



Around The Neighborhood

Fall/1994

A Newsletter for People Who Care For Young Children

A Special Issue on Music

Music plays a central role in the Neighborhood, and especially in the programs this fall, which include many musical guests, two Neighborhood Operas, and an entire week about Music.

Neighborhood Music in the Key of Childhood

From the very first camera shot of the model Neighborhood, even before Mister Rogers comes through the door, a sophisticated jazz melody runs up the piano keys. John Costa, gifted musician and Neighborhood Music Director says, "Children have good ears, and they're people. They can hear good music as well as anybody else. So I started right from the beginning playing for them as I would for any adult."

Opening the door, Mister Rogers sings "Won't You Be My Neighbor," musically inviting his viewers to enter into a relationship...to be a "television neighbor" and join him in exploring things and feelings that are important in childhood. As Mister Rogers continues through the half-hour, he weaves into his discussion a song or two. In the Neighborhood, singing about something is almost as natural as talking about it.

Music from all corners of the Neighborhood: Mister Rogers making sounds with bottles, Music Director John Costa playing behind-the-scenes, and neighbors performing at the Bass Violin Festival in a whole week about MUSIC scheduled for December 26-30.

For Fred Rogers, who writes all the melodies and lyrics for the Neighborhood songs, music has always been a comfortable way to express ideas and feelings.

What makes Fred Rogers' songs so effective and comforting for children is the rare combination of his background in Music Composition and his graduate training in Child Development. Through his songs, he translates concepts of child development into musical messages, using language that children can understand.

Because the messages are in song form, they are "portable." Children and providers can take them away from the program and sing them. Some songs celebrate good feelings. Some are calming. Others are for times when children are struggling with a particular issue, like jealousy over the new baby or separation fears.

Children might even latch on to a Neighborhood song, singing it over and over or wanting to hear it over and over, perhaps because it puts into words something that's central to them at that time and assures them that others feel that way, too.

"Portable" Neighborhood Songs

Here are some ways children and providers have used the Neighborhood music:

We heard about one young boy who goes to his room when he's frustrated and loudly sings "You've Got To Do It." With honesty

and hopefulness, this song says some things are hard to learn and hard to do, but you might accomplish them if you keep trying. Often, after singing that song over and over, he goes back to the task with fresh energy to try again.

Some providers help children after an angry moment by singing "What Do You Do with the Mad that You Feel?" That phrase lets them know that everyone gets angry sometimes and that there are lots of healthy ways to get the anger out — ways that don't hurt or destroy. The final verse reminds them, "You can stop when you've planned a thing that's wrong and do something else instead...."

Many providers and parents have told us the song they've used most is "I'm proud of you." It's a way of applauding children's attempts and accomplishments...even potty training successes! One caregiver uses that song when she sees a child who is ready to hit, but who finds self-control and holds back. There are lots of moments in a child care day to let children know that you're proud of them...and that they can be proud of themselves, too.

Like the Neighborhood programs, the songs can be a tool for you to use in your own way in your work with the children. To make them effective, you don't need to know all the words...or have a musical voice. Whether you sing the songs, play them on cassette, talk about them, or listen to the ways children use them, it's your appreciation of the messages they convey about children's needs and feelings that will help make them valuable.

Fred Rogers writes the melodies and lyrics for the Neighborhood songs. Words for the songs are in the back of the PLAN & PLAY BOOK. Audiocassettes and songbooks are available through Family Communications, Inc., Dept. CC, 4802 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213



A Letter From Mister Rogers

Dear Parents and Providers,

When I was four years old, my parents told me I could choose what I wanted for my birthday from a toy catalogue. When I saw the toy piano on one of the pages, that was it! It seems that music has always been at the root of who I am and what I do.

When I was angry as a child, my family wouldn't allow me to crash and stomp around through the house, but they did encourage me to play out my feelings on the piano. That's when I discovered the real power of music. I'd begin by banging random notes — anything (like a punch!). The longer I played, though, the calmer my music became, the calmer I became, too. That piano probably got me out of a lot of trouble. To this day, I can still laugh and cry and express rage through the tips of my fingers on piano keys.

