

Press Release – for Immediate Release – July 14, 2020

About: Cape Cod Toy Library launches “Parent-Child Videos”

Who: Local story tellers, actors and early childhood specialists

What: Free Parent-Child Video Programs made possible by support from Kennedy-Donovan Center

Cape Cod Toy Library Facebook https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6sPfWEQi_hV-D00B1rKsEQ

Cape Cod Toy Library You Tube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6sPfWEQi_hV-D00B1rKsEQ

or CCTL website <https://www.capecodtoylibrary.org/new-events>

For more information: www.capecodtoylibrary.org, info@capecodtoylibrary.org 508-648-3227

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DESCRIPTION:

- Three women from Lower Cape have created educational “Parent-Child” videos – to engage children and give parents and grandparents ideas for what they can do themselves with children. Parent-Child videos also provide suggestions for follow up activities, discussion questions and resources.
- Storytellers: Dr. Connie Hebert (Chatham), Joanne Callum Powers (Brewster), Vicki Summers (Orleans)
- https://youtu.be/y7o1cGf_rc0 Vicki Summers’ Reading “The Sneetches” by Dr. Seuss “How Dramatizing & Discussing Differences in Stories Engages & Supports Children’s Learning”
- <https://youtu.be/1Vbd3tsQrzc> Vicki Summers’ Reading “The Pout Pout Fish” by Deborah Dieson “How Using Different Character Voices to Express Emotions Engages & Fosters Children’s Learning”
- <https://youtu.be/gQmel-yROPw> Dr. Connie Hebert’s Reading “How to Catch a Star” by Oliver Jeffers “How to Catch Teachable Minutes Using a Puppet during Read Alouds”
- <https://youtu.be/AxdIx1HOg2U> Joanne Callum Powers’ Storytelling Film “The Amazing Journey to the Babbling River and Back Again” “A Storytelling Film & Tips to Create Your Own”

Cape Cod Toy Library (CCTL)— A Family Play Learning Center - mission is *to provide enriching, accessible, culturally sensitive, educational environments and resources that promote learning through play experiences to foster healthy child development*. While we cannot currently offer in-person programs due to COVID-19 we are creating virtual educational programs and resources for families. We look forward to the future to once again provide our enriching Community Play Space by hosting regular “Family Play Days” for families to have a place to spend time together in a clean, safe, screen-free play environment. We also look forward to opening our Toy Lending Library program to guide parents and support children’s need to explore, experiment, and create with a wide selection of play materials that support all areas of children’s development.

WHY: The COVID-19 circumstance has led to increased use of screens for educational instruction and connection with others as well as for entertainment for young children. This is of great concern given the research that children need creative, imaginative screen-free play for their healthy development. Research has shown a correlation between the lack of children’s screen-free play and a deficit in children’s social-emotional skills and a decline in their empathy, creativity, language development. There’s also been an increase in childhood traumas, children’s social emotional disorders, substance abuse and youth suicides. The COVID-19 pandemic that is increasing screen time and social isolation is of great concern for neuroscientists, pediatricians, educators and mental health professionals. For children to grow into healthy productive adults, screen-free play is essential for their cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development. Through exploratory play children develop problem solving and social skills as well as their curiosity and motivation to learn. *“Play is as integral to our health as sleep and nutrition; it is the single most significant factor in determining our success and happiness.”* (Stuart Brown, MD) Now more than ever, families need guidance and support to implement developmentally appropriate and emotionally responsive practices as they navigate this unprecedented time, isolated at home, with their children.