



# Around The Neighborhood

Spring / 1994

A Newsletter for People Who Care For Young Children

## Special Issue on The Environment

We're focusing this newsletter on the environment. Earth Day is April 22. Our Neighborhood programs about the environment and recycling (#1616-1620) will be broadcast April 18-22. We hope the ideas in this issue can help you offer children caring attitudes about our world and our resources all through the year.

## Three Ways to Care for the Environment in Child Care

### Toys From Throw-Aways

The child care provider showed the children an empty tube from wrapping paper and asked, "I wonder how you could use this?" One of the children said, "It's a Rogers' toy!" (Mister Rogers often gives ideas about what to do with throw-aways.) The boy used it as a tunnel for rolling his toy cars.

Helping children find playful uses for throw-aways gives them important messages about resourcefulness, creativity, and recycling. If a child has one use for a thing, you might even say, "I wonder what else that could be?"

Here are ideas for throw-aways:

- boxes for houses or garages;
- greeting cards for collages;
- cut-off plastic jugs for containers;
- styrofoam or cardboard vegetable trays for doll beds or containers for supplies.

### Appreciating Our Environment

When the child care provider set the plant on the table to water it, a spider crawled out from the soil. The children watched a bit, and then the provider carefully let the spider crawl onto a piece of paper and put it back in the dirt, saying, "Spiders are important bugs. I'll try to find a book about them for you."

Our attitudes are contagious — and not only through our words. Children watch adults carefully to get clues about anything, including nature. Think about how much you "say" through your facial expressions, your voice, and your body when you see bugs, flowers, stones, etc.

Here are some ways to help children appreciate nature:

- take a walk and notice what captures their attention;
- give children time to look out the window at a snowfall or to look at flowers in a vase;
- let the children help change the water in the aquarium or water the plants;
- involve the children in burying a dead bird found in the yard, or a dead fish, or other classroom pet;
- encourage children to look for signs of spring.

### Conserving Resources

A child wrote to Mister Rogers concerned that he doesn't turn off the light when he leaves his house at the end of the program. In his answer, Mister Rogers said: *It's good that you're thinking about things like that.*

*The place where we have our television visits is not my real house. It's my "television house," and it's set up in a television studio where we have special lights.*

*When I'm in my real home, I try to remember to turn off the lights when I leave a room. That's an important rule for me and my family, too. It's good that the adults who are close to you are helping you care about our world in that way.*

Here are some ways you can help children learn about conserving our planet's resources:

- assign a child to turn off lights in the room when the class goes outside;
- take a field trip to a recycling plant;
- when washing hands, wet them, then turn off the water while soaping them;
- when brushing teeth, turn off the water during brushing;
- when washing paint brushes, collect water and suds in a coffee can, instead of holding the brushes under running water.

*All through the year, Mister Rogers offers lots of recycling ideas. Here he makes a model of the Neighborhood of Make-Believe from used cartons.*



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Dear Parents and Providers,

Scarcity, recycling, and conservation are hard concepts for children to understand because they know best what they can see and touch. It may even be hard to convince them of the earth's limited resources when, to many of them, it may seem that there is so much of everything all around! I don't believe it's helpful to make young children worry about environmental problems or to make them feel **they** are responsible for solving those problems. It's enough, I believe, to help children understand more about their world and to encourage them, very early in their lives, to care for the people and things in it.

One of the best ways children learn is from the example of the grownups they love. When we turn off lights, when we separate items for recycling, when we find new uses for throw-away things, and even when we marvel at a flower, we are letting our children know that caring for our planet is important to us. When children are little, what's important to their caregivers is likely to be important to them because they usually want to be like the people they love.

One of my favorite elementary school teachers, Miss Bittner, filled her room with plants and animals. I feel sure my warm feelings toward her then are part of the reason I still have warm feelings for house plants and pets and all growing things.

Of course, it's your continual care for the children themselves that helps them develop a sense that they are loved, lovable, and capable of loving others. From that, they can go on to grow into adults who rejoice in life and regard this planet with loving care. They'll be the ones who will find it natural in their own tomorrows to recycle and reuse materials, marvel at flowers, and turn off lights.

Sincerely,



Fred Rogers, host of **MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD**, begins his 26th year on PBS.

# A Page For Parents

When you help children find new ways to play with things that might have been thrown away, you're helping them know you care about the environment and about their ideas. And, it's not being new or expensive that makes toys valuable, it's the imagination and feelings that children put into them.

Here are ideas of things to re-use as playthings. You might offer them and ask your child, "What could you do with this?"

