



## **P.E.A.C.E. News for June 2020**

***Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere, Inc.  
(P.E.A.C.E., Inc.)***

# ACTION ALERTS!

## Please Help to Give Child Care the Funding It Needs to Survive & Help Children Thrive!

Congress appropriated \$7 billion to the States to keep child care going for the children of essential workers during the pandemic. At the same time, both center and home-based child care have faced huge human and financial sacrifices and closures, as families have isolated themselves and providers have either done the same or risked their health and those whom they care for to provide needed child care. The Bipartisan Policy Center has noted that: “Right now, 60% of child care programs are closed for the foreseeable future, and, in part due to these closures, nearly two-thirds of parents in need of child care are having difficulty finding it. Most troubling, almost 80% of essential workers have been unable to continue using their regular child care arrangement, further upending their routines and schedules and adding unnecessary stress.”

In these circumstances, Reps. deLauro and Scott, Senator Murray, and many others, have proposed another \$50 billion for child care, to be included in amendments to the Heroes Act, or independently through H.R. 7027, **The Child Care Is Essential Act**. In addition to the funding, the Act would:

- Ensure that the grants adequately support providers’ operating expenses and Get funding to them quickly;
- Require that providers continue to pay their staff;
- Provide tuition and copayment relief for working families;
- Promote health and safety through compliance with public health guidance;
- Prioritize providers that serve underserved populations;
- Ensure that grants are awarded equitably across child care settings; and
- Conduct oversight through robust reporting requirements.

PLEASE get in touch with your Senators and Representative, to urge them to co-sponsor and vote for this Resolution! Not only our future, but the children’s, depends on it.

# U. S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

## Guidance for Child Care Programs

The pandemic has split child care facilities in the United States into two categories:

- Those that remained open, officially for essential workers; and
- Those that have been closed since the spread of the pandemic, and may reopen as governments, health, and economics permit.

Although each State and even some local jurisdictions determine which category a given preschool, child care center or family child care home fits, the Federal Government has set up a [series of guidelines](#), through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to which all jurisdictions need to pay due regard.

The guidelines are very specific and detailed, so we won't try to describe them here. Essentially, they follow the basic health guidance that we should wash our hands and disinfect commonly touched surfaces frequently, that we should wear masks whenever in public, and that people with any symptoms of COVID-19 should be isolated from those who don't have them. Temperatures should be taken, if possible, whenever people come to the facility, and groups, including groups of children, should be kept small. If there's a class of children, the same children and teachers should be kept together, rather than rotating children or teachers.

These guidelines will be implemented by other agencies at all levels of government, and the precautions against spread of the virus will depend on the level of mitigation that the State or local government has prescribed for the jurisdiction.

# Justice for Breonna Taylor!

Breonna Taylor was an award-winning EMT and first responder in Louisville, KY, who loved helping her patients and her community. “She was an essential worker. She had to go to work,” her mother, Tamika Palmer said of her dedication to standing on the frontlines of this pandemic. “She didn’t have a problem with that.” Breonna survived the frontlines of a pandemic that disproportionately kills Black people, only to have her life stolen by police.

[Take immediate action to bring justice for Breonna Taylor.](#)

## Teaching Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a day of celebration for the African American communities around the United States. This day symbolizes freedom and is shared through different festivities such as people enjoying art, food, and music. There are many different ways we can educate children about this day as well as the tragedy of enslavements and racism. On the *Teaching Tolerance* website, educators and parents can find numerous resources emphasizing celebrations of culture, activism, and the humanity of people. [Please continue reading...](#)



Picture courtesy of Tolerance.org



## The Mashpee Wampanoag: A Small Victory - Be Vigilant & Sign the Petition!

The Mashpee Wampanoag, the People of the First Light, have occupied the same region for over 12,000 years and have faced major diminishment of their homelands and their numbers since colonization. The Bureau of Indian Affairs' decision to eliminate the Tribe's status under the law is a blow to Tribal sovereignty and undermines the future and sustainability of the tribal nation. The Tribe is asking Congress to protect its reservation lands and has put forth the *Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act (HR.312)*. [We are asking for signatures in support of this legislation.](#)

For more information view this [video of Mass. US representative Bill Keating speaking on Wampanoag Sovereignty](#)

A small victory in the courts happened on June 6. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the very tribe that welcomed the Pilgrims in the 1600s, is at risk of losing what is left of their homelands due to a determination made by the Bureau of

Indian Affairs (BIA). A court recently ruled that the BIA had ignored the law in making its determination, but the Tribe is not yet out of trouble.



Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe member Ramona Peters, founder of Native Land Conservancy, speaking with children and caregivers. Picture courtesy of [Mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov](https://www.mashpeewampanoagtribe-nsn.gov)

Boston, MA - Massachusetts Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey released the following joint statement about the court decision:

"This is an important victory for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and for justice. The Mashpee Wampanoag have a right to their ancestral homeland no matter what political games the Trump administration tries to play. We are glad that the Court acknowledged the importance of the arguments we made in the bicameral, bipartisan amicus brief we filed with our colleagues opposing the U.S. Department of the Interior's cruel actions. The fight is not yet finished, though. We continue to stand with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and we will continue to hold this administration accountable."

## Virtual P.E.A.C.E Retreat Meeting 2020



*P.E.A.C.E. members meeting virtually via Zoom*

P.E.A.C.E. had its annual retreat online this May, with one day devoted to our own organization and the second day a joint meeting with [Educators for Peaceful Classrooms and Communities \(EPCC\)](#). Even meeting remotely, we accomplished much. P.E.A.C.E. planned its activities for the coming year, including preparation of an online course in peace education, several activities at November's NAEYC Conference (either in Anaheim, CA, or remotely), and improvements in our website, our social media, and our P.E.A.C.E. Projects. Together with EPCC, we decided to work more closely together on membership, social media, NAEYC Conference and online course planning, and other areas of mutual interest and concern. We will join EPCC again in next year's retreat, which we hope will be in Auburn, California, next June.

# Resources

## Anti-Racism: Resources for Parents and Children to Counter Racism

[This collection of online anti-racism resources](https://www.brenecarter.com/anti-racism-resources) is intended to serve as a resource to white people and parents to deepen our anti-racism work. If you haven't engaged in anti-racism work in the past, start now. Feel free to circulate this document on social media and with your friends, family, and colleagues with this link: [bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES](https://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES)



## Preschool Play Plans



Teachers Resisting Unhealthy  
Children's Entertainment

The organization Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment (T.R.U.C.E.) has authored and published several play plans for families during this Pandemic. Blakely Bundy and Diane Levin, created and authored the following play plans: *Preschool Play Plans: Bubbling Over with Fun!* and *Preschool Play Plans: Mud-Luscious Play!* Levin and Bundy created these plans so children have ways to engage and interact, without the use of electronics. [Please read more](#)



Left © Getty Images; right © Dani Rose for the U.T. Early Learning Center

## International Mud Day



**JUNE 29**

International Mud Day is this coming up on June 29th. During this time of the Pandemic, children have been staying home clustered in front of their computers and television. Let's make sure we provide them with opportunities to join us in this mud celebration! The intention is to shake off modern restrictions, changing "don't get dirty" to a much more positive "get dirty". We can provide children with opportunities to roll in the mud, step in the mud, make mud-pies using natural materials, and to simply develop connections with our Mother Earth.

[Please read more about International Mud Day](#)



Picture courtesy Fullerton College Lab School, California

# Stories:

## A Story of Conflict Management: The Mask Project

By Susan Hopkins

Once upon a time... there were two tiny villages, in a very small, beautiful mountain county in California. On weekends, especially in the summer, the villages always had many, many visitors. Usually this was a very good thing and everyone loved to have all these guests come to the peaceful towns.

However, one year there was a terrible pandemic... people all over the world were getting sick, and some were even dying. At first the little towns thought they were too small and too far away to have any problems with the sickness. But, then someone did get sick, and the townspeople realized that they had to be very careful not to get sick as well. The county supervisors created an ordinance that said shopkeepers should require customers to wear masks whenever they entered an establishment. This was the new rule. Now things would be safe.

But, some of the visitors who came to town said that they could not wear masks because they didn't have any. So, what to do... the shopkeepers didn't want to let them inside without masks, but they also didn't always have masks to give to them. Well, a group of community volunteers came to the rescue! They realized that they could put together packets containing masks and also a postcard describing the importance of wearing the masks and deliver them to shopkeepers, the libraries, law enforcement and others for giving out to the visitors. By giving the masks, hopefully any confrontations would be avoided.

And, so peace came back to the little villages as visitors were welcomed by giving them the packets containing the masks. They were able to go into the shops and restaurants, and the proprietors were back in business! It was a win-win for everyone and the Wild West was more peaceful.



### THE NEW WEST

**Wear this mask in good health!**

Compliments of:

Sierra Frontier Medical Resources, Inc, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that supports emergency medical care as well as urgent care when the clinic is closed. The group hires a paramedic, buys supplies, and trains volunteers to meet community needs.

To learn more about us visit our website: