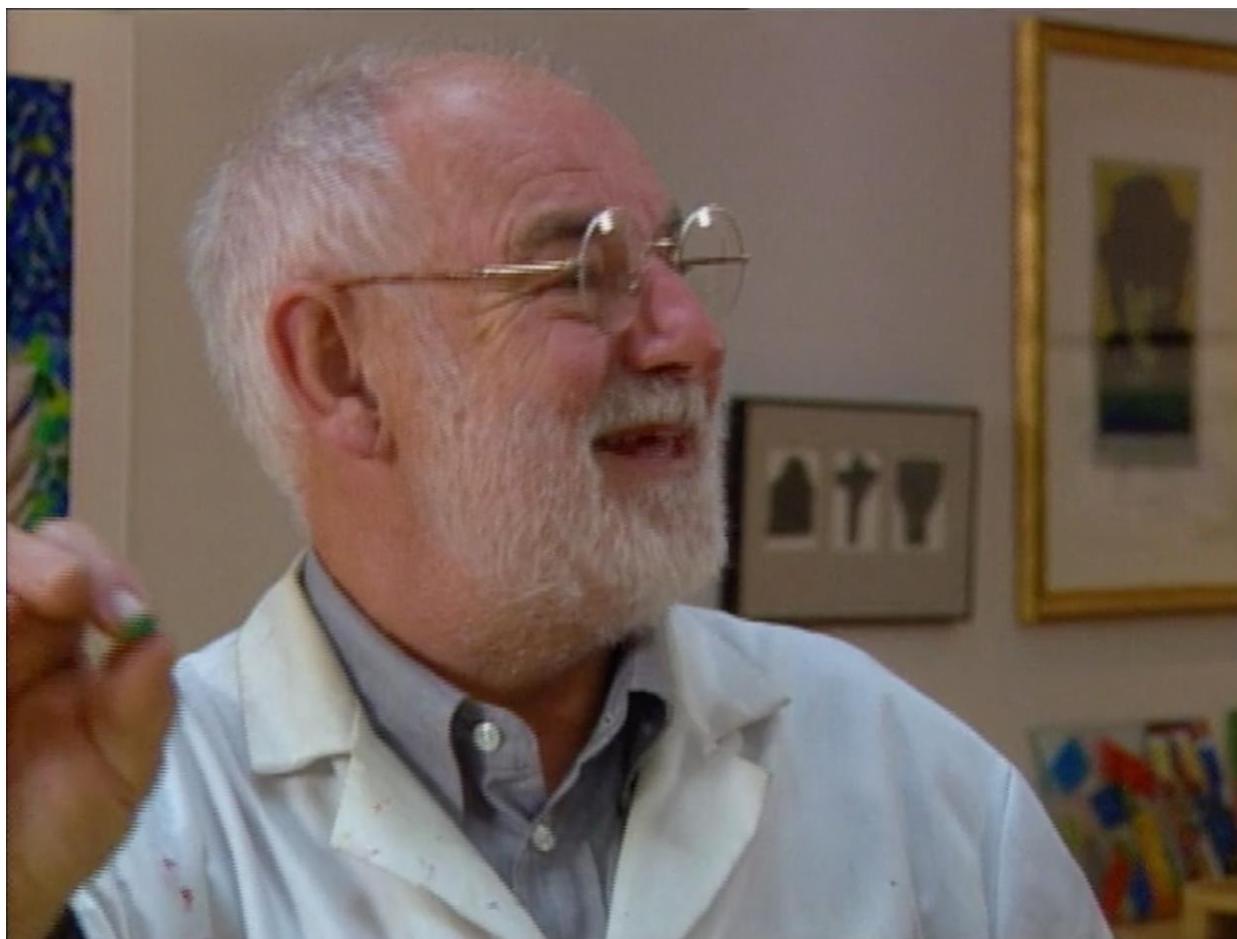
June 2021

[View this email in your browser](#)