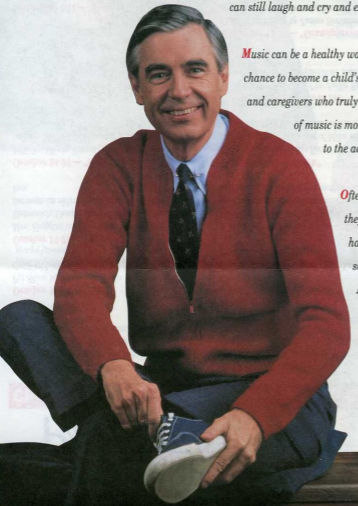
Music can be a healthy way for people to express all sorts of feelings, and it has a chance to become a child's way if he or she is given an appreciation of it by parents and caregivers who truly care about music themselves. As with most things, a love of music is more "caught" than "taught." If it means something special to the adult, the child will recognize that.

Often on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, I tell children that they can find ways to manage their anger, ways that don't have to hurt themselves or anyone else. Music is one way. I show and tell them it's one of my most important ways. And I always encourage them to find their own. If they are to grow into competent and caring human beings, they will.

Sincerely,



Fred Rogers, host of MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD, begins his 27th year on PBS.



A Page For Parents — Music For Fun, Growing, And Learning

Music is a natural part of childhood and family life. Lots of families put their babies to bed with lullabies. Babies and young children are calmed by soft melodies. Parents and grandparents delight in watching children “dance” to music. “Ring-around-the-Rosie” is one of the first songs children like to do — now they can control when they “fall down.” Through the ABC song, many parents teach their children the alphabet.

When you help your child enjoy music, you're also helping your child develop learning skills, like listening, coordination, imagination, and memory. Here are ways parents have encouraged their child's interest in music, song, and rhythm:

Listening To Music

A radio or cassette player can help you and your child have fun with different kinds of music.

- Use the radio or cassette player to introduce your child to a variety of music, including classical, jazz, and songs from other countries. Just enjoy listening a while to whatever holds your child's interest. You could borrow tapes with different music from the library, too.
- When children hear music, they often like to move to the sounds. You might turn some music on the radio and encourage your child to move with the beat. Then switch to another radio station with different music and let your child dance to that.

Music And Rhythm Games

To help your child develop learning skills through music and rhythm:

- Read or recite nursery rhymes, like “Baa Baa Black Sheep” or “Little Bo Peep.” These rhymes usually have a rhythm pattern that is clear and easy to follow.
- Sing songs with your child while cleaning up or while riding in the car.
- Do finger plays with your child, like “Where is Thumbkin” and “Itsy Bitsy Spider.” These help children develop finger coordination that they'll need for writing.
- Clap out rhythms like the syllables in your child's name, or clap along with a song.
- Clap out a simple rhythm, like “short, short, long...short, short, long” and have your child repeat the pattern. Try other patterns, like “long, short, short, long...long, short, short, long.” Your child could create rhythms by clapping or by using a wooden spoon on a pan, bowl, or empty box.

Homemade Instruments

Playing an instrument gives a child a more active part because he or she is actually making the music. There are lots of ways to make simple instruments from household things:

- A shoe-box harp can be made from an old shoe box. Take off the lid. Stretch different-sized rubber bands around the box. As your child plucks the bands across the open part, he or she can hear different sounds.
- With your supervision, your child can make musical jars by filling glasses or jars with water at different levels. When tapped lightly with a spoon, each jar makes a different musical tone.
- Fill empty plastic containers with dried beans or popcorn kernels. Be sure to seal the containers tightly. Children can shake these instruments to play along with a song or to make up their own rhythms.
- Paper towel tubes can become cardboard trumpets. Children can decorate the tubes and then hum through the opening in one end to create kazoo-type sounds.

**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. CC, 4802 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; 412-687-2990.

Please Duplicate This Page For Parents

Musical Extravaganzas

For many children and caregivers, the most exciting musical moments on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* are the operas. They are original Make-Believe musical stories about common themes of childhood.