## At The Office

- paper that has been printed on one side only — for drawing paper
- torn-off ends of computer paper — for collages
- punched-out holes that collect in the paper punch — for "confetti" as a fun addition for collages and art projects
- old computer printouts — for drawing paper or for tearing along the perforated lines (practicing fine motor skills)
- used envelopes — for pretend "office" or "post office" play
- old calendars — for "office" play, practice cutting squares, or number games

## Around The House

- large cardboard boxes — for play houses, toy cars or trucks; even young children enjoy playing in a box that has a window or doorway cut out
- clean milk cartons — for inexpensive blocks, toy trucks, or wagons
- shoe boxes — for pretend "shoe store" play or containers for art supplies or doll beds or garages for toy cars
- buttons cut from old clothing — for collages, eyes for puppets, or other art projects. Be careful about using buttons with very young children.
- unused checkbook ledger sheets and deposit slips — for "bank" play
- old clothes like jackets, vests, ties, slips, nightgowns, hats, purses, briefcases, or jewelry — for dress-up play, painting aprons, or cleaning rags
- old sheets and towels — for stuffing material, rag balls for throwing, capes for dressup, or blankets for dolls or stuffed animals
- used wrapping paper and ribbons — for collages, paper chains, other artwork, or dress-up play
- old magazines or catalogs — for making collages, practicing cutting out pictures, making a display of favorite pictures, or grouping in categories (animals, food, etc.)

## In The Kitchen

- bottoms of celery stalks or carrots — for printing designs
- egg shells, crushed and dyed with food coloring — for art projects
- apple seeds, peach pits, pear seeds — for collages and comparisons of likenesses and differences
- pineapple tops — for planting in soil
- carrot tops — for planting in a dish of water
- paper grocery bags — for puppets or other art projects (when cut open and laid flat)
- boxes from cereal, macaroni, etc. — for three-dimensional collages, making a model neighborhood, or playing "store"

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

Please Duplicate This Page For Parents

## Check 'Em Out! — Books To Share With Children

### April 1 — "Kindness"

*Chicken Sunday* by Patricia Polacco. Miss Bula makes Sundays special for three children who want to buy her the bonnet in Mr. Kodinski's shop window. They earn the hat and the friendship of Mr. Kodinski.

### April 4-8 — "Fun & Games"

*Song and Dance Man* by Karen Ackerman. A treasure trunk helps a vaudeville man's song-and-dance days come alive.

### April 11-15 — "When Parents Go to Work"

*Piggybook* by Anthony Browne. One day Mrs. Piggott goes off to work. Mr. Piggott and sons soon learn what happens when they don't help around the house.

### April 18-22 — "Environment"

*Circle of Seasons* by Myra Cohn Livingston. "O laugh and sing, give welcome to the Spring!" Celebrate the seasons with poetry and paintings.

### April 25-29 — "Fathers And Music"

*Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* by Chris Raschka. Birds, shoes, and lollipops dance across the pages to saxophonist Charlie Parker's music.

### May 2-6 — "Mouths & Feelings"

*Doctor DeSoto* by William Steig. A dentist and mouse, Dr. DeSoto, has one rule: never work on a patient larger than he. When a fox has a toothache, Mrs. DeSoto helps outfox him. (On program #1627, Maggie Kimmel tells a version of the "Stone Soup" story. On program #1630, Mister Rogers reads *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman.)

### May 9-13 — "Growing"

*Over in the Meadow* by John Langstaff. "Over in the meadow in the sand and the sun, lived an old mother turtle and her little turtle one." This folksong reminds us how animal mothers help their babies grow. (On program #1635, a young girl reads *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss.)

### May 16-20 — "Dress-Up"

*Charlie Needs a Cloak* by Tomi dePaola. Charlie is a shepherd who carefully shears his contrary sheep to make a red wool cloak for himself.

### May 23-27 — "Art"

*Caribbean Canvases* by Frane Lessac. The artist's colorful paintings depicting scenes from the Caribbean are accompanied by West Indian proverbs or poems.

(On program #1649, Mister Rogers reads *Spot's Baby Sister* by Eric Hill and visits with the author-illustrator of the SPOT books.)

### May 30-June 3 — "Imaginary Friends"

*Me and Nessie* by Eloise Greenfield. Janell's best friend is someone no one else can see. When school starts, Janell meets new friends.

### June 6-10 — "Learning"

*Growing Colors* photographed by Bruce McMillan. The camera's eye captures the brilliant colors in vegetable and fruit gardens.

### June 13-17 — "Up & Down"

*Look Up, Look Down* by Tana Hoban. Look up! There's a balloon. Look down! There's a rainbow. Without text, Hoban's beautiful photographs offer different ways of seeing familiar objects.

### June 20-24 — "Then & Now"

*Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox. A young boy tries to learn the meaning of memory to help his friend regain her memories.

*Booklist prepared by graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science.*

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD  
CHILDCARE  
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



## Activities For Caring About The Environment

### Milk Carton Toys

Mister Rogers often talks about recycling and shows several ways that children can reuse materials they have around the house.