## What We Can Continue to Learn from Fred Rogers

---



---

**Eric Carle – One of our favorite “neighbors”**

---



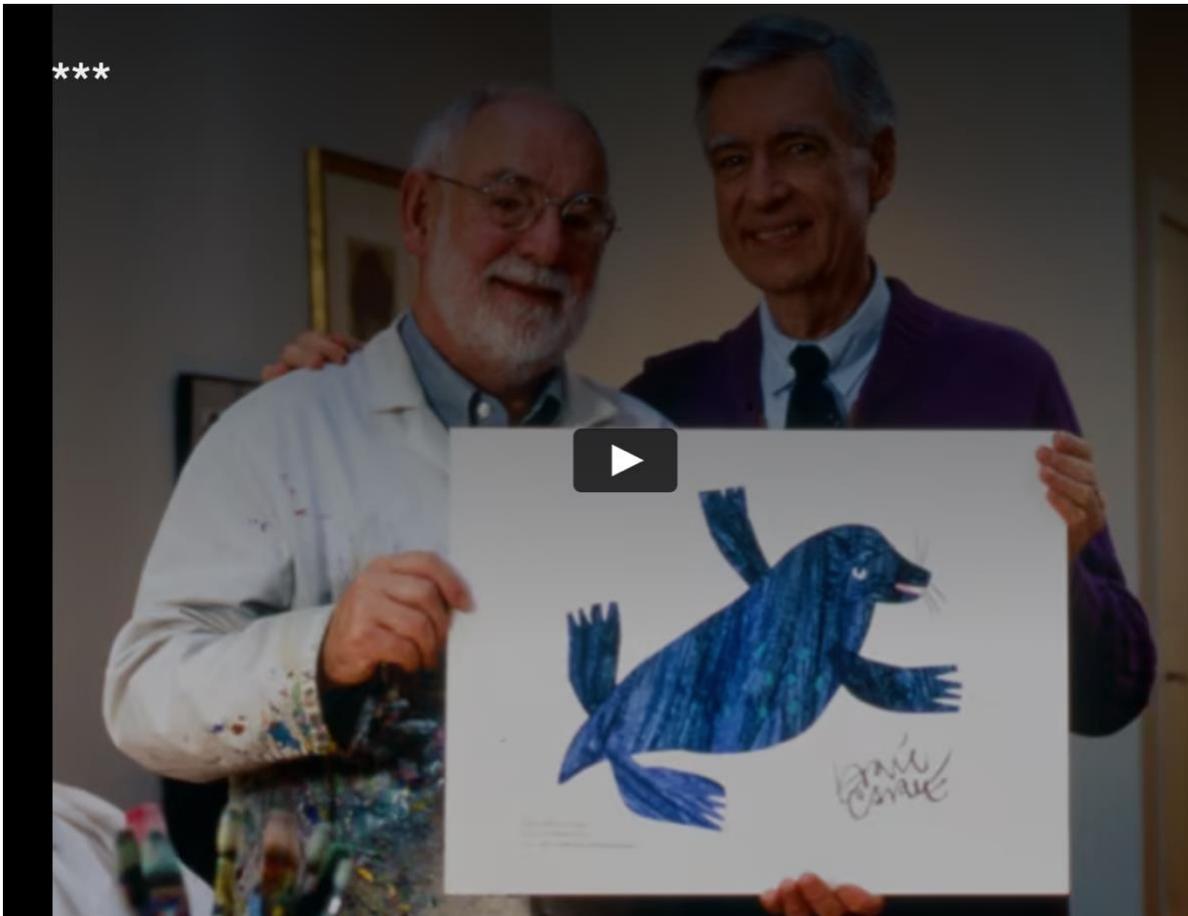
I wonder if you, too, heard the sad news a few weeks ago about the death of Eric Carle, one of America's most beloved children's author-illustrators. Most early childhood professionals know him through his classic children's books, like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

We were fortunate to get to know Eric Carle as a "neighbor" - and to help millions of young viewers get to know him as a real person - when Fred invited us to "come along" to Eric's studio for a *Neighborhood* visit.

Margy Whitmer, our long-time producer, cherishes the memory of working with him, describing him as much like Fred – humble, kind, understated, and giving. With great fondness, she told me, "I feel this was one of the best pieces I've ever worked on – considering the talent, personalities, subject matter, the studio space, and the relationship between Fred and Eric. It had all the elements of a meaningful piece for young children."

When you watch this video, you'll meet this delightful man and learn about the unusual way that he created artwork for his books. Eric Carle has inspired lots of teachers to think "outside the box" – and that's another gift he gave us.

---



Here are some other ideas we can take away from this visit with Eric Carle:

### **Offering unusual materials**

Any time I've shown that video in a workshop, teachers are amazed at the paint tool he used – a small piece of carpet! I always hear them say they never would have thought of it – and they can't wait to try it with the children. Maybe you feel that way, too.