Behind the Scenes

The idea for making an "opera" came from Fred Rogers' own background in Music Composition from Rollins College. There he struck up a lifetime friendship with fellow-student John Reardon, who went on to become a well-known baritone with the Metropolitan Opera Company, and who delighted in visiting the Neighborhood as its resident opera singer. All of the Neighborhood operas have been written and composed by Fred Rogers and orchestrated by the Neighborhood Music Director, John Costa. Reardon starred in every one, until his death in 1988.

In a typical opera week, Reardon would arrive on a Monday for a visit in the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, and he would be commanded by King Friday to make an opera by Friday. As the opera develops through the week, children can learn much about the "process": seeing how something

starts with an idea, develops, and grows into a final product. That can help (now and later on in life) with their own ability to stick with something and develop it.

Your Children's Opera Play

Children making up an opera? Of course they can! As Mister Rogers says, "An opera is just a story for which you sing the words, instead of say them."

You could lead the children into this activity by singing your words, instead of talking. Can you sing, "Let's think of a story for our opera... Jamilla and Peter, what do you like to make up stories about?" Can they sing their answer back to you?

Like the neighbors in Make-Believe often do, the children could begin by deciding on an idea for their opera story. Or, sometimes in Make-Believe the story grows out of the parts each one wants to play. Do the children have particular characters, people, or animals they like to pretend to be?

To add an appreciation of literacy, you could ask them to tell you the story, while you write it out and then read it back to them. Help them choose what role to play. Some might be content to be in the audience. Simple props, like crowns, briefcases, spoons, or straws can invite imaginative opera play. So can fancy dress-up costumes.



Of course, the most important way you encourage children in their creative play is by your appreciation of whatever they do — however long or short, simple or elaborate their ideas may be.

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD
CHILD CARE
PARTNERSHIP

Around The Neighborhood

Fall/1994

A Newsletter For People Who Care For Young Children

Family Communications, Inc.
4802 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-687-2990

"Around The Neighborhood" is published by Family Communications with funding provided by The Grable Foundation and Alcoa Foundation.

The start-up work for the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Child Care Partnership was funded by grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to WGTE-TV, the public television station in Toledo, Ohio. We're grateful to CPB and WGTE for their support.

For more information about the project, contact your local public television station or Family Communications.

© 1994 Family Communications, Inc.

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP



Check 'Em Out! — Books To Share With Children

October 3-7 — "Discipline"

Frederick by Leo Lionni. The field mice scold Frederick for not helping store food for winter, but they rely on his store of dreams when the food runs low.

October 10-14 — "Pets"

Pet Show by Ezra Jack Keats. A group of city children bring some unusual pets to show.

October 17-21 — "Friends"

Mrs. Huggins and Her Hen Hannah by Lydia Dabovich. Gentle story of the caring friendship between an elderly woman and her hardworking hen.

October 24-28 — "Superheroes"

Effie by Allison Beverly. Effie's loud voice often bothers her fellow ants and gets them in trouble as well. However, it's her loud voice that saves everyone from danger.

October 31-November 4 — "Creativity/Opera"

Oh, Were They Ever Happy! by Peter Spier. Painting the house becomes a creative activity for the children in the family; the result is a house of many colors.

November 7-11 — "Divorce"

All Kinds of Families by Norma Simon. Families come in all shapes and sizes and colors, bound together by what they share, not how different they are.

Also, on #1479, author Earl Grollman shows his book *Talking About Divorce and Separation: A Dialogue Between Parent and Child*.

Watch for two musical stories this fall:

SPOON MOUNTAIN (program #1505, scheduled for November 4) — a fantasy story of good overcoming evil, with a king and queen, a guitar-playing balladeer, a ship commodore, an evildoer, and mountain climbers.

When the children get to know "Wicked Knife and Fork" better, they find that he isn't evil — he just wants a spoon! Fred Rogers sums up the opera lesson: "There's so much more to everyone you meet than will ever meet your eye. There are wonderful surprises in all of us."

November 14-18 — "Games"

Pretend You're a Cat by Jean Marzollo. Rich, lush illustrations depict children performing various creative play exercises.

November 21-25 — "Food"

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff. Giving a mouse a cookie starts a chain of events that involves writing activities, personal grooming, and cleaning up.

