

# THE OPEN DOOR



JEFFERSON COUNTY  
CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION  
"TOGETHER WE SOAR!"

August/September, 2018

Jefferson County Child Care Association Meetings  
Held @ Clements Community Center  
1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood  
Meeting 6:30~9:15 P.M.

Please bring a dish for the pot luck. The meeting starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Providers may want to arrive early to allow time to check in, drop off food and visit the vendors. During the meeting, please be considerate of other providers that are attending the meetings, by turning off or silencing cell phones and limit conversation. **Please do not bring children to the meeting; breast fed babies only. All non-members pay \$10 at the door.**



## Association Meeting

**August 22, 2018**

### "Psychological First Aid for Preschool Teachers & Staff"

Presented by Lynn R. Garst, M. Ed; Colorado Office of  
Emergency Preparedness & Response

Participants will learn risk factors for traumatic stress, identify common reactions to emotional distress, list the five core actions of Psychological First Aid, and develop strategies and activities for supporting young children during disasters or emergencies.

1 hour Family & Community Partnerships (FCP 9.1; 9.2)

1 hour Social Emotional (TP 29.1; 29.2)

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## Association Meeting

**September 26, 2018**

Presented by Melissa Brophy, early childhood coach; Child  
Care Innovations

This course reviews how to use safe sleeping practices to  
reduce the risk of sleep-related infants death.

1 1/2 hours Health, Safety, and Nutrition

This training meets the requirement for Regulation 7.707.75G  
and is required annually.

## Tour of Homes

The Tour of Homes will be held on  
Sunday [September 16th](#), starting at 12:30  
pm with lunch at Sarah Hewitt's home;  
6369 Lamar Place Arvada, 80003. Tickets  
at the door will be \$20.00. Tickets may be  
purchased at the August Association  
meeting for \$15.00

[www.jeffcochildcare.org](http://www.jeffcochildcare.org)

### "PURPOSE"

- To offer a support system.
- To enhance and to promote professionalism among child care providers.
- To act as a liaison between providers.
- To further educate providers in all areas of child care.
- To have a voice in family child care rules.

**June/July, 2018 Newsletter**

**Volume 41 Issue 3**

JCCCA

P.O. Box 280853 Lakewood, CO 80228

## REFERRAL CORNER

Submitted by Tisa Smith

This is a list of the calls referral providers have received from parents looking for childcare for  
May, June 2018

North	Under 2	Over 2	School Age	Total
80002/80003	3	3	0	4
80033/80212	0	3	1	3
80004,20007	7	4	2	11
80005	11	0	0	11
80020, 80030,80031,80034	6	1	0	7
80021	4	1	0	4
Central	Under 2	Over 2	School Age	Total
80226	13	4	1	14
80228	9	0	0	9
80232, 80225,(80219)	12	1	1	12
80401, 80402 80403, 80419	6	0	0	6
80227, 80235	4	1	0	5
South/West/Mountain	Under 2	Over 2	School Age	Total
80127	9	3	0	11
80123, 80128	10	4	0	9
80465	7	2	0	8
80433, 80439, 80453, 80454, 80457	0	0	0	0
Nights and Weekends	1	1	0	2

### Mark Your Calendars!!

#### 2018 JCCCA Meetings

August 22nd, 2018

September 26th, 2018

October 24th, 2018

November 14th, 2018

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER



JCCCA Board Meetings are held on the First Monday of each month. Please call Marilyn Dean if you would like to attend (303-979-5952).

### Treasury Report

May 7th - June 3rd, 2018

Submitted By: Kim Roby

Beginning Balance: \$24,665.77

Income 208.00

Total \$24,873.77

Expenses 2,434.96

Total/Income Expense \$23,270.02



# **PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

Dear Members

Hope you are all really enjoying the beautiful HOT weather we have had! Summer is such a wonderful time of year to enjoy the outdoors with the kids. This summer it seems like you had to enjoy the outdoors really early in the day because later it was just too HOT! Wow!

With summer coming to a close soon, we need to think about all that the fall season entails for us in the child caring business. I'd like to talk to you about 'Working with a VISION'. We need a vision for the coming year! Here are some quotes I found about 'Vision'.

**"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style" Maya Angelou**

**"We are limited not by our abilities but by our vision." Anonymous**

**"Where there is no vision, there is no hope." George Washington Carver**

I find these quotes to be so inspirational! I have talked many times to you about how important it is for us to "Make a Difference". It is so important to me to do just that with the people I have in my life.....for one - the children that pass through my doors. In order to make a difference, we must have a vision. Vision meaning.....a plan.....ideas.....goals. As this new school year gets closer, we need to get our heads screwed on straight, figure out how we plan to make this next year our very best year. What can we change, add or make more interesting in our child care programs? What new things can we do with the babies to make them happier and thrive in our care? Do we need new ideas? (Find some helpful resources, talk to other providers about exciting ideas they may have, supplement your own curriculum with a purchased curriculum, check out Pinterest for new ideas, set goals for intentional teaching, reorganize the children's daily schedule to better focus on learning and play, change your attitude, get involved with Colorado Shines, etc.) So many of us have worked with children for years. No doubt about our abilities and experience.....what about our passion, our humor, and our style? What is your style? Make your style GREAT for KIDS!

**"Children are remarkable for their intelligence and ardor, for their curiosity, their intolerance of shams, the clarity and ruthlessness of their vision". Aldous Huxley**

Aren't kids great? We have the best people in the world to work with every day. They are like little sponges soaking up every word and action we say and do. We don't have to go crying in the bathroom because they hurt our feelings or undermine our efforts or tell us how bad we are at our job. They tell us how they love us. (Yes, I know there are days and there are days where we question our reasons for working with children and their families). All said and done....we have the best job in the world.

