



Around The Neighborhood

Winter / 1993

A Newsletter for People Who Care For Young Children

A New Look to the Newsletter!

As you can see, we've made some changes in the way the newsletter looks.

Poster

When you open it, it becomes a poster containing daily calendars, new activities, and other information about the upcoming *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* episodes. Hang it on a wall, and the poster can be a handy guide to the *Neighborhood* programs for these three months.

Book List

We've also added a list of suggested books that go along with our weekly themes. Look for them on the back page. Reading to children is a wonderful addition to any child care program. The children love being read to and will come to value books and reading, just like you do.

Some things about the newsletter haven't changed.

Calendar Activities

We'll continue to give you the calendars showing the daily schedule for *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, information about each program and the activities for the newest week of programs. They're part of the poster.

Letter From Fred Rogers

You'll find the familiar letter from Fred Rogers on page 2, and in this issue he talks about making mistakes. Being comfortable with our mistakes is just as important to us adults as it is for children. Isn't it good to think that being human is enough!

Page For Parents

There's still a page for parents. It's on page 3. This month we're giving information about our child care partnership. Duplicating it and sharing it with parents will help them know about the project and how they can participate.

More Training Workshops

Training workshops in many areas continue to be provided on a regular basis — even some at local statewide early childhood conferences.

To date, more than 10,000 providers have been trained. Here's what some of them have found through working on this project:

"I have lots more patience."

"I have more ideas and activities to do with my class."

"I'm learning different ways to interact with children, different ways to solve problems and settle disputes and encourage positive behavior."

"I'm more aware of feelings. I often say 'how would you feel if...?'"

"Now I talk to the children...not at them."

"I've become a more confident teacher."

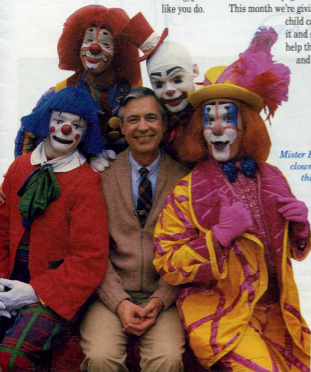
WGTE in Toledo, Ohio, is reaching out to an unusual audience for this project — people who work with women and children in domestic violence shelters. Some PBS stations are considering training other groups: foster families, home economics teachers (who are teaching courses in parenting skills), and people who work with the children of migrant workers.

Celebration In The Neighborhood

February 19, 1993 marks 25 years of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* on PBS. It's the longest running program on Public Television!

Looking back over the past 25 years, Fred Rogers says, "PBS has given us the opportunity to communicate with children and the people who care about them. Our *Neighborhood* and our viewing neighbors have grown in many different ways; nevertheless, our original purpose remains: to encourage human beings to be honest with themselves and with each other, and to become convinced that each one of us is a unique and precious part of our world."

Mister Rogers meets some circus clowns on program #1585 on the week about ALIKE AND DIFFERENT (scheduled for February 19). He helps children know that clowns are a way of pretending. They are people who are wearing special make-up and costumes.



2

Dear Providers and Parents,

This winter we'll be broadcasting a week of programs that child care providers have found especially helpful in their work. It's our week about MISTAKES.* One story that came to us soon after that week of programs aired last year was about a child in a center who woke up from a nap and was upset that he had wet his cot. Another child in the group comforted him saying, "That's okay. It's just a mistake."

Sometimes a child who has made a mistake or had an accident can come away from that experience feeling really bad about him or herself. Of course, that, in turn, can affect his or her listening skills, play, and controls for the rest of the day...and longer. But for that little boy who had wet his cot during naptime, that other child helped him understand that, now and then, he might make a mistake: all people do. I'm convinced that, because of the kind response he received, that boy came away from this experience better able to listen, to play, and to find controls.