November 28-December 2 — "Conflict"

The Wolf's Chicken Stew by Keiko Kasza. A crafty wolf tries to fatten up some chicks for supper but is tricked into feeding the mother hen's brood.

December 5-9 — "Work"

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton. A classic tale of Mike whose steam shovel becomes the furnace for the new library.

December 12-16 — "No & Yes"

What Do You Say, Dear? by Joslin Scelye. Polite answers to ridiculous questions make any four year old laugh.

December 19-23 — "Grandparents/Opera"

Clams Can't Sing by James Stevenson. A group of undersea animals make beautiful music in spite of the fact that they can't carry a tune.

On #1531, Mister Rogers shows a book about trolleys, called *Western Pennsylvania Railways*. On #1533, he has the book *Tools* by Ken Robbins.

The week about GRANDPARENTS ends with a musical story called GRANDDAD FOR DANIEL. The children make up their own musical stories.

GRANDDAD FOR DANIEL (program #1535, scheduled for December 23) — a creative way to deal with someone who wants a grandfather very much.

Fred Rogers closes the opera by helping children know that, whether grandparents are alive or not, they still influence the family with handed-down traditions and the memories that parents share. Learning how generations make up a family helps young children understand that everyone has a history and a heritage.

December 26-30 — "Music"

Arroz con Leche: Popular Songs and Rhymes from Latin America by Lulu Delacre. A colorful collection of songs and rhymes in English and Spanish is accompanied by easy music.

Using the Library

In addition to these suggested books, you may want to take advantage of your local library and consider making a field trip with the children. One of the best ways to make use of your library is to get to know the children's librarian. You might want to invite her to your home or center so she will know you and the children better. The librarian will probably have worked with many groups of children and she may be able to give you ideas that will work with your children. She will be able to suggest ways in which your visit to the library will go smoothly and what times might be most convenient for you.

Think about asking the librarian for books about things in which your children are interested, as well as ones about a new or difficult experience. You may have some special topics where a story will promote discussion. Librarians are a community resource the year round. They are happy to help people like you who work with children.



When Fred Rogers combined his musical interest with his graduate studies in Child Development, he found a new appreciation of using music to express feelings. "It helps children to see people dressed up in costumes, pretending, and singing their thoughts instead of saying them, knowing it's all right to sing sad and angry songs, as well as happy, carefree ones. I hope these operas can encourage children to express who they really are, and in doing so, help them to feel better about themselves." (See page 4 for more about the "operas.")

Highlights of Coming Programs

Mister Rogers meets new friends who are Southern folk musicians, the Mississippi Fife and Drum Band, on program #1509 (scheduled for October 20) in the week about FRIENDS.



The musical story, "Spoon Mountain," features neighbors "Chef" Brockett, Miss Paulifficate, and Chuck Aber pretending to be a royal family on program #1505 (scheduled for November 4) in the week about CREATIVITY.

World-famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma, visits with Mister Rogers on program #1547 (scheduled for December 27) in the week about MUSIC.



Neighborhood Poster

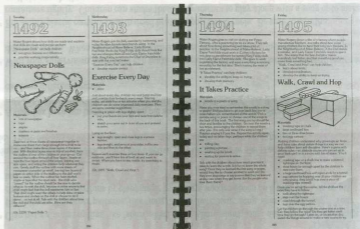
October • November • December/ 1994

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, "#1492" for October 4th) corresponds to the program description and activities in the **Mister Rogers' Plan & Play Book**. The 370-page **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 your local public television station or Family Communications.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
October	3	4	5	6	7
This Week: DISCIPLINE	#1491 Trying & Practicing; How People Make Piano Rolls	#1492 Feeling Frustrated; How People Make Dolls	#1493 Keeping Promises; Mister Rogers Goes Swimming	#1494 Practicing; Olympian Peggy Fleming Skates	#1495 Feeling Secure; How People Make Blankets
This Week: PETS	10 #1496 Making Stuffed Animals & Toys	11 #1497 Children Who Love Their Pets; Responsibility	12 #1498 Caring for Neighbor's Dog; a Parrot	13 #1499 Walking a Dog; Asking Friends for Help	14 #1500 Pandas at the Zoo; Quiet Birthday Fun
This Week: FRIENDS	17 #1506 Sharing Can Be Hard; Visit to a Shoe Store	18 #1507 Musical Games; Talking About Feelings	19 #1508 Visiting Restaurants; Anger & Apologies	20 #1509 Even Friends Forget; Fire & Drum Music	21 #1510 Friendship is Important — for Caring & Fun
This Week: SUPERHEROES	24 #1496 Only Birds & Bats & Bugs Can Fly	25 #1487 Dinosaur Exhibit — Carnegie Museum; Vegetable Treats	26 #1468 Dreams Can Be Scary, But They're Not Real	27 #1469 Dressing Up Doesn't Change the Person Inside	28 #1470 Mister Rogers Rides a Back Hoe
This Week: CREATIVITY	31 #1501 How People Make — and Play — Spoons				

