"WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE MAD THAT YOU FEEL?"

Week of Neighborhood Programs
October 20 - 24

What helps children grow up to be teenagers and adults who
work out their conflicts in nonviolent ways? Borrowing the
title from one of his classic songs, "What Do You Do with
the Mad that You Feel?", Fred Rogers creates a week of
Neighborhood programs to address angry feelings in ways that
young children can understand and use every day, now and in
the future. These programs (#1691 - #1695) will be
broadcast October 20 - 24, on PBS.

"Angry feelings are a natural part of being human," says
Fred Rogers, adding, "but we don’t need to hurt anyone or
ruin things when we’re angry. Television is full of images
of people hurting one another! But this same medium can
give children such helpful models and messages. There are
so many things we can do with our hands and our feet when
we’re angry -- so many things besides hitting, shooting, or
kicking."

Does Mister Rogers ever get angry? "Of course, I do!" he
answers and shows his viewers that his natural way of
expressing his feelings is through his fingers on the piano.
Throughout the week he meets with old and new neighbors who
show what helps them channel their energies, from Maggie
Stewart who swims, to his teenage neighbor Jay Styperk, who
teaches exercises from his wheelchair.
Traveling out of his Neighborhood, Mister Rogers gets swept up in the lively energy of the cast of the off Broadway production STOMP, and picks up a broom to join in with this extraordinary group of performers at a rehearsal in their New York theater. Using their hands and feet together with ordinary household things like brooms, pipes, and pails, these consummate rhythm artists create intense and lively percussive sounds.

Artist Red Grooms adds a delightful dimension to the question of "What can you do with your hands?", showing Mister Rogers around his studio with his whimsical movable wooden sculptures and his recent creation -- a walk-through bus with life-size characters.

In the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, the theme of the week becomes a real dilemma when Lady Elaine Fairchilde is infuriated that her painting of Grandpère’s Eiffel Tower doesn’t turn out the way she wanted. In her anger, she upsets everyone by magically turning the Eiffel Tower upside-down. Through the help of an old friend, Lady Elaine finds a way to re-channel her feelings by pounding and sculpting clay (something she can do well), and learns how important it is to keep looking for healthy ways to manage her angry feelings.

Respectful of children’s feelings during this week and throughout the series, Fred Rogers says, "When we were children, and the adults we loved allowed us to know that our angry feelings were a normal part of loving and being loved, those adults gave us a great and life-long gift."

MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD is accessible to blind and visually impaired people (or audiences) through Descriptive Video Service (DVS). Funding for DVS on MISTER ROGERS’ NEIGHBORHOOD is provided by the U.S. Department of Education.
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