Caring for young children.

I encourage you all to start now to plan how the next year will go with your childcare, things you want to include, how you want to involve parents more. More than anything.....How will you make a difference in these children's lives? Have a VISION!!

**BURN BRIGHTLY BUT DON'T BURN OUT!**

Marilyn Dean



## JCCCA'S GARDEN CONTEST

# "HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?"

### Timeline:

Beginning Date: April 25th (at JCCCA meeting)

Documentation due: September 26<sup>th</sup> (on or before)

Winners announced: October 24 (at JCCCA meeting)

### Categories:

1. Container garden

2. Herb garden

3. Vegetable garden

4. Flower garden

**Please document your project with photos. (Make sure you have a release for photos of children)**

**(Simple and easy. Doesn't have to be complicated. Just a photo or just write about it.)**

**Submit by email, flash drive, CD or bring to September JCCCA meeting.**

### Ideas that will help you win a prize! :

- Most original/creative (look on Pinterest, JCCCA's face book page, internet, etc)
- Describe how your garden was incorporated into learning experiences with childcare; math, science, cooking, etc.
- Explain how you include your community/child care families
- Photos would be fantastic!
- Show how your child care children were involved in the garden process:  
(Planning, preparing, planting, caring, harvest and enjoying the results)

### PRIZES:

**Grand Prize: Herbal Garden valued at \$150. Great Prizes and Gift cards valued from \$25 to \$50 will be given out for each category winner(s)**



**REGISTER:** Register at the April or May Association meeting, email Diane Gonda [bdgonda@g.com](mailto:bdgonda@g.com).

Information is available on the website: [jeffcochildcare.org](http://jeffcochildcare.org)

**QUESTIONS?** Call Sue 720-934-7968, Diane 303-232-1049, Carrie 303-432-7979, Marilyn 303-979-5952

*Cut here for registration*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of children participating \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

# Children's Book Review & Activity

Submitted by Carrie Kennedy

*Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney

Llama Llama starts a new school but is feeling a bit shy and misses Mama. He wonders if she's coming back. How will he get through the day?

**Themes:** school, separation, making new friends, emotions/feelings, rhyming, llamas, mothers

**Discussion:** Have any of the children ever felt this way when going to somewhere new? How do they feel when they go somewhere new? What are some ways to make new friends at a new school? How does Llama Llama feel at the end of the day? Does his mama come back? Reassure the children their parents will always come back to get them.

## **Activities:**

1. Have the children draw a picture of their first day at school or themselves with their mother/parents. Find the rhyming words. Go through the book with the children and find the words that rhyme.

## **Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines being met\***

*(\*For book reading and activity #2. Additional guidelines can be met by completing other activities.)*

*Activities may need to be slightly adjusted for your group to meet all guidelines.*

For more information on Colorado ELDGs visit <http://earlylearningco.org/>

## **4-8 months**

### **Language & Literacy Development**

4.1 Explore books and show interest in adult-initiated literacy activities, such as looking at photos and exploring books together with an adult

## **9-18 months**

### **Language & Literacy Development**

3.1 Use conventional gestures and words to communicate meaning in short back-and-forth interactions.

3.2 Use the basic rules of conversational turn-taking when communicating.

4.1 Listen to the adult and participate while being read to by pointing, turning pages, or making one- or two-word comments.

## **19-36 months**

### **Social Development**

1.1 Interact with adults to solve problems or communicate about experiences or ideas.

4.1 Understand that other people have feelings that are different from their own.

5.1 Talk about their own wants and feelings and those of other people.

5.2 Describe familiar routines

## **Emotional Development**

2.2 Identify themselves and others as members of one or more groups by referring to categories.

4.2 Demonstrate the awareness of their feelings by using words to describe feelings to others or acting them out in pretend play.

## **Language & Literacy Development**

1.1 Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of others' comments, questions, requests, or stories.

2.1 Communicate in a way that is understandable to most adults who speak the same language they do.

2.2 Combine words into simple sentences.

3.1 Engage in back—and-forth conversations that contain a number of turns, with each turn building upon what was said in the previous turn.

4.1 Listen ask questions or make comments while being read to.

## **Approaches to Learning**

2.2 Remember characteristics of the environment or people in it.

2.3 Briefly describe recent past events or act them out.

## **3-5 years**

## **Social & Emotional Development**

1.1 Communicate with familiar adults and accept or request guidance

1.7 Recognize and label others' emotions.

2.1 Identify personal characteristics, preferences, thoughts, and feelings.

## **English Language Development**

2.3 Use one or two English words sometimes joined to represent a bigger idea.

3.1 Demonstrate eagerness to participate in songs, rhymes, and stories in English.

3.2 Point to pictures and says the words in English.

3.4 Talk with peers or adults about a story read in English.

## **Language Development**

1.1 Attend to language during conversations, songs, stories, or other learning experiences.

1.2 Comprehend increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.

1.3 Comprehend different forms of language, such as questions or exclamations.

2.1 Engage in communication and conversation with others.

2.2 Use language to express ideas and needs.

2.3 Use increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.

2.6 Engage in storytelling.

2.7 Engage in conversations with peers and adults.

## **Literacy Knowledge & Skills**

1.1 Show interest in shared reading experiences and looking at books independently.

1.2 Recognize how books are read, such as front-to-back and one page at a time, and recognize basic characteristics, such as title, author and illustrator.