Just think about how much you offer when you think “outside the box” and give children unusual art material, like torn bits of sponges, cotton balls, droppers, or curly bows from gift wrappings. More than a fun art experience, you're modeling – and encouraging -- creative thinking which is a key 21<sup>st</sup> century skill.

---

### **Offering encouragement**

So many people have found Eric Carle's *Neighborhood* visit inspirational. In part, I think it's because of his obvious delight in what he's doing. You can see it in his face, and you can hear it in his voice. In the same way, children pick up all sorts of non-verbal cues from your excitement. It's like one of Fred's favorite quotes, "Attitudes are caught, not taught."

Your words are encouraging, too, like when you hold up some unusual material and say, "You have such interesting ideas. I wonder what you might do with this?" Children have a natural tendency to "think outside the box," and it's fun to hear their ideas when we give them that opportunity.

### **Offering something for us**

I always heard teachers laugh when, after Eric tells Fred he's made enough dots, Fred can't resist making one more. We all know children like that, and we've probably had moments like that ourselves --just can't resist one more (maybe at the cookie jar). It's another one of those times when Fred shared with us his honest self...his humanness. And doing so, he made us feel good about who we are, even when we can't resist just one more! Thank you, Fred!

---

Thank you, too, for caring about our work...and for all that you do on behalf of children and families. You're an inspiration to so many, as Fred used to say, "just by being you."

Thank you for being our neighbor,

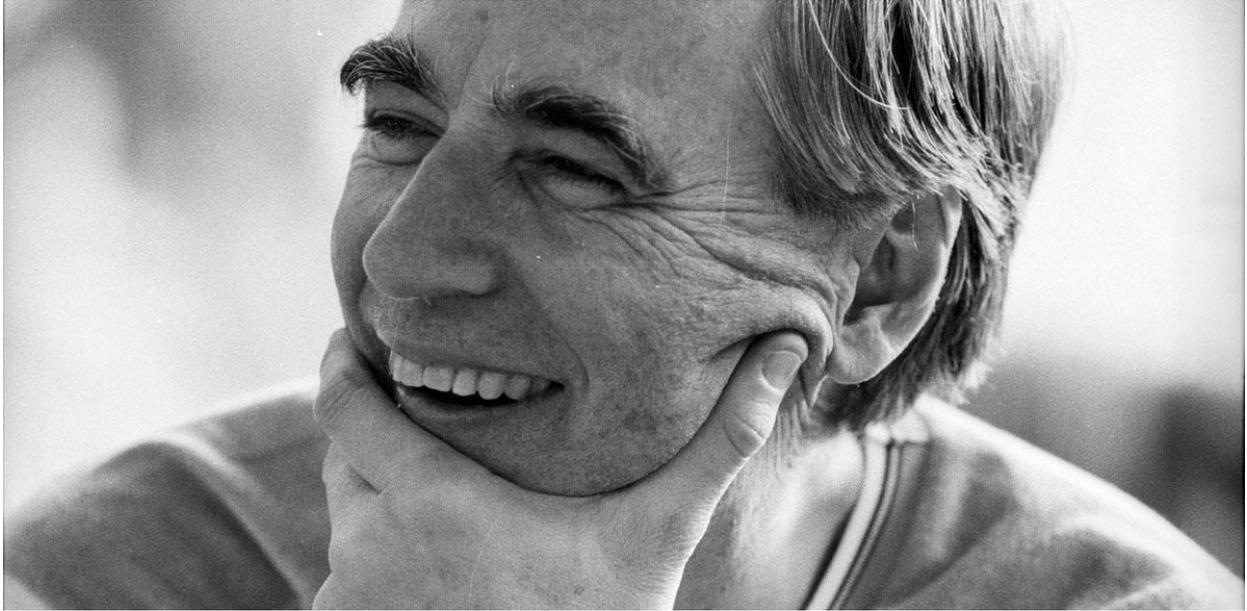


Hedda Sharapan  
M.S. Child Development  
PNC Grow Up Great Senior Fellow  
[hedda.sharapan@stvincent.edu](mailto:hedda.sharapan@stvincent.edu)

---

---

## Timeless Wisdom from Fred Rogers



"The thing I remember best about successful people I've met all through the years is their obvious delight in what they're doing . . . They just love what they're doing, and they love it in front of others."

[MORE QUOTES](#)

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

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

© 2020 Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning & Children's Media

You are receiving this email because you opted into receiving information from Hedda Sharapan about child development.

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

Saint Vincent College

300 Fraser Purchase Road

Latrobe, Pennsylvania 15650-2690