

YOU ARE SPECIAL

Step Into the World of Mr. Rogers

Celebrating Connections 2019

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WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor.
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

Fred M. Rogers 1967

As we gather today, consider these words written and sung by Mr. Rogers, "I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you! . . . Please won't you be my neighbor?" How many new neighbors will you meet today? Mr. Rogers said, "There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."

Family Communications (www.fci.org) shared the following list of "*Everything I Ever Needed to Know, I Learned From Mister Rogers.*"

Wonder about things.
Accept People as they are.
Look and listen carefully.
We all have feelings.
Teach by example.
Share. Play. Love.
Be yourself.

One of my most valuable life experiences was being a preschool teacher for 11 years at the Bridgeport United Methodist Preschool. The following quotation from You Are Special: Words of Wisdom from America's Most Beloved Neighbor are very special to me and I wish to share them with you. Mister Rogers wrote the following for us.

Do you ever wonder if you've made a difference in this life? Whether any of those who have come to your care have remembered anything you did for them – any ways you cared for them? I believe that by the time a child grows up, that child's first teacher and second teacher and all the child's important adults will have become incorporated into that child's development. . . . although they might not remember clearly, those of us who were the educators of their early lives will always be a part of who they are. Just like those who meant so much to us when we were children will always be part of who we are (page 148).

Respect, Response and Relationships – Working with Children & Families (Quotations from Mister Fred Rogers)

Demonstrate *respect for all children and families*. “We don’t have to like everyone in this world. But we can learn to be “neighborly” – respectful, courteous, and kind.”

Respond to the needs, interests and concerns of children and parents. “I try to understand the meaning of who people are and what they’re saying to me.”

Build *relationships* with children and families. “If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.

“Think of the children first.”

“As children grow, it’s important that they are able to love the person who they are, so they will continue to want to learn and succeed in life.”

Foster Social and Emotional Development in the Classroom

- Greet each child with a smile and welcome each by name.
- Practice good listening skills. Focus on what the child is saying.
- Have eye contact with the child talking with you.
- Let each child experience success every day.
- Provide opportunities for “no-fail” art activities than encourage creativity rather than planned, prepared activities with a predetermined outcome.
- Sing and enjoy music together.
- Encourage learning through exploration and discovery.
- Read and encourage the love of books.
- Have Joy in Your Heart and Enjoy Teaching!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY.

Quotations in this handout are from the following books by Fred Rogers.

Many Ways to Say I Love You (1977)

The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember (2004)

You Are Special: Neighborly Wisdom from Mister Rogers (2002)