- 1.3 Ask and answer questions and make comments about print materials.
- 1.5 Retell stories or information from books through conversation, artistic works, creative movement, or drama.
- 1.6 Make predictions based on illustrations or portions of story or text.
- 2.3 Identify and discriminate between sounds and phonemes in language, such as attention to beginning and ending sounds of words and recognition that different words begin or end with the same sound.
- 2.4 Recognize patterns of sounds in songs, storytelling, and poetry.
- 3.3 Attend to the beginning letters and sounds in familiar words.
- 4.2 Understand that print conveys meaning.
- 4.5 Recognize the association between spoken or signed and written words.
- 5.2 Recognize that writing is a way of communicating for a variety of purposes, such as giving information, sharing stories, or giving an opinion.

### **Science Knowledge & Skills**

- 2.4 Identify, predict, and extend patterns based on observations and representations of objects in the sky, daily weather, and seasonal changes.
- 2.5 Observe and describe patterns observed over the course of a number of days and nights, possibly including differences in the activities or appearance of plants and animals.

### **Approaches to Learning**

- 1.1 Demonstrate flexibility, imagination, and inventiveness in approaching tasks and activities.
- 1.2 Demonstrate eagerness to learn about and discuss a range of topics, ideas, and tasks.
- 1.3 Ask questions and seek new information.

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## **Provider of the Month May 2018**

The provider of the month of May is Valerie Lovato. Valerie is the mother of three children, two boys and one girl, and grandmother to three. Her favorite thing is family time, spending a lot of time attending her grandchildren's sporting events. When time allows, she also likes to crochet.

Valerie always wanted to be at home with her children so she thought she would check into a foster care license. When that didn't seem like it would work out, she decided to get her childcare license. She's always been a home body and this would allow her to be at home, take care of her own children, and also give some love to other children. Being in the childcare business and being licensed for seventeen years has made it possible for her to also be there to care for her grandchildren. Valerie says she prays every morning that she will have patience and it will be a good day, that the day will go well and the children will be protected and get along. Her advice to others is to take it a day at a time and it will all fall into place.

Valerie has been a member of JCCCA for two years. She attended her first meeting when a friend invited her to come. She thinks JCCCA is wonderful, that there is great communication, and says she gets a lot out of the meetings.

JCCCA thanks Valerie for her dedication to children and congratulates her on being provider of the month.





Nominate Your  
Child Care Provider  
For JCCCA  
Provider of The Month!!!  
E-Mail Sheryl  
sortizkids@msn.com



## Picky Eaters: Tips and Tricks

- ✓ Introduce new foods mixed in with old favorites.
- ✓ Use dipping sauces to help with new fruits and veggies.
- ✓ Try new veggies both cooked and raw, or even frozen
- ✓ Let your child feel, smell, and even play with new foods.
- ✓ Model healthy eating yourself!
- ✓ Don't give up on foods your child won't try. Offer them again in a few days.
- ✓ Introduce a wide variety of foods and textures from an early age.
- ✓ Take children to select and buy fresh foods from the market.
- ✓ Try new, exotic foods together as a family.
- ✓ Consider growing fruit, veggies, or herbs at home, even in a pot on the windowsill.
- ✓ Safely enlist your child's help in meal preparation.
- ✓ Do not force your child to "clean the plate." (Let them feel the feelings of hunger or fullness on their own.)
- ✓ Do not let your child graze on simple snacks throughout the day- Offer 3 nutritious meals and few balanced snacks between meals as well.
- ✓ Do not use desserts as a reward for healthy eating.
- ✓ Use cookie cutters to make fun shapes with new food.
- ✓ Encourage older children to set good examples in adventurous/healthy eating.
- ✓ Add healthy veggies to pureed sauces and smoothies to help introduce new flavors.
- ✓ Visit [www.choosemyplate.gov/kids](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/kids) for info about USDA guidelines for child nutrition.

## Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands



Wash, wash, wash your hands

Gotta get them clean,  
Every finger one by one,  
And lather in between!

*\*To the tune of Row, Row,  
Row Your Boat*

## Yummy Peas & Bacon Pasta

Serves 4, Takes 30 min.

### Ingredients:

8 oz bacon, diced	8 oz dry penne pasta
¾ cup diced onion	1 cup frozen peas
½ tsp. garlic powder	½ cup sour cream
2 ½ cups chicken broth	Salt and pepper
½ c milk	Grated Parmesan

### Directions

In a large skillet over medium heat, cook the bacon until crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon to a paper towel lined plate. Drain all but about 2 tablespoons of the bacon grease in the skillet.

To the hot bacon grease, add the onion and cook until softened, about 5-8 minutes. Pour in the chicken broth and the milk, and bring to a boil. Once the liquid is boiling, add the dry pasta and reduce the heat to medium-low. Cover the skillet and allow the pasta to cook until al dente, about 15 minutes.

Once the pasta is cooked, add the garlic powder and peas and continue to cook until they have defrosted. Stir in the sour cream and the reserved bacon. Taste and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve immediately, topped with parmesan cheese. ([www.tasteandtellblog](http://www.tasteandtellblog))



### All the Leaves are Falling Down

Tune: "London Bridges Falling Down"

All the leaves are falling down, falling down,  
falling down.

(Imitate leaves falling down)

All the leaves are falling down, it is Fall.

Make a pile and jump right in, jump right in,  
jump right in.

(Children jump forward)

Make a pile and jump right in, it is Fall.