"Milk Carton Toys" can help children:

- learn more about recycling;
- express themselves through play.



#### Materials

- clean, empty milk cartons
- heavy string or cord
- scissors
- stapler
- scraps of tissue paper
- clean straws
- small pieces of clay or modeling dough
- tape (optional)
- self-adhesive paper (optional)

Empty paper milk cartons can be washed and used to make toys for creative play. You can, for instance, make milk carton wagons to use for hauling pretend trash (or anything else, for that matter). Here's the procedure:

- First, staple the top closed and attach a piece of heavy string or cord to the closed top portion.
- Then cut out one of the four side panels and turn the carton on its side to make an open wagon.

Some of the children might choose to play about hauling discarded objects to a pretend dump. Younger children might simply use the haulers for filling and dumping small toys.

You can also make building blocks by cutting off the tops of two milk cartons and pushing the open end of one carton into the other. If you want, you can cover the blocks with colorful self-adhesive paper.

### A Nature Walk

On many programs, Mister Rogers talks about looking and listening carefully.

"A Nature Walk" can help children:

- learn to look carefully at the world around them;
- recognize similarities and differences.



#### Materials

- a place to walk (sidewalk or yard)
- a recycled paper bag for each child

You and the children could take a nature walk around your neighborhood. When adults go for a walk, they usually have a purpose — and keep walking at a steady pace. When children go for walks, they stop and look at things around them. This looking is often more important than the walk. You may only get to the corner and back, but the children have had a chance to appreciate the world around them. You might find:

- cracks in the sidewalk;
- earthworms and their tracks after a rain;
- leaves, sticks, stones, acorns, or a feather;
- tiny bugs, ants, or spiders crawling in the grass;
- bark on a tree.

If you decide to collect objects along the way, you can give each child a used paper bag for carrying leaves, pebbles, sticks, acorns, or horse chestnuts. You might have to explain why they should not pick flowers they find along the way. These growing things make the neighborhood beautiful and help the atmosphere, too. And you'll have to caution the children not to pick up just anything they see. You might tell them to let you look at the object before they pick it up and put it in a bag. Wide masking tape hanging from a stick provides a sticky surface for displaying the lightweight objects the children have collected.

### Homemade Soup

Adults, by their example, help children learn not to be wasteful. One parent tells that she routinely saves onion skins, carrot ends, potato peelings, celery leaves, and broccoli and cauliflower stalks, which she freezes and later uses to make a hearty stock for vegetable soup.

"Homemade Soup" can help children:

- learn ways to conserve our food supply;
- work cooperatively with others.



#### Materials

- stalks, leaves, peelings, and skins that have been rinsed and saved
- seasonings
- leftover raw or cooked vegetables
- large pot
- wooden spoon
- knives
- noodles, rice, barley, or dried beans

You could make this a two-day project by cooking the soup stock one day and the homemade soup on the second day. The children can put the vegetable stalks and peelings into a large pot and cover them with water. You might add leftover raw onions, garlic, and additional celery and carrot pieces at this time. The stock should simmer for four or five hours before you strain out the peelings, stalks, and leaves.

On the second day, you can heat the broth and add all other leftovers, such as small amounts of cooked vegetables, noodles, rice, or beans. Let the soup simmer for about an hour. Just before serving, the children can add seasonings such as parsley, oregano, and chives.

## Highlights of Coming Programs

Jazz pianist Ellis Marsalis teams up musically with three of his sons, Branford, Jason, and Delfeayo on program #1621 (scheduled for April 25) in the week about FATHERS & MUSIC. Parents and providers pass on to children lots of warm feelings about things that are important to them.



The Singing Spanish Bakers bring their music and a stick that sounds like the rain to Chef Brockett's Bakery on program #1642 (scheduled for May 24) in the week about ART.



Ready to go up, up, and away — and back down again — in a hot-air balloon ride are Mr. McFeely and Maggie Stewart on program #1660 (scheduled for June 17) in the week about UP & DOWN. The wind can be a source of energy for some travelers.



# Neighborhood Poster

April • May • June / 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, "#1595" for April 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 your local public television station or Family Communications.

