



# Around The Neighborhood

Winter/1994

A Newsletter for People Who Care For Young Children

Pittsburgh isn't just Mister Rogers' neighborhood, it's also the home of Dr. Jerlean ("Jerri") Daniel, president-elect of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Many of you met Dr. Daniel on our training tape for this child care project. For 18 years she directed child care centers in Pittsburgh. Now she's assistant professor in the University of Pittsburgh's Child Development/Child Care Program.

A treasured poster in Jerri's office is a photograph of the dancer, Judith Jamison, in an elegant ballet pose. It was a gift from a colleague who compares being a child care provider to being a ballet dancer: It looks easy, but it takes hard work and training. Professionalism is one of Jerri's favorite topics, and she gladly answered our questions about it:

## Why Do You Think "Professionalism" Is Important?

Somehow, there's a notion that anybody can be a child care provider, especially if you are a mother. This work looks so much like parenting.

But being a provider is much more complicated than parenting. We work with children in groups, who come from lots of different family backgrounds, experiences, and value systems. Trying to be fair, while having everyone feel special — that's difficult...and very hard work.

*Jerri Daniel visits with Fred Rogers during a taping session of the new week of programs about THINGS YOU WEAR (#1671-1675), scheduled for the week of February 21-25*



What makes us effective as professionals is that we have child development knowledge. That's what enables us to balance what we know about three year olds in general with discovering what's unique about each particular three year old in our group.

## What Can Providers Do to Prevent Burn-Out?

I know how emotionally draining it can be when you're giving quality care. We're putting our energy into trying to understand each child, while at the same time distancing ourselves so we don't lose sight of what each child needs. We're giving our energies to parents, too!

It's only natural that we'll have challenges that seem insurmountable. That's why it's crucial that each one of us builds a support network. If we isolate ourselves, we'll burn out!

A support network can simply be someone we can call and say, "You won't believe what happened today!" Or, "Help me think about how to help this child."

We also need continuous training so we can stay fresh and knowledgeable. Fortunately, organizations like NAEYC make sure that training is available in lots of forms (through pamphlets, books, videos, and workshops) and is affordable.

Conferences are wonderful places to find a support network — and to hear about success stories. Our rewards are so few and far between, and we can get nourished through the satisfactions that others have found.

## Do You Have a Favorite Success Story?

It's a story that took a lot of hard work and time! A father, new in town, enrolled his son in our center, telling me his son had learned a lot in his previous school which was a highly-structured setting. Our emphasis on free play didn't fit what he wanted for his son.

"We have structure here, too," I assured him, "but it's different." I explained how much preparation went into the children's play space, how important it is for children to have time to explore and manipulate, that when they play with things, they're trying to make sense of the world, like scientists. We had lots of talks about that.

Eight months into the year, he said, "You know what? That other place was structured in an adult sense, but your structure matches how children learn.

"Our son's sleeping problems stopped, and he's not so introverted. And you know what else? I think he knows more. He understands about relationships. He's trying to figure things out. He asks questions. I can see his mind at work."

That's what professionalism means: it's our responsibility as professionals to share what we know with others. That strengthens the child, the parent — and us!

For more information about NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), call 800-424-2460.

## A Letter From Mister Rogers

Dear Parents and Providers,

*One of my child development colleagues surprised me the other day when she told me about something on one of our programs that has been a source of constant support for her. On that particular program, I had been playing a recording of sound effects. The first was a canary whistling, and I knew right away what that was. But I didn't recognize the second sound. It was something like a loud rumbling noise. My friend told me that what came next on the program was the message that became really important to her: "I don't know what that sound is yet myself," I said to the viewers. It was only after I listened carefully awhile over and over again that I realized that that rumbling noise was actually an airplane taking off from the ground.*

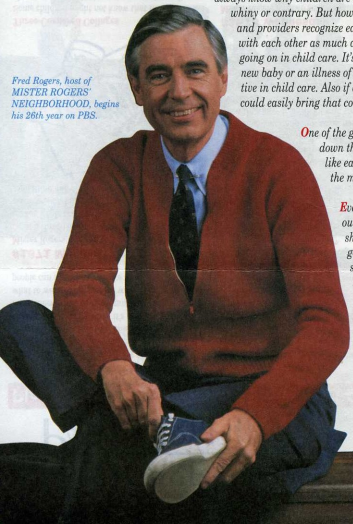
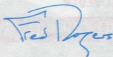
*"There are lots of times when I don't know what's going on with a child," my friend said to me. "Now, when I find myself discouraged, I've learned to feel that it's okay that I don't know what's going on right away."*