### Pumpkin Cheesecake Dip

1 pkg cream cheese, softened

1 can pumpkin pie filling

½ container Cool Whip topping, thawed

½ c. sugar

½ tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Sliced apples

Graham crackers

- Use an electric mixer to combine cream cheese, pumpkin pie filling, Cool Whip, sugar, and pumpkin pie spice.
- Serve with apples and graham crackers for dipping- Yummy and healthy!



### Fall Sensory Play

Sensory play is any type of play that stimulates your child's senses: sight, touch, smell, taste, hearing, and balance. Sensory play can get MESSY! But sensory play is so important to help children naturally engage in scientific processes and learning. Here are some fall sensory play ideas for you and your child:

- 1) Fill a small bin with un-popped popcorn kernels, medicine cups, and small farm animals. Practice pouring "feed" for the animals into the cups and making animal sounds together.
- 2) Cut two or three small pumpkins in half and discard the pulp and seeds. Fill a large bin with water and stones. Use the pumpkin shells as boats to help the stones float. How many before the boat sinks?
- 3) Fill a small bin with sunflower seeds, pinecones, and plastic fall leaves from a craft store. Take turns hiding the pinecones under the leaves and seeds for the other person to find.

## Family Child Care Home Inspection Checklist

A checklist to help you prepare for your home inspection. A comprehensive list of the rules is not included on this form.

### General Rules

The following must be posted in a prominent location (**7.701.56**):

- Current license, most recent report of inspection (or notification of where it can be obtained), complaint reporting procedures, child abuse reporting information
- Emergency phone numbers, including substitute and location of children's emergency numbers

The following written emergency plans must be available (**7.701.100**):

- Disaster plan (including evacuation plans, shelter in place, lockdown, and active shooter on premises)
- Reuniting families after a disaster
- Evacuation of children with disabilities
- Continuity of operations after a disaster

The following emergency drills must be documented (**7.701.100**):

- Emergency drills, lockdown, and active shooter must be practiced quarterly
- Fire drills must be practiced monthly
- Tornado drills must be practiced monthly (March-October)

The following background checks must be completed (**7.701.32, 7.701.33**):

- Child abuse and neglect background check for everyone over 18 years old in the household
- CBI and FBI letters for everyone over 18 years old in the household

Background check information can be found at:

[http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec/OEC\\_Providers?p=Providers&s=Background-Checks&lang=en](http://coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com/oec/OEC_Providers?p=Providers&s=Background-Checks&lang=en)

### Children's Records

- The following information needs to be on each child's enrollment forms and undated annually (**7.707.51**):
  - \*Child's name, birthdate, enrollment date, current address, home phone, family member's names
  - \*Parent/Guardian name, address, home phone, employer name, employer address, employer phone, how parents/guardians can be reached during child care hours
  - \*Emergency contact name, address, phone number
  - \*Authorized pick up person's name, address, phone number
  - \*Name, address, phone number of child's physician, dentist and hospital of choice
  - \*Medications child is taking, medical concerns, allergies, health information
- Authorization Forms (**7.707.51**):
  - \*A dated, written authorization for emergency medical care signed and updated annually by the parent(s) or guardian(s)
  - \*Written authorization for a child to participate in field trips or excursions
  - \*Written authorization for media use
  - \*Written authorization for special activities
  - \*Written authorization to apply sunscreen/topical preparations
  - \*Written authorization to transport children to/from school
- Health Forms
  - \*Current health statement, signed and dated by a health care provider
  - \*Current immunizations on the CDPHE approved form

### Trainings (required trainings must be completed by an approved trainer)

- Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Training (FEMA)  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-36>
- Pre-licensing Training \*\*\*
- Standard Precautions \*\*\*
- First Aid/CPR \*\*\*

# Recipes For Kids

## Quick Quesadilla



Quesadillas, a popular menu item in Mexico, are made by folding a corn or flour tortilla in half and filling it with a variety of ingredients such as vegetables, cheese, beans, and meat. This recipe puts a twist on the traditional favorite by baking the quesadillas, instead of toasting them on a griddle or in a pan. This allows you to cook several at one time. Try topping these quesadillas with avocado, cilantro, or salsa.

### Ingredients

2 1/4 cups Spinach, frozen, chopped (2 1/4 cups thawed and drained. Yields 1 1/2 cups)  
1 cup dark red kidney beans, canned, no salt added, drained and rinsed or kidney beans, dry, cooked  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon onion powder  
1/4 teaspoon Chili powder  
4 whole-grain tortillas, 8" (at least 51 g each)  
1 1/2 cups Mozzarella cheese, low-fat, shredded  
Nonstick cooking spray

### Directions

1. Thaw, drain, and squeeze excess liquid from spinach. Yields 1 1/2 cups.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
3. Place kidney beans in a small microwaveable bowl.
4. Add garlic powder, onion powder and chili powder.
5. Lightly mash beans by squeezing using gloved hands (at least 50% of the beans should appear whole). Be careful not to over-mash beans.
6. Heat in microwave for 1 minute. Stir with a spoon.
7. Prepare Quesadillas:
  - a. Place half of the tortillas on a baking sheet. Spread 3/4 cup of spinach on each tortilla. Top each with 3/8 cup of bean mixture and 3/4 cup of cheese.
  - b. Place remaining tortillas on top.
  - c. Spray outside of filled quesadillas with nonstick cooking spray.
8. Bake for 15 minutes. Heat Quesadillas to an internal temperature of 140 degrees or higher for at least 15 seconds.
9. Cut each Quesadilla into 6 wedges.