Being comfortable with our mistakes is just as important for us adults as it is for children. Looking back over the thirty years of parenting that my wife and I have done with our two sons, I feel good about who we are and what we've done. I don't mean we were perfect parents. Not at all. Our years with our children were marked by plenty of mistakes. Both Joanne and I can recall many times when we wish now we'd said or done something different. But we didn't, and we've learned not to feel too guilty about that. What gives me my good feelings is that we always cared and always tried to do our best.

None of us is perfect. We're only human. And, isn't it good to think that being human is enough? What a gift you give to the children when you help them know that you appreciate them, through all the times — times when you're proud of them and times when they've made mistakes.

Sincerely,



**The week about MISTAKES is scheduled to be telecast February 8-12. The program numbers are: #1576-80. Check with your local PBS station for the exact dates and times.*



Fred Rogers, host of **MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD**, celebrates 25 years on PBS.

A Page For Parents

Since we've been using the *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* television programs during our day with the children, we thought you might like to know what we've learned about Fred Rogers and how we're involved in the *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* Child Care Partnership.

Who is Fred Rogers?

When asked that question recently, Fred Rogers started thoughtfully, as though not quite sure where to begin. "I'm a composer and piano player." Then he added, "...A writer and television producer...almost by accident a performer...a husband, father, and grandfather...and I've dedicated my life to learning about childhood by studying child development and consulting with experts in this field, so that our television "visit"

can truly be helpful for children as they grow and learn. You know, most of us are many things. What I am the most is a man who cares deeply about children."

His statement made us think about how many things we all are in this world. You're a parent...and much more. Your children benefit in lots of important ways from all that you are.

What is *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*?

It's a television program that speaks right to the needs of young children and helps them deal with their feelings — love, fear, sadness, jealousy, anger, friendship, trust, joy, and pride.

The most important goal of the series is to help children feel good about who they are. Educators all agree that self-esteem is the foundation children need for learning. Almost every day Mister Rogers says, "You are special — just because you're you."

What is the *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* Child Care Partnership?

It's a way for us to actively use this PBS television program. We watch with the children and often talk about what we're seeing.

make clown masks. We can discuss what they like about clowns, and we can help them deal with their fears of clowns and masks.

Afterwards we offer activities, so the children can talk or play about the theme. For example, for a program with a visit to the circus (#1585 scheduled for February 19, 1993), the children can

We find that when we help the children talk and play about what they've seen on the program, they're more likely to understand the ideas and use them in their everyday lives.

How can you, as a parent, help your child get the most from this?

We certainly hope you'll think of yourself as a partner in this, too, by encouraging your child to tell you what Mister Rogers brought that day (he often brings something special to show the children), or what happened in Make-Believe, or what the activity was. Once in a while, you may want to watch *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* with your child, to familiarize yourself with the program so you'll have a better idea of what to ask.

Look how much can happen when you help your child to talk about the day:

1) You're giving your child practice in communicating, which is one of the basic skills he or she needs for learning.

2) Because the themes deal with a child's everyday feelings, they can make interesting conversation for the way home or at the dinner table...and give you clues about what's important to your child.

3) When you show an interest in what happened at child care, your child senses the partnership between your home and our child-care place, and that can make him or her more comfortable here in our care.

4) And, what a wonderful way for you to say to your child, "I care about you — even when we're apart."

**MISTER
ROGERS'
NEIGHBORHOOD**

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood is produced by Family Communications, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that produces audio, video and print materials designed to encourage communication between children and adults. For more information and a catalog, please write or call: Family Communications, Inc. Dept. A, 4802 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213; 412-687-2990.

Check 'Em Out! — Books To Share With Children

Do you have some favorite books or stories about the themes of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood? When you read a book to a child, you're sharing warmth and interest in reading that can lead to a lifetime of good feelings about books and learning.

Here are some recommendations of books you might want to use to tie in to the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood weekly themes for January, February, and March. You may want to ask the children's librarian in your area for some other suggestions.

Jan. 4-8 — "Day & Night Care"

Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen. (Jim is worried about how he will feel in a strange place, but finds that making friends isn't so hard.)

