





Conversations with the Authors
Webinar Series – Hedda Sharapan



Technology as a Tool for Social-Emotional Development: What We Can Learn from Fred Rogers' Approach

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Technology in Early Childhood

FRED ROGERS CENTER
FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDHOOD
TECHNOLOGY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD



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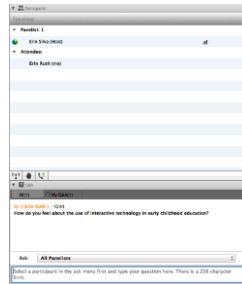
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Technology and Digital Media in the Early Years: Tools for Teaching and Learning



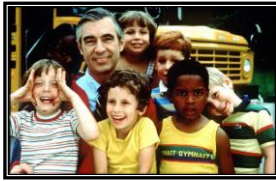
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25 Contributing Authors

- Ed Greene
- David Kleeman
- Alice Wilder
- **Hedda Sharapan**
- Roberta Schomburg
- Warren Buckleitner
- Michael Robb
- Alexis Lauricella
- Faith Rogow
- Lisa Guernsey
- Michael Levine
- Karen N. Nemeth
- Howard P. Parette
- Craig Blum
- Kate Highfield
- Mark Baily
- Bonnie Blagojevic
- Brian Puerling
- Angela Fowler
- Tamara Kaldor
- Luisa M. Cotto
- Cen Campbell
- Carisa Kluver
- Amanda Armstrong



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We have to help give children tools, building blocks for active play. And the computer is one of those building blocks. No computer will ever take the place of wooden toys or building blocks. But that doesn't mean they have to be mutually exclusive.



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What Matters Most?

- Relationships and social-emotional development matter
- Child development, DAP and ECE "essentials" matter
- Lisa's 3Cs – Content, Context and Child matter
- Creating media matters
- Digital media literacy matters
- Learning beyond the screen matters



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From the Joint Position Statement

When used wisely, technology and media can support learning and relationships. Enjoyable and engaging shared experiences that optimize the potential for children's learning and development can support children's relationships both with adults and their peers.



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Technology for Social-Emotional Development

While I'm struggling along with everyone else to find ways that early childhood professionals can use technology appropriately, I try to keep in mind something else I learned from Fred: "No matter how helpful computers are as tools (and of course they can be very helpful tools), they don't begin to compare in significance to the teacher-child relationship, which is human and mutual. A computer can help you learn to spell "HUG," but it can never know the risk of the joy or actually giving or receiving one." I keep that in mind so I myself don't get so fascinated by what the technology can do that I forget what it can't.

Hedda Sharapan



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Meet Hedda Sharapan



- M.S. in Child Development from the University of Pittsburgh
- Began with Mister Rogers' Neighborhood in 1966 - now in her 48th year with Fred Rogers and his company.
- Author of the monthly e-newsletter "What We Can Continue to Learn from Fred Rogers"
- *PNC Grow Up Great Senior Fellow* at The Fred Rogers Center
- Two daughters
 - Amy, who is in non-profit fund-raising for Technion, Israel's high-tech university
 - Laurie, who has an M.S. from Erikson and teaches in a north shore Chicago suburb
 - ...and two granddaughters (4 and 7)



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FRED ROGERS CENTER
for early learning and children's media
at Saint Vincent College

Technology as a Tool for Social-emotional Development: *What We Can Continue to Learn from Fred Rogers' Approach*



Fred Rogers' background

- His childhood





Fred Rogers' background

- Music composition
- NBC-TV New York
- WQED-TV
- Children's Corner
- Seminary



Fred Rogers' background

- Child Development Graduate School



Fred Rogers' background

- Working directly with children



Fred Rogers and Ella Jenkins



Thoughts from Fred Rogers

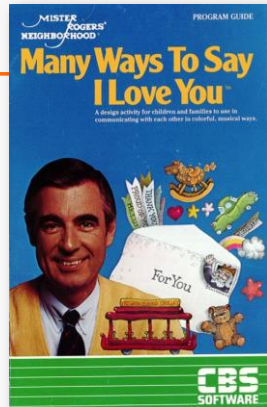


Episode 1746

One of the things I like about the computer is its ability to be interactive. A child is able to make things happen on the screen.

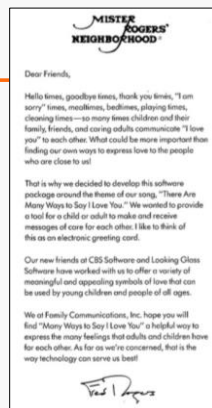
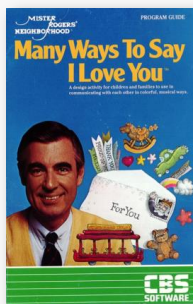


Many ways...





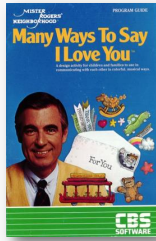
Many ways...



Many ways...

...We wanted to provide a tool for a child or adult to make and receive messages of care for each other.

...As far as we're concerned, that is the way technology can serve us best!



A coalition in Pittsburgh

A gathering of neighbors



A tool for social-emotional development

A tool for expressing feelings:

- Missing mom – send an email
- Photos of their own faces showing feelings
- Photo album – What CAN you do with the mad that you feel?

Daniel Tiger's Grr-ific Feelings



Daniel Tiger's Grr-ific Feelings



A tool for social-emotional development

A tool for developing self-control

- Very seductive – let's help with rules, a timer, early warnings
- Cleanup time – photos (let the children take the photos!)

A tool for social-emotional development



Handwriting Without Tears

- A tool for developing persistence
- Helpful for handling mistakes

A tool for social-emotional development

My Playhome

- A tool for inviting interaction
- More language



A tool for social-emotional development

Caution and collaboration

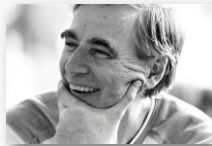
Thoughts from Fred Rogers



Before learning to match the word CAT with a picture of a cat on the screen, I would rather see a child be in the presence of someone who cares about cats and about children, someone who can help him or her come to respect cats for their grace and independence, grow to know that cats have feelings, that they need food and water, that each one is different, that they get tired, and they sleep, and they need to be loved.

Thoughts from Fred Rogers

The main question is not so much how the new technology can help children learn...it's rather, what will they do with what they learn? Will they use their knowledge to build...or will they use it to destroy? Only real human beings can help them know the real difference.



Q & A



Ask questions in the Q&A panel



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- **Connecting Child Development and Technology: What We Know and What It Means**
with Alexis Lauricella, Ph.D. & Michael Robb, Ph.D.
August 12, 2015 1:00pm – 2:30pm CST
- **Technology Tools for Strengthening Communities**
with Luisa Cotto
October 14, 2015 1:00pm – 2:30pm CST
- **Registration Coming Soon:**
New Research on Teacher Practices and Use of Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom
Courtney Blackwell, Ph.D.
December 1, 2015 1:00pm – 2:30pm CST

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