April	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This Week: KINDNESS					1 #1595 Broadway Dancer Tommy Tune Is a Kind Tutor
This Week: FUN & GAMES	4 #1601 Hats for Fun; Folk Singers	5 #1602 Choosing Teams & Feeling Left Out; Soccer Game	6 #1603 Special Olympics; Feeling Proud; Baskets	7 #1604 Suzie McConnell of US Olympic Basketball Team	8 #1605 Win or Lose — Having Fun Is Important
This Week: WHEN PARENTS GO TO WORK	11 #1611 Being Upset When Parents Are Busy At Work	12 #1612 Going & Returning; Peek-a-boo; Peanut Snacks	13 #1613 Peanut-butter Factory; Caring & Helping	14 #1614 Oboist Natasha; Feelings When Parents Work	15 #1615 Day Care & Talk about Feelings; Exercises; Balloons
This Week: THE ENVIRONMENT	18 #1616 Reusing Instead of Throwing Away	19 #1617 A Visit to a Recycling Center	20 #1618 Sculpture from Used Things; Solving Problems	21 #1619 Mister Rogers Goes Snorkeling; Care for the Sea	22 #1620 Cooperation Helps Solve a Garbage Problem
This Week: FATHERS & MUSIC	25 #1621 Jazz Music with Ellis Marsalis & Sons	26 #1622 How Bandages Are Made; Pretending with Dolls	27 #1623 Sweeper Fears; Live Wolves; Rogers' Grandson	28 #1624 Ella Jenkins; Feeling Shy; 'Big Bad Wolf'	29 #1625 Cellist Yo-Yo Ma & Son; Fatherly Feelings

# May

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

2

This Week:  
MOUTHS &  
FEELINGS

#1626  
Laughing Boxes;  
Many Expressions  
For Many Feelings

3

#1627  
A Storyteller  
Visits...with  
Button Soup Story

4

#1628  
How People Make  
Toothbrushes;  
Feeling Angry

5

#1629  
Mister Rogers  
Visits the  
Dentist

6

#1630  
How People Make  
Toothpaste;  
Reading Aloud

9

This Week:  
GROWING

#1631  
Exercises and  
Playing for Growing;  
Toy Car Factory

10

#1632  
A Conservatory  
Where People  
Care for Plants

11

#1633  
Growing Takes  
Time — So Does  
Learning to Read

12

#1634  
Mister Rogers Gets  
a Haircut; Growing  
Happens Gradually

13

#1635  
The Harlem  
Spiritual Ensemble  
Performs

16

This Week:  
DRESS-UP

#1636  
Nighttime Ballet;  
Choosing Costumes  
for School Play

17

#1637  
A Library Visit &  
Storyteller;  
Something's Missing

18

#1638  
Eyeglasses & Wigs  
Change Appearance;  
Sneakers Factory

19

#1639  
Boys Choir of  
Harlem; How People  
Make Sweaters

20

#1640  
Dress-Up Doesn't  
Change You Inside;  
Sign Language

23

This Week:  
ART

#1641  
Making Portraits;  
Encouraging  
Creativity

24

#1642  
Picasso as Example  
of Creative Art;  
Spanish Singers

25

#1643  
Making Toy  
Airplanes;  
Skywriter Art

26

#1644  
Sculptor  
Bill Strickland;  
Creative Clay Play

27

#1645  
Author-Illustrator  
Eric Hill:  
SPOT books

30

This Week:  
IMAGINARY  
FRIENDS

#1646  
Imagine with Music;  
How People Make  
Colored Markers

31

#1647  
Imaginary Friends  
Can Help  
Lonely Times

# June

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

6

This Week:  
LEARNING

#1651  
Nobody Can Do  
Everything;  
Whistles

7

#1652  
Pretending Helps  
with Learning;  
Ella Jenkins

8

#1653  
Trying & Learning;  
How People Make  
Construction Paper

9

#1654  
Machines Can Help  
with Learning;  
Blind Musician

10

#1655  
We Learn Best  
from Learning People;  
Sign Language

13

This Week:  
UP & DOWN

#1656  
An Elevator  
Ride; Building  
with Blocks

14

#1657  
Domino Display —  
Set Up & Knocked  
Down; Making Blocks

15

#1658  
A See-Saw Ride;  
Up and Down  
Exercises

16

#1659  
Clarinetist Richard  
Stoltzman; Music  
Notes Up & Down

17

#1660  
A Hot-Air Balloon  
Ride; Balloon  
Artist

20

This Week:  
THEN & NOW

#1666  
Water Experiments;  
Big & Little;  
Being Safe

21

#1667  
Shadow Artist;  
Poem; The Past;  
Light Bulb Factory

22

#1668  
Pantomimist;  
Baby Photos;  
A Lost Dog

23

#1669  
A Dead Bird;  
Memories;  
Each One Is Unique

24

#1670  
Itzhak Perlman,  
Violinist; Colonial  
Williamsburg Visit

27

This Week:  
THINGS TO  
WEAR

#1671  
3-Cornered  
& Other Hats;  
A Bus Ride

28

#1672  
"Will Not" Feelings;  
How People Make  
Blue Jeans; Costumes

29

#1673  
Different Shoes;  
An Organist;  
A 3-Cornered Rule

30

#1674  
Casts & Crutches;  
Musical Delights;  
Grocery Bag Factory