10. Serve 2 wedges or 1/3 quesadilla.

Optional: Served with sliced or mashed avocado cilantro or salsa.

Critical Control Point: Hold at 140 degrees or higher.

**Notes:**

CACFP Crediting Information:

2 wedges (1/3 quesadilla) provides legume as meat alternate: 1 1/2 ounce equivalent meat alternate, 1/4 cup vegetable grains or Legume as vegetable: 1 ounce equivalent meat alternate, 3/8 cup vegetable, and 1 ounce equivalent grains.

**Tips for Soaking Dry Beans**

1 lb. dry kidney beans = about 2 1/2 cups dry or 6 1/4 cups cooked beans.

Overnight Method: Add 1 3/4 qt. cold water to every 1 lb. of dry beans. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Discard the water. Proceed with recipe.

Quick-Soak Method: Boil 1 3/4 qt. of water for each 1 lb. of dry beans. Add beans and boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to soak for 1 hour. Discard the water. Proceed with recipe.

**Tips for Cooking Dry Beans**

Once the beans have been soaked, add 1 3/4 qt. water for every lb. of dry beans. Boil gently with lid tilted until tender, about 2 hours. Use cooked beans immediately.

**Critical Control Point:** Hold for hot service at 140 °F or higher or chill for later use. To chill, cool to 70 °F within 2 hours and to 40 °F or lower within an additional 4 hours

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*Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.* —Fred Rogers

# Seven Reasons Why We Need Mister Rogers More Than Ever

By Paul Asay

On Feb. 2, 1968—Groundhog Day—Simon & Garfunkel recorded the final version of their classic song “Mrs. Robinson” for their album *Bookends*. It includes one of the most poignant lines in all of pop music:

*Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? Our nation turns its lonely eyes to you.*

“I thought of him as an American hero and that genuine heroes were in short supply,” Paul Simon later told [The New York Times](#). And indeed, in early 1968, they were. The country was mired in the Vietnam War. Protests raged at home. The country had never felt so divided, so angry. After the heroics of World War II and the unbridled American self-confidence of the 1950s, the United States must’ve felt like a stick bent to its breaking point, ready to splinter.

The country needed a hero.

On Feb. 19, 1968, just 17 days after Simon & Garfunkel put Mrs. Robinson in *Bookends*, it got one.

Most folks didn’t know it yet, of course. *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*, featuring a rather un-telegenic, soft-spoken minister as its host, director, singer, writer and puppeteer, was meant for kids too young to tie their shoes, much less write think-pieces for *The New Yorker*. But as Focus Features’ new, wonderful documentary *Won’t You Be My Neighbor* (out in theaters beginning this weekend) illustrates, he was a good hero for those turbulent times. And, I think, the sort of hero we need more than ever.

Fred Rogers wasn’t a television novice when he launched *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* on NET (the forerunner to PBS) in 1968. He’d worked on a show called *The Children’s Corner* for Pittsburgh’s WQED years before, introducing Daniel Tiger when (according to the movie) one of the live show’s ancient film clips broke.

But if Daniel’s introduction to the world of television was a spontaneous thing, *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* was anything but. As *Neighbor* unpacks for us, Rogers carefully thought through every word and lyric, almost every *moment*, crafting a show that would never talk *down* to its young viewers but wrap an arm around them and talk *to* them. Rogers called the space between his cameras and his viewers’ televisions “holy ground,” and indeed something sacrosanct took place there.

When you contrast what Mister Rogers did back then with our own frenetic entertainment culture—heck, with our entire national climate—it’s striking to see the difference, and feel just what we’re lacking. Consider:

**He was quiet.** “For Fred, silence was his delight,” we’re told in *Neighbor*. We’re treated to a montage of some of the many times that he stopped talking and just let his audience ... listen.

Most folks would call that “dead air,” back then as they would now. Today, to sit in silence is practically a cultural sin. We bring our phones and devices of distraction with us wherever we go, even into the toilet stall. I do, too. It’s like we can’t stand to be alone with ourselves. To grow quiet. To think. Rogers reminds us that when we lose silence, we lose much more. We lose, maybe, a bit of ourselves.

**He listened.** This might be one of the most remarkable things I was struck with watching *Neighbor*: How well he listened to those around him—no matter how young they were, no matter what they said. Children might tell him something funny. Or tragic. Or profound. He treated each missive as a gift—an almost sacred message, from one child of God to another.



I used to think of myself as a good listener. I'm not so sure anymore. I "talk" for a living, here and elsewhere. And sometimes, even when I'm listening even to the people most precious in my life, I feel my attention wander. I can feel my eyes darting, looking for the next distraction; search the conversation for another opportunity to let folks know what to think. How many times have I lost an opportunity to listen and learn? How many moments have I lost to create a greater connection? More broadly, how many of our societal ills and angsts could be treated and even healed through just ... listening? I think we'd be surprised.

**He was gentle, but strong.** In *Neighbor*, we see scenes aplenty when Rogers' famous gentleness was mocked and lampooned. And indeed, his ultra-sincere persona and curious, almost lyrical-sounding voice can foster a very Rogers-esque stereotype of a milquetoast man. Truth is, he was anything but. He stood for things and, once he found his footing, never wavered from them. He stared down congress. He fought for racial equality. The very first week *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* was on the air, according to *Neighbor*, Rogers tackled the Vietnam War.

Today, we see politicians and pundits bluster and blow like big, bad wolves—huffing and puffing, bellowing and retracting what they just bellowed. Rogers did Theodore Roosevelt one better: He spoke quietly, and instead of carrying a stick, he bore only his convictions. And so often, they were enough.