*There are times when we don't know the reasons for a child's behavior. We just can't always know why children are afraid of something or why they are crying or biting or whiny or contrary. But how important it is especially at times like that, that parents and providers recognize each other as partners, talking with each other and being with each other as much as we can, sharing what's going on at home and what's going on in child care. It's only natural that something upsetting at home, like a new baby or an illness of a grandparent, could make a child more clingy or disruptive in child care. Also if an accident should happen in a child care setting, a child could easily bring that concern to her or his home.*

*One of the greatest gifts a child in child care can have is knowing deep down that his or her parents and the child care provider(s) really like each other...that they care about each other. That's one of the major building blocks in a foundation of trust.*

*Even when we listen and look carefully and blend that with our knowledge about child development and caring partnerships, there still may be times when we don't know "what's going on" with a child. I have always believed that it is a sign of strength — not of weakness — to ask for help. I hope you have supportive adults you can turn to at wondering times like that...and that you can begin to think of "I don't know what's going on yet myself," as the start of a journey towards new understanding.*

Sincerely,



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

## A Page For Parents

Parenting is a real challenge, especially for today's families. Some concerns of parents are traditional: biting, fears, bed-wetting, separation, behavior problems. Other concerns come from the added pressures of working mothers or a single parent, like getting everyone out of the house in the morning, and balancing work and family life.

Anything about your child that concerns you is worth trying to understand. Here are some ways you might be able to find some help and support.

### Help You Can Get From Other People

#### Talking with your child care provider

The person who cares for your child while you're at work can be a wonderful source of support for you. As a professional, this person understands children in general, and probably knows a lot about what makes your child unique, too. When you develop a partnership with your child care professional, you can feel that you have some extra support for the stressful times in your parenting.

#### Talking with other parents

A mother of a fifteen month old was relieved when she talked with another mother who had the same difficulties with her eighteen-month-old daughter. "I never realized it was common for this age," she said. "Now, I know this might just be a phase and that she'll soon calm down."

#### Finding a resource center or library that has books or videos on parenting

When you have a specific concern, your local librarian may be able to help you find parenting books or videos on that subject. It's wise, though, to be cautious about advice that might sound very simple. There often aren't simple or magic answers to most problems in childhood. The librarian may also have lists of books for children that can help with certain situations. For example, one parent found the book, *Peter's Chair*, helpful to her child when a new baby sister arrived.

#### Attending parenting classes or support groups

Without the support of older generations, many parents simply feel they need a place where they can learn more about children's development and meet with other parents who share their concerns. There are often lunch-time sessions for working parents or support groups for single parents.

#### Seeking advice from a pediatrician or mental health professional

There are experts who are prepared to handle more serious difficulties that may arise. For instance, parents who are going through a divorce may want to talk with a professional about ways to support their child during the crisis. There are people in communities who can help with special problems, like disruptive behavior, dealing with the death of a loved one, or recognizing developmental delays.

### Help You Can Provide For Your Child

#### Offering play materials

When children play about things that upset them, they often resolve some of their troubled feelings. One parent told us how helpful it was for her child to have a toy medical kit when the family was coping with the arrival of a premature baby. Another parent found that giving her child an old briefcase encouraged play about going to work and helped lessen the problems when the mother went off to work.

#### Setting aside quiet, loving time to spend with your child

Those times might be at nap or bedtime, right after dinner, or first thing in the morning. Children need to be able to count on having special time with you all to themselves. When you make a regular time for that closeness, you are helping your child learn to trust that there will be "just you and me" time somewhere in their day.

#### Being available to your child

Sometimes all that children really need is the chance to say they are scared, or angry, or sad. Letting them know that you are there to listen helps them know you care about them and whatever they're feeling. Often they just want to know that people will love them even when they're going through hard times.

**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

### January 3-7 — "Day & Night Care"

*Mary Had a Little Lamb* by Sarah Hale. An old favorite nursery rhyme about a school-going lamb is freshly illustrated by photographer Bruce Macmillan.