November

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1

This Week:
CREATIVITY#1502
A Visit to the
Hospital
Emergency Room

2

#1503
Staying Safe;
Wearing
Seatbelts

3

#1504
It Can Be
Hard to Wait;
Making Popcorn

4

#1505
A Musical Story
by Fred Rogers'
'Spoon Mountain'

7

This Week:
DIVORCE#1476
Divorce is a
Grown-up Matter;
McFeely Wedding

8

#1477
How People
Make Pretzels;
Feeling Pulled

9

#1478
Electric Cars
& Electric
Wheelchairs

10

#1479
Feelings about
Divorce; What Can
Be Repaired?

11

#1480
Real Feelings &
False Faces; Going
on an Airplane

14

This Week:
GAMES#1511
You Can't Always
Win; How People
Make Towels

15

#1512
You Don't Always
Have to Play Games;
Hide and Go Seek

16

#1513
Only People Have
Feelings; How People
Make Robots

17

#1514
It Takes Practice
to Play Games &
Make Fancy Cakes

18

#1515
Board Games &
Musical Fun from
Ella Jenkins

21

This Week:
FOOD#1536
How People
Make Applesauce;
Feeling Hungry

22

#1537
How People
Make Tofu; Sharing
Food with Others

23

#1538
Chef Brockett
Makes Peanut
Butter Snack

24

#1539
Truth Even Though
Disappointed;
Vegetable Soup

25

#1540
Costa's Homemade
Spaghetti;
Friendship

28

This Week:
CONFLICT#1521
There Are Many
Ways to Solve
a Problem

29

#1522
How People
Make Money
at the U.S. Mint

30

#1523
Communication:
Braille & Cave
Drawings

December

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1

This Week:
CONFLICT#1534
How People
Make Marbles;
Building Bridges

2

#1535
How People
Make
Record Players

5

This Week:
WORK#1536
How People Make
Stamps; Spending
Money Wisely

6

#1537
Visiting a
Dairy Farm;
Waiting

7

#1538
Fixing Things;
Working for
Good Changes

8

#1529
Grocery Shopping;
Nobody Can
Afford Everything

9

#1530
Mister Rogers Shows
the T.V. Studio
Where He Works

12

This Week:
NO & YES#1541
Portrait Artist —
Dianne Dengel;
Wedding Plans

13

#1542
How People Make
Tricycles;
Staying Safe

14

#1543
Christie Thompson
Talks about
Disabilities

15

#1544
Ring-Bearer
Fears; When
Parents Say No

16

#1545
Wedding in
Mako-Believe;
Potter at Work

19

This Week:
GRANDPARENTS#1531
Trolley Museum;
Homemade Trolley;
Pretending

20

#1532
Straw Factory;
Family Photos;
Wind Chimes

21

#1533
Being with
Grandparents;
Antique Car

22

#1534
Grandparent Names;
Neighborhood
Opera Plans

23

#1535
Neighborhood
Opera; Granddad
for Daniel

26

This Week:
MUSIC#1546
A Young Pianist;
Costa's Music
Behind-the-Scenes

27

#1547
Cellist Yo-Yo Ma;
How People Make
Bass Violins

28

#1548
Ella Jenkins &
Hand Rhythm
Games

29

#1549
The Empire
Brass Quintet;
Creative Ideas

30

#1550
Happy & Sad
Music; Bass
Violin Festival