Jan. 18-22 — "Celebrations"

Benny Bakes A Cake by Eve Rice. (Benny helps his mother prepare for his birthday.)

Jan. 25-29 — "Playthings"

Sam's Ball by Barbro Lindgren. (Sam and Kitty play with a ball.)

Feb. 1-5 — "Dance"

Color Dance by Ann Jonas. (Both children and the dance come alive with swirling capes and blending colors.)

Rainy, Rainy, Saturday by Ezra Jack Keats is read by Mister Rogers in program #1571L.

Feb. 8-12 — "Mistakes"

Oh, Lewis! by Eve Rice (A day when everything goes wrong is fixed with Mama's help.)

Feb. 15-19 — "Alike and Different"

The Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle (An all-time favorite about a caterpillar who eats his way to being a butterfly.)

Feb. 22-26 — "Love"

Say It by Charlotte Zolotow. (Each page is an activity shared by the Mother and child, as the child teases for an affirmation of love.)

March 1-5 — "Kindness"

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman. (The unkindness of some children helps Grace to discover her own strength.)

March 8-12 — "Learning"

Georgia Music by Helen Griffiths. (A little girl learns about playing the harmonica from her grandfather.)

March 15-19 — "Secrets"

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold. (Flying through the air above New York City, the young girl creates a secret world.)

March 22-26 — "Fun and Games"

It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles Shaw. (A game to play with clouds.)

March 29-April 2 — "When Parents Go To Work"

A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams. (Mama works and grandma and I save pennies in a big jar to replace a chair.)

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD
CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

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For more information about the project contact your local public television station or Family Communications.
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MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD

CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP



Highlights Of Coming Programs

Playthings: January 25-29

Mister Rogers makes his own "Neighborhood of Make-Believe" out of empty food containers in *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* #1569 ("PLAYTHINGS" week, January 25-29). He encourages children to use their own imagination to create pretend neighborhoods for their play. See the *Mister Rogers' Plan & Play Book* (episode #1569) for suggestions on helping children build their own play buildings.



Learning: March 8-12

On the week about LEARNING, folksinger Ella Jenkins teaches a Hindi song about a balloon. Mister Rogers enjoys learning from her, and he makes the point that learning happens best when people care about each other. This episode is program #1652, scheduled for March 9.



Thoughts for the Week

Children (as well as adults) sometimes think that people will stop loving them if they make mistakes or do things they shouldn't do. Parents and caregivers reassure children of their love when they acknowledge that everyone makes mistakes sometimes, and that even when we get angry with people, we can still love them.



1661 Monday

Mister Rogers brings a stuffed bear and talks about people and things we love. When Mr. McFeely arrives, he brings a videotape showing how people make stuffed bears. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, Lady Aberlin dresses up in a bear costume.

My Favorite Things

You could begin this activity by showing the children a stuffed animal and talking with them about the videotape on how people make stuffed bears. Do any of the children have a favorite stuffed animal they would like to show the others? Many of the children may have a special toy that they take to bed or use to comfort themselves. See if they want to tell you about their favorite stuffed animal or toy. (It's very hard to share these special toys, so if children have brought them along, you may have to reassure them that these are not toys they have to share unless they want to.)

1662 Tuesday

Mister Rogers visits an aviary—a place where people take care of birds. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, King Friday is upset because his birds are not working hard enough. Lady Elaine is preparing exhibits for her Museum of Love.

Museum of Love

The children could prepare their own exhibits for a Museum of Love today. They could either draw a picture of something or someone they love, or make a picture for someone they love: a picture of their parents, a pet, a favorite toy, or random designs on paper. Some children may want to tell you about their pictures or give the drawing a name. You can help them mount the pictures on construction paper to "frame" them and make name cards to hang below the pictures. Then ask the children to help decide where to hang the pictures for display. When parents come to pick up their children, they can take a few minutes to tour your Museum of Love.