**He was real.** We've witnessed a lot of heroes fall lately. TV stars, politicians, even religious leaders have illustrated how wide the gap can be between a public persona and who a person is, deep down.

We all have inconsistencies to our characters, of course. We sin. We fail. We think or say or do things we should not. *All* of us do. Even, I'm sure, Mister Rogers. But everything I've read about him—and what I see in *Neighbor*—suggests that Rogers was as true to, and as honest with, himself, and thus to his audience, as anyone can be. He didn't just pretend to listen: He listened. He didn't just pretend to care: He cared. Tom Junod's 1998 *Esquire* profile of Rogers illustrates that really well, and it might be one of the best profiles I've ever read. (caution, though. It can be profane at times.)

**He was vulnerable (in a way).** *Neighbor* makes the case that Mr. Rogers' puppet alter-ego was the watch-wearing Daniel Striped Tiger—sweet, shy and deeply vulnerable. Rogers admits in the movie that it's far easier to let Daniel express his fears than he, as a grown man, to admit to them. But he, unlike most of us, still admits to them. And through Daniel, he gave the children he spoke to permission to express their own fears and doubts.

Funny that, in our social media age where we all share so much of ourselves, rarely do we share our vulnerability. We post our smiling vacation pictures and brag about our kids and express our deep political convictions in sometimes strident, shrill terms. But I think that often it's our vulnerabilities, not our strengths, that make people gravitate toward us and allow them to trust us. I think that that's part of what Paul meant in 2 Corinthians 12, when he told us that God's power is made perfect in weakness. Rogers' knew that, too. Our weaknesses open the door to fellowship. And that's where strength is found.

**He was devout.** Rogers was an ordained minister, and throughout *Neighbor* we hear how Mister Rogers' Neighborhood was his pulpit. He preached from his fake television house and told his young viewers that they were loved just as they were—but they still needed to learn and grow, too. And that brings us to, perhaps, Rogers' most powerful, enduring message.

**He believed in us all.** That feels like a strong statement, but I don't think it's a stretch. Rogers believed in us all. He believed that all of us—young and old—were worthy of love. We were lovable.

"Love is at the root of everything," he says in the film. "All learning, all relationships. Love, or the lack of it."

*Neighbor* tells us that some of his critics took Rogers' message of self-love and self-acceptance as his license to coddle a generation. They equate Rogers' open-handedness to a baseball game where no one keeps score.

But Junlei Li, a professor of psychology and human development and co-director of the Fred Rogers Center, says that Rogers was simply expressing—embracing—a cornerstone of Christian belief: “You are the beloved son or daughter of God.”

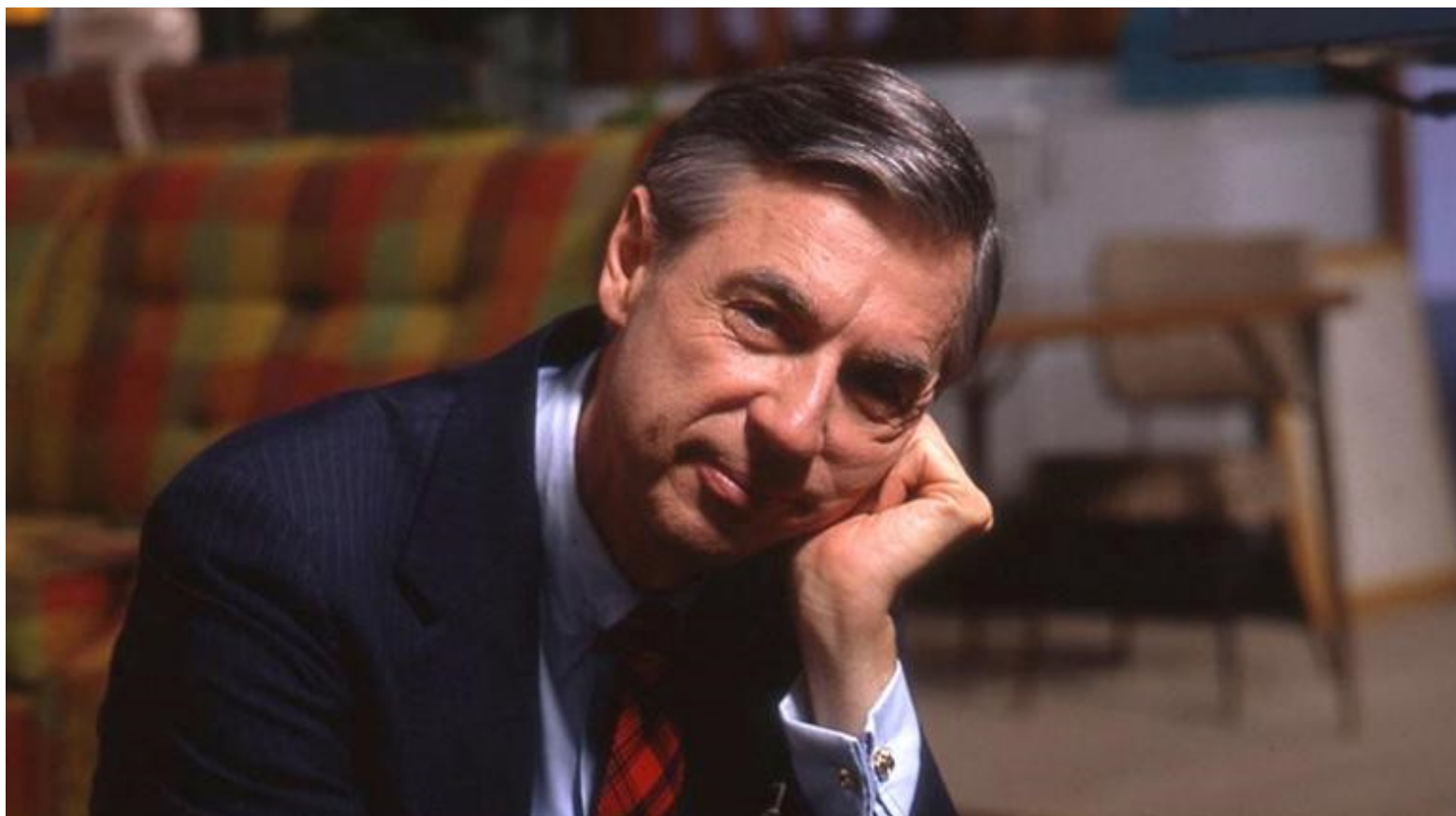
God loves His children unconditionally. He loves them, in Rogers' own words, *just the way we are*. That doesn't mean we should stop learning and growing, any more than Rogers' thought his young viewers would be better off without learning to read or count or tie their shoes. We can always be better. We can, and should, always improve, as much as our skills and gifts allow us to. But it's not a condition of God's love. That love is constant—more than the sun or moon or stars.