### January 10-14 — "Families"

*The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant. "Oh, those relatives! You'd have to go through at least four different hugs to get from the kitchen to the front door." (On program #1554, Mister Rogers reads *Exactly As I Am*, made for the program.)

### January 17-21 — "Making and Creating"

*Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco. A little girl who is afraid of thunder learns to bake a cake "before the rain-drops begin" from her Russian-American grandmother. She also learns just how brave she really is. (On program #1559, May Sarton reads her poems, "The Fur Person" and "Halfway to Silence.")

### January 24-28 — "Celebrations"

*When Bluebell Sang* by Lisa Campbell Ernst. A singing cow named Bluebell, a talent agent, and a farmer make beautiful music until Bluebell becomes homesick.

### January 31-February 4 — "Playthings"

*What Game Shall We Play?* by Pat Hutchins. When Frog and Duck can't decide what game to play, they look to their friends for advice. And when they can't find their friends, Hide-and-Seek turns out to be the best game of all.

### February 7-11 — "Dance"

*Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?* by Nancy White Carlstrom. Jesse Bear dances through the day with stars in his eyes, with dreams in his head. (On program #1571, Mister Rogers reads *Rainy, Rainy Saturday* by Jack Prelutsky.)

### February 14-18 — "Love"

*Little Gorilla* by Ruth Bornstein. Everyone loves Little Gorilla even though he grows and grows and groooooows. (On program #1663, Mister Rogers reads *A Is for Animal* by David Pelham.)

### February 21-25 — "Things You Wear"

*Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina. A peddler loses his caps to a tree full of monkeys and cleverly retrieves them.

### February 28-March 4 — "Mistakes"

*Petunia* by Roger Duvoisin. Petunia is a silly goose who thinks that merely holding a book will make her wise.

### March 7-11 — "Alike and Different"

*The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf. For more than 50 years, children have listened to the story of this bull who was content to sit and smell the flowers. (On program #1582, Mister Rogers shows books from other countries.)

### March 14-18 — "Secrets"

*Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola. Big Anthony knows only part of the secret of Strega Nona's magic pasta pot — only the starting part. Not knowing how to stop the pot nearly buries the town in pasta.

### March 21-25 — "Nighttime"

*The Mitten* adapted by Jan Brett. A variation on an old folktale, this colorful Russian version tells of all the animals that seek warmth in an old mitten until a small mouse is just one animal too many.

### March 28-31 — "Kindness"

*Sam* by Ann Scott. Sam's family tells him he's too little to be part of their busy life, until a bit of loving attention relieves his sad feelings.

*Special thanks to Dr. Margaret Kimmel of the University of Pittsburgh School of Library Science for suggesting these books for our newsletter.*

MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD  
**CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP**

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

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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**



**Plan & Play Activities For February 21-25/Theme: Things You Wear**

**Thoughts for the Week**

Young children can develop very specific ideas about what they will and will not wear. Of course, there are times when they must wear certain clothes, like a jacket when it's cold, but there are other times when children can have choices about what to wear. Whatever we wear, it helps to know people can like us for who we are.

**#1671 Monday**

Mister Rogers brings a three-cornered hat and sings a three-cornered hat song. King Friday makes a rule that everyone must wear a three-cornered hat, but Lady Elaine chooses to wear something different.



**Three-Cornered Collages**

Some children might not know that three-cornered objects and triangles have the same shape. Can they point out any three-cornered items in your home or center (a scarf, three-legged stool, blocks, folded paper napkin)? Children who would like to make three-cornered collages can glue the triangle shapes onto construction paper to make designs. You could even cut the background construction papers into triangles before children begin making their collages. Some children may want to select collage items that are not triangles, and that's fine too!

**#1672 Tuesday**

In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, nearly everyone is wearing a three-cornered hat — everyone but Lady Elaine, that is. She is spending time in the WN (Will Not) Room because she will not wear a three-cornered hat.



**Sometimes Isn't Always**

Here are some ways to talk about today's program:

- What did you think of Lady Elaine's hat?
- How was it different from everyone else's hat?
- How would you feel if you were living in the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, and King Friday made a rule that everyone had to wear a three-cornered hat?
- How do you think Lady Elaine felt about the King's rule?
- What do you think might happen next in the Neighborhood of Make-Believe?