1663 Wednesday

Mister Rogers has been doing a lot of walking, and he soaks his feet in a tub of water to make them feel better. Officer Clemmons stops by for a visit and joins him. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, King Friday is concerned that people are playing and not working. Lady Elaine plans a soap opera called "As the Museum Turns."



Soap Sculptures

With your help, the children can make a molding material from soap shavings and shredded toilet paper. One or two children can tear off small pieces of paper from a toilet tissue roll. Others can take turns using the vegetable peeler to shave off bits of soap from the bar you have provided. Everyone can help mix the soap shavings and tissue pieces with a small amount of water. Add the water a few tablespoons at a time until the material is of molding consistency. (It should feel like mud when it's ready.) Children can then use the material to make clean "mud pies" or any other kind of sculpture or just squeeze it to use their sense of touch.

1664 Thursday

Mister Rogers talks about shaving and looks at his reflection in the mirror. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, the plans for a soap opera continue.

Shaving Cream Fingerpainting

Give children trays or make sure they use a washable surface so the shaving cream will be fairly easy to clean up. Children could wear aprons or old shirts to protect their clothing, too. Give each child a small amount of shaving cream and let them spread it around on the tray or table. As they begin to experiment with the material, you can comment on the effects they make when they use the sides of their hands, one or two fingers only, or when they use their fingernails to make designs in the shaving cream. If the shaving cream becomes dry, you can add a little bit of water. When you are finished, the children can help you clean up the trays or table with warm water and sponges.



1665 Friday

Mister Rogers spends some time blowing soap bubbles on the program today. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, a bubble-making machine is part of the soap opera.

Soap Bubbles

The children can help you mix 2 cups of the dishwashing liquid with 1/2 cup of water using a hand eggbeater or a wire whisk. If you have bubble wands, you can give them to the children for blowing bubbles. If not, you can tie loops in pieces of heavy string and let children dip the loops into the soap mixture. Because this activity is messy, you might want to do it outside. If you are blowing bubbles indoors, you'll probably want to cover the floor with a sheet or newspapers.

Neighborhood Poster

January February March/ 1993

How To Use The Broadcast Schedule

The broadcast schedule identifies the *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* programs that PBS stations broadcast on specific dates. (Check with your local PBS station to find out if it broadcasts *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* on dates different from those shown on this schedule.) The schedule also shows the theme for each week of programs and some of the events occurring in each episode.

The specific episode number (for instance, "#1555" for January 1st) corresponds to the program description and activities in the **Mister Rogers' Plan & Play Book**. The **Plan & Play Book** contains easy and appropriate activities for preschoolers. It also contains words to many of the songs from *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and a special section with recipes and how-to's.



Copies may be ordered from Family Communications or your local public television station.

A Special Note

The activities for the new week of programs ("LOVE") premiering February 22-26, 1993, appear on this poster.

The activities for the week on "LEARNING" (#1651-55, March 8-12, 1993) appear in a booklet of additional activities available through your public television station or Family Communications.

| January | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| This Week: FAMILIES | | | | | 1 #1555 Penguin Exhibit: What's a "Kissing Cousin"? |
| This Week: DAY & NIGHT CARE | 4 #1516 Visit to a Child-Care Home; Caregivers | 5 #1517 Feelings When Parents Are Away; Zipper Factory | 6 #1518 Exercises—Care for Our Bodies; Balloon Factory | 7 #1519 Eyeglasses; Scary Dreams and Nighttime Fears | 8 #1520 Feelings When Parents Return; Graham Crackers |
| This Week: MAKING & CREATING | 11 #1556 Miniature Golf; Creative Play in Sand and Dirt | 12 #1567 Chinese Dumplings; Learning from Grandparents | 13 #1558 How People Make Rocking Horses; Friendships | 14 #1558 Post May Sarton; Kitten Birth Film; Covers & Masks | 15 #1600 Bob Leathers— Playground Designer |
| This Week: CELEBRATIONS | 18 #1561 How People Make Trumpets; Plans for Comet Celebration | 19 #1562 Show of Stars at Planetarium; Feeling Good & Bad | 20 #1563 Jazz with Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis | 21 #1564 Different Feelings About Birthdays; Candle Factory | 22 #1565 Neighborhood Opera: Star for Kitty |
| This Week: PLAYTHINGS | 25 #1566 Gymnast Performs; Importance of Good Teachers | 26 #1567 Ella Jenkins; How People Make Toy Wagons | 27 #1568 A Visit to an Air Traffic Control Tower | 28 #1569 Musical Playthings; Wanting Something Too Expensive | 29 #1570 Toy Library; Lucy the Elephant Monument |