Mister Rogers showed us what that love looks like. He shaped countless children who can, and perhaps should, speak into a world that very much needs Rogers-like wisdom.

Fred Rogers died in 2003. He never knew a world with Facebook or the iPhone, with ISIS or the #MeToo movement or Donald Trump as President.

But as *Won't You Be My Neighbor* suggests, Rogers—his wisdom, his heart, his gentle bravery—is very much needed in this world of ours. Our nation turns its lonely eyes to him.

Even though he's gone, Rogers gave many of us some powerful, beautiful lessons. And maybe it's up to us to now be the heroes that he taught us to be.





# Back to School Sensory Bin

By Erin Denney



The back to School Sensory Bin contains rainbow dyed rice (dyed with kool aid for additional sense of smell), various erasers (suns, apples, A+, smiley face, stars, and crayons) and apple gems .

## Child Care Insurance Option

### American Family Insurance

Aaron Turner Agency, Inc 720-941-5833

### Assure

1-855-818-5437  
www.assurechildcare.com

### Child Care Insurance Professionals 1-888-812-9992

### Daycare Defender

1-800-410-6333  
www.dcdefender.com

### Farmers Insurance

Doug Draper 303-985-8800

Mike Boling 303-979-0315

Markel 1-888-515-8537

www.markelchildcare.com

### New England Insurance Services, Inc 1-888-845-8288

www.neisinc.com

*"Let's Read Together" Reading Program  
starting at the August meeting. Come  
register and get ready to participate. FREE  
books for all your kids at completion at the  
October Meeting.*



***When little people are  
overwhelmed by big emotions,  
it's our job to share our calm,  
not to join their chaos.  
—L.R. Knost***

## CAFCC Colorado Association Of Family Child Care

CAFCC is the professional voice of Colorado's 4000 licensed child care providers.

Since 1972 CAFCC has promoted:

- ♦ The positive professional image of Family Child Care according to current Colorado rules and regulations.
- ♦ The promotion of positive working relationships with the child care community at local, state and national levels.
- ♦ The education of the community about the benefits of family child care.

Only through membership can the voice of one be heard by many! Dues are \$30.00 per year.

Join the state association today by contacting:

The CAFCC Treasurer, Charlotte Duerr, 1-970-669-0836.

The next meeting date is June 23rd, 2018  
Bear Valley Church  
1001 West Jewell Avenue—Room 202  
Lakewood, CO  
9:00 am Pot Luck, Bring a Dish.

## County Associations

Adams County ~ <http://www.childcareinadamsco.org/>

Arapahoe County ~ <http://www.acfcca.org>

Boulder County ~ <http://www.bcfcca.org/>

Broomfield ~ <http://childcarebroomfield.org>

A Caregiver Network ~ <http://www.caregivernetwork.org>

CAFCC Meeting ~ Location: Bear Valley Church, 10001

West Jewell Avenue – Room 202 Lakewood,

CO <http://www.coloradochildcare.com>

Denver County ~ <http://www.dafcc.com/>

Douglas County ~

<http://www.douglascountychildcare.com/>

Northeast Denver Child Care Network ~ <http://ndccn.org/>

Licensed Family Child Care Association (Larimer, Weld,  
Boulder counties)

<http://www.licensedfamilychildcareassociation.org/index.html>

Weld County Family Child Care Association ~

<http://weldcochildcare.org/>

## Training

For a list of the most current Licensed Child Care Provider training requirements, Required Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response training, and "Mandatory Reporter" class that fulfills the Recognition & Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect training go to JCCCA's website.

**A Caregiver Network** ~ <http://caregivernetwork.org/training/> Pre-Licensing, Standard Precautions

**Advanced Care** ~ 303-384-3696 <http://advancedcarecpr.com/>

**Child Care Innovations** ~ 303-914-6307

<http://www.cciproviderpost.org/>

**Care Courses** ~ 1-800-685-7610

[www.carecourses.com](http://www.carecourses.com)

**Childcare Educational Opportunities** ~

Judy 303- 886-8077

<http://childcareeducationalopportunities.com>

CPR, First Aid, Standard Precautions, Medication Class and Correspondence Courses.

**ECP ~ Early Childhood Professions Online /**

**Courses in Early Childhood Education** ~

Phyllis A Dobson 303-352-4033

[www.ccconline.org](http://www.ccconline.org) Email: Phyllis.

[Dobson@ccd.ccoes.edu](mailto:Dobson@ccd.ccoes.edu)

**Kid-mit-ment** ~ Patricia 303-693-8088 Offering correspondence courses. Patricia is also available for provider support.

**Qualistar** 303-339-6800

[www.qualistar.org/training/early-childhood-education-training](http://www.qualistar.org/training/early-childhood-education-training)

**Smart Horizons** ~ 1-800-261-6248

<http://www.smarthorizons.org/naccrra/rccc/>

**Wildwood Resources, Inc.** ~ 303-730-0460

[www.wildwoodonline.org](http://www.wildwoodonline.org) Standard Precautions

Training and Continuing Education Correspondence Courses.

Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement by JCCCA.

## First Aid, CPR & Medication Training Courses

To find a full list of Division of Early Care and Learning approved training vendors for First Aid and CPR; Medication Administration; and Standard Precautions

[www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com](http://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com)

**A Caregiver Network** ~ 303-916-2530

[www.caregivernetwork.org](http://www.caregivernetwork.org)

**Advanced Care** ~ 303-384-3696

<http://advancedcarecpr.com/>

**Child Care Innovations** ~ 303-914-6307

<http://www.cciproviderpost.org/>

**Childcare Education Opportunities** ~ 303-886-8077

<http://childcareeducationalopportunities.com>

**The Child Health Connection** ~ 303-431-2446

**Colorado CPR Pros** ~ 720-708-

9705 <https://coloradocprpros.com/>

**Heart Smart** ~ 303-456-8543

Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement by JCCCA.

*~Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement by JCCCA~*

## Child Care INNOVATIONS

*Developing Creative Solutions*

*For*

*Meeting The Complex Needs of*

*Young Children And Their Caregivers.*

Red Rocks Community College

13300 W. 6th Ave.

Campus Box 22B

Lakewood, CO 80228-1255

Child Care Referrals 1-877-338-CARE

Provider Updates 303-969-9666

Your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency has a new Name!!!

\*Assistance in developing marketing and business plans for your child care business.

\*Information regarding resources for start-up.

\*Mentor support

\*Seminars and Workshops that carry college credit and offer timely information for today's child care professional.

\*Free referrals for you child care business.

\*Staffed by experts in the business of caring for children.

**Provider Support Line  
303-914-6584**

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80128, 80123

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## METRO REFERRAL NUMBERS

### Child Care Associations

JCCCA jeffcochildcare.org

Child Care Referrals 1-877-338-CARE

Adams County ~ Recording -----303-451-1061

childcareinadamsco.org

Arapahoe County ~ Recording-- 303-246-5146

Arapahoe County Caregiver Network

Judy----- 303-766-9706

Boulder ~ Gayle-----303-604-1311

Broomfield ~ --Stacy Burge -----303-463-0228

Denver ~ Mary Jo Theis -----303-756-8901

North-East Denver -----303-618-9887

Douglas County -----303-841-7718

Weld County Kristin Fralick ----- 970-674-8065

Colorado Child Abuse & Neglect

Hotline -----1-844-CO4-KIDS

1-844-264-5437

Jefferson Center for Mental Health---303-432-5455

## CHILD CARE INNOVATIONS

303-969-9666 fax 303-914-6802

Red Rocks Community College

13300 W. 6th Ave., Campus Box 22B

Lakewood, CO 80228-1255

General Office Number -----303-914-6279

Provider Support Line -----303-914-6584

Training Information-----303-914-6307

Provider Updates: -----303-969-9666

General Licensing Information -----303-914-6304

General Departmental Fax-----303-914-6802

Licensing Fax-----303-914-6240

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Tiffani Stout Asst. Director Licensing-303-914-6581

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80465, 80470 carmen@martinez@rrcc.edu

Sandy Legeer: 303-914-6100 ext. 3050-- 80007, 80020,  
80021, 80023, 80031 80212 sandy.legeer@rrcc.edu

Eboni Justice 303-914-6100 --- 80002, 80003 and  
80004

## OTHER RESOURCES

Child Care Referrals-----1-877-338-CARE

Provider Updates ----- 303-969-9666

Division of Early Care and Learning-----

303-866-5958

Director ----- 303 866-5943

Licensing Advisory Committee Representative

Jeff. County Public Health -----303-232-6301

Immunization Line -----303-239-7171

CAFCC Tricia Kelly-Lynch -----303-914-8687

CAEYC Office -----303-791-2772

CO Children's Campaign -----303-839-1580

Kid's Nutrition -----303-987-4852

Wildwood Resources -----303-730-0460

24 Hrs. Per Day Child Protection

Hot Line -----303-271-4131

Colorado Shines Child Care Referral

@ Mile High United Way -----211

Children's Hospital Colorado

Parent Smart Hotline-----720-777-0123

Poison Control -----303-739-1123

Ask A Nurse -----303-777-6877

Medication Admin. Hotlin3-----303-739-1125

Childcare Educational Opportunities

Www.childcareeducationalopportunities.com



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**Editor:** Sue Kansteiner 303-985-2622

**Book Review** —Carrie Kennedy

**Provider Times**—Anna Orrino

**Parent Page**— Vera Ananda



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# HAPPY LABOR DAY