Children might be able to talk about times they felt like being different from the other children and times they felt like doing what everyone else was doing. You could talk about how they feel when they have to go along with the rules, even if they don't want to. Can they think of times when it is all right not to go along with what others are doing? Talking with trusted adults about their feelings can help children learn to manage them better.

**#1673 Wednesday**

Mister Rogers has two suitcases filled with shoes — one of each pair in each suitcase. He matches the shoes and talks about how people use them for different situations.

**Shoe Match**

To begin this game, place one shoe from each pair in one basket and the second shoe in another. Some children may not want others to touch their shoes, but you could have a supply of dress-up shoes available so that everyone can have a pair of shoes. One at a time, children take turns selecting a shoe from one container and then trying to find its match in the other basket. If you replace the shoes each time, the game will be just as challenging for each child. Talking with the children about differences in size, color, or shape can help them learn to recognize similarities and differences in objects. This might be a good day to add a few new pairs of shoes to the dress-up area. By adding shoe boxes, tissue paper, and a little stool, you could also set the stage for shoe store play.



**#1674 Thursday**

Mister Rogers brings crutches, a leg cast, and a photograph of the time he had a cast on his leg. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, Lady Elaine agrees to wear a three-cornered scarf instead of a three-cornered hat.

**My Scarf, It Has Three Corners**

See what ideas the children have for using three-cornered fabric or scarves. They might think of things like:

- wearing it for dress-up play;
- using it as part of a dance;
- making a pretend bandage;
- wrapping a baby doll;
- making a cape for superhero play.

The three-cornered fabric and scarves can be stored with the dress-up clothes so that children can continue to think of ways to use them in their dramatic play.

**#1675 Friday**

Mister Rogers brings a small sewing machine and shows a video about how people make blue jeans. In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, Lady Elaine and King Friday resolve their conflict and talk about their feelings.

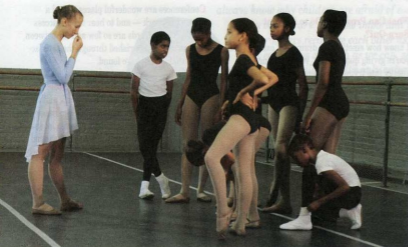
**Three-Cornered Pockets**

Today, you might want to help the children make three-cornered pockets for storing small objects or hiding things. You will need construction paper cut into sets of matching triangular shapes — one for the back and one for the front of each pocket. Some children may want paper pockets that are small enough to fit inside their own pockets. Others may want larger pockets that will hold messages, toy cars, or a small figure. You can use staples or wide tape to fasten the sides, leaving one side open, and then let the children decorate their paper pockets with crayons or markers.

*Note: Since these programs will be in production after our newsletter deadline, there may be some changes.*

## Highlights of Coming Programs

An important part of a family's professional team is the pediatrician. On program #1553 (scheduled for January 12) in the week about FAMILIES, pediatrician, Dr. Jane Breck, shows what happens during a regular checkup.



On program #1574 (scheduled for February 10) during the week about DANCE, Mister Rogers visits the Dance Theatre of Harlem to see some of the hard work and training that creates the beauty of ballet.

In the week about NIGHTTIME, on programs #1587 and #1589 (scheduled for March 22 & 24), Mister Rogers and Daniel Tiger meet with Tatiana Vedneeva and puppet Stepashka from a popular Russian television program. No matter where we live, there are adults who care about children.



# Neighborhood Poster

January • February • March / 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, "#1516" for January 3rd) 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.

### A Special Note

The activities for programs 1671-1675 (scheduled for February 21-25) appear on the opposite page. Since these programs will be in production after our newsletter deadline, there may be some changes.

January	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This Week: DAY & NIGHT CARE	<b>3</b> #1516 Visit to a Child-Care Home; Caregivers	<b>4</b> #1517 Feelings When Parents Are Away; Zipper Factory	<b>5</b> #1518 Exercises — Care for Our Bodies; Balloon Factory	<b>6</b> #1519 Eyeglasses; Scary Dreams & Nighttime Fears	<b>7</b> #1520 Feelings When Parents Return; Graham Crackers
	This Week: FAMILIES	<b>10</b> #1551 How People Make Orange Juice; Cousin Mary Owl	<b>11</b> #1552 Adoption Is One Way to Make a Family	<b>12</b> #1553 Pediatrician Exam; Cousin Reunion Plans	<b>13</b> #1554 Adoption Is Forever; Caring for Puppies
This Week: MAKING & CREATING		<b>17</b> #1556 Miniature Golf; Creative Play in Sand and Dirt	<b>18</b> #1557 Chinese Dumplings; Learning from Grandparents	<b>19</b> #1558 How People Make Rocking Horses; Friendships	<b>20</b> #1559 Poet May Sarton; Kitten Birth Film; Covers & Masks
	This Week: CELEBRATIONS	<b>24</b> #1561 How People Make Trumpets; Plans for Comet Celebration	<b>25</b> #1562 Show of Stars at Planetarium; Feeling Good & Bad	<b>26</b> #1563 Jazz with Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis	<b>27</b> #1564 Different Feelings about Birthdays; Candle Factory
This Week: PLAYTHINGS		<b>31</b> #1566 Gymnast Performs; Importance of Good Teachers			

February	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This Week: PLAYTHINGS		<b>1</b> #1567 Ella Jenkins; How People Make Toy Wagons	<b>2</b> #1568 A Visit to an Air Traffic Control Tower	<b>3</b> #1569 Musical Playthings; Wanting Something Too Expensive	<b>4</b> #1570 Toy Library; Lucy the Elephant Monument
	This Week: DANCE	<b>7</b> #1571 It's Raining; Tai-Chi Is Like a Dance	<b>8</b> #1572 Shamu the Whale; Caring for Fish	<b>9</b> #1573 How People Make Shoes; Sam Weber, Tap Dancer	<b>10</b> #1574 Dance Theater of Harlem
This Week: LOVE		<b>14</b> #1661 Teddy Bear Factory; Costumes Don't Change Who You Are	<b>15</b> #1662 Trip to Aviary; Caring for Birds; Work vs. Play	<b>16</b> #1663 Tired Feet; Angry & Loving Feelings	<b>17</b> #1664 Shaving, It Can Help to Talk about Feelings
	This Week: THINGS YOU WEAR	<b>21</b> #1671 Three-Cornered & Other Hats; A Bus Ride	<b>22</b> #1672 'Will Not' Feelings; Costumes: What Matters Is Who's Inside	<b>23</b> #1673 Different Shoes; An Organist; Grocery Bag Factory	<b>24</b> #1674 Casts & Crutches; Musical Delights; A Creative Solution
This Week: MISTAKES		<b>28</b> #1576 Feelings When People Laugh at Mistakes			

March	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
This Week: MISTAKES		<b>1</b> #1577 How People Make Books; Mistaken Delivery	<b>2</b> #1578 Helping Others After Mistakes; Eraser Factory	<b>3</b> #1579 Pianist André Watts; Practicing & Mistakes	<b>4</b> #1580 Poetry Day; Even Parents Sometimes Make Mistakes
	This Week: ALIKE & DIFFERENT	<b>7</b> #1581 Antique Car Show; A Song in Sign Language	<b>8</b> #1582 Television Programs Around the World	<b>9</b> #1583 Differences Between a Real Dog and Pretend 'Bob Dog'	<b>10</b> #1584 Feeling Jealous; Making Strudel
This Week: SECRETS		<b>14</b> #1596 Underground House; Secrets in Nesting Boxes; Bike Ride	<b>15</b> #1597 Treasure Hunt Game; Love Is a Good Secret to Tell	<b>16</b> #1598 Marble Sculptor at Work; Invisible Ink Pen	<b>17</b> #1599 When Secrets Are Uncomfortable; Blind Artist
	This Week: NIGHTTIME	<b>21</b> #1586 Nighttime Fears; How People Make Flashlights	<b>22</b> #1587 Mister Rogers Visits Russian TV Program	<b>23</b> #1588 Help with Fears of Firefighters' Gear & Bathroom Drains	<b>24</b> #1589 Russian Visitor Tatiana Vedeneva — Children's TV Host
This Week: KINDNESS		<b>28</b> #1591 Kind Reaction to McFeeley's Mistake; Harmonica Factory	<b>29</b> #1592 Eric Kloss Blind Saxophonist; Luray Cavern Visit	<b>30</b> #1593 Kindness to a Lost Kitten; Jump Rope Exercises	<b>31</b> #1594 How People Make Bicycle Helmets; Bicycle Safety