February**Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****1**#1571
It's Raining;
Tai-Chi Is Like
Dancing**2**#1572
Shamu the Whale;
Caring for Fish**3**#1573
How People Make
Shoes; Sam Weber,
Tap Dancer**4**#1574
Dance Theater
of Harlem**5**#1575
Tamburizan Folk-
Dancers; A Weaver
at WorkThis Week:
DANCE**8**#1576
Feelings When
People Laugh
at Mistakes**9**#1577
How People Make
Books; Mistaken
Delivery**10**#1578
Helping Others
After Mistakes;
Eraser Factory**11**#1579
Pianist Andre'
Watts; Practicing &
Mistakes**12**#1580
Poetry Day; Even
Parents Sometimes
Make MistakesThis Week:
MISTAKES**15**#1581
Antique Car Show;
A Song in
Sign Language**16**#1582
Television Programs
Around the World**17**#1583
Differences Between
a Real Dog and
Pretend "Bob Dog"**18**#1584
Feeling Jealous;
Making Strudel**19**#1585
Circus Day;
Help with Fears of
Clown Make-upThis Week:
ALIKE AND
DIFFERENT**22**#1661
Costumes;
How People Make
Teddy Bears**23**#1662
A Visit to the Aviary;
Showing Love**24**#1663
Officer Clemmons
Visits; King Friday
is Angry**25**#1664
Lady Aberlin
Learns About Love;
Shaving**26**#1665
Bubbles;
A "Song" Opera in
Make-BelieveThis Week:
LOVE**March****Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****1**#1581
Kind Reaction to
McFeeley's Mistake;
Harmonica Factory**2**#1592
Eric Kloss
Blind Saxophonist;
Luray Cavern Visit**3**#1593
Kindness to a Lost
Kitten; Jump Rope
Exercises**4**#1594
How People Make
Bicycle Helmets;
Bicycle Safety**5**#1595
Broadway Dancer
Tommy Tune Is a
Kind TutorThis Week:
KINDNESS**8**#1651
Nobody Can Do
Everything;
Whistles**9**#1652
Pretending Helps
with Learning;
Ella Jenkins**10**#1653
Trying & Learning;
How People Make
Construction Paper**11**#1654
Machines Can Help
with Learning;
Blind Musician**12**#1655
We Learn Best
from Caring People;
Sign LanguageThis Week:
LEARNING**15**#1596
Underground House;
Secrets in Nesting
Boxes; Bike Ride**16**#1597
Treasure Hunt
Game; Love Is a
Good Secret to Tell**17**#1598
Marble Sculptor
at Work;
Invisible Ink Pen**18**#1599
When Secrets Are
Uncomfortable;
Blind Artist**19**#1600
Suitcase Factory;
Surprise Birthday
PartyThis Week:
SECRETS**22**#1601
Hats for Fun;
Folk Singers**23**#1602
Choosing Teams &
Feeling Left Out;
Soccer Game**24**#1603
Special Olympics;
Feeling Proud;
Baskets**25**#1604
Suzie McConnell
of US Olympic
Basketball Team**26**#1605
Win or Lose—
Having Fun Is
ImportantThis Week:
FUN & GAMES**29**#1611
Being Upset When
Parents Are
Busy At Work**30**#1612
Going & Returning;
Peek-a-boo;
Peanut Snacks**31**#1613
Peanut-butter
Factory; Caring &
HelpingThis Week:
WHEN PARENTS
GO TO WORK