Simple Interactions
Growing Positive Relational Practice in Museums
FRED ROGERS CENTER

Staying true to the vision of Fred Rogers, we help children become confident, competent, and caring human beings.
Project background...

- Two-year IMLS project with three informal learning organizations
- Three Simple Interactions series
  - Introduction sessions
  - Small Group workshops
  - Asynchronous resources
  - Celebration of learning
THINK ABOUT...

What do you want children, youth, and families to get out of their experience at your museum?
Three ideas about growing relationships
What makes a relationship?
Trust doesn't happen by accident. And there are no shortcuts.

I'm firmly convinced that it's through relationships that we grow best — and learn best.

- Fred Rogers
Creating an Environment of Relationships

Stated simply, relationships are the “active ingredients” of the environment’s influence on healthy human development.
... active ingredient ...
### Drug Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active ingredient</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sodium fluoride 0.243% (0.15% w/v fluoride ion)</td>
<td>Anticavity toothpaste</td>
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**Use** helps protect against cavities

**Warnings**

* Keep out of reach of children under 6 yrs. of age. If more than used for brushing is accidentally swallowed, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.

**Directions**

- adults and children 2 yrs. & older: brush teeth thoroughly after meals or at least twice a day or use as

**Inactive ingredients**

- sorbitol, water, hydrated silica, disodium pyrophosphate, sodium hydroxide, sodium lauryl sulfate, flavor, xanthan gum, sodium saccharin, carmener, cellulose gum, blue 1

**Questions?** 1-800-492-7378
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

ACTIVE INGREDIENT:

Human Relationships
simple interactions are the building blocks of the active ingredient
interactions

relationships

learning, growing, resilience, community
What does it take to make a relationship?
The power of human relationships comes from simple, ordinary moments
Ms. Paula
What does Ms. Paula do?

What difference does Ms. Paula make?
Deep and simple is far more essential than shallow and complex.

- Fred Rogers
CONNECTION
Connection Reciprocity
connection  reciprocity

inclusion
www.simpleinteractions.org
How do we support the making of relationships and interactions?
Working with families
Supporting School Groups

Working with families
Supporting School Groups

Working with families

COVID-19 Protocols
Supporting School Groups

Creating Great Exhibits

COVID-19 Protocols

Working with families
Supporting School Groups

Creating Great Exhibits

COVID-19 Protocols

Staffing

Working with families
Supporting School Groups

Working with families

Creating Great Exhibits

COVID-19 Protocols

Attending to immediate needs

Staffing
Supporting School Groups
Working with families
COVID-19 Protocols
Creating Great Exhibits
Attending to immediate needs
Staffing
Parents (or educators) can set the example by just being themselves rather than trying to be perfect parents (or educators) ...

There were times when I couldn't be with our sons, or when I couldn't give them undivided attention. I've realized that everything does not have to be perfect in order to be effective.  

Fred Rogers
If everything does not need to be perfect, what do we need?
A Relationship-focused Vision for Engaging Families and Building Communities
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HELPERS

CHILD

FAMILY

Community of Support
A Relationship-focused Vision for Engaging Families and Building Communities

Community of Practice

HELPERS

Community of Support

FAMILY

CHILD
A Relationship-focused Vision for Engaging Families and Building Communities
A Relationship-focused Vision for Engaging Families and Building Communities

HELPROS

Community of Practice

Community of Peers

FAMILY

Community of Support
Do for *helpers* what the best helpers do for children and families.
We cannot make a lasting impact on children by skipping over the adults in the middle.
Strengthening **Communities of Practice** to Support the Helpers and Families
Community of Practice
What Does a Community of Practice Do?

1. Share common practice challenges
2. Identify what we are already doing well to adapt with the resources we have
3. Give collective voice to advocate for supports and resources we need
Strengthening Communities of Practice to Support the Helpers and Families
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- Community of Practice
- Community of Support
- HELPERS
- FAMILY
- CHILD
Strengthening **Communities of Practice** to Support the Helpers and Families
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**HELPERS**

- Community of Practice

**FAMILY**

- Community of Support

**Community of Peers**
ASK THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION
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How does this __________________ help to
(Practice, Program, Policy)

Encourage, Enrich, and Empower
human interactions around the child,
families, and their helpers?
1.

Having At Least One Matters
2. The Power of Human Relationships Comes from Simple, Ordinary Moments
3.
Everything Does Not Have To Be Perfect To Be Helpful
So What?
What is something you’ll remember from this session?

What interactions would you like to enrich?

What questions do you have about human interactions?
So What?
Questions?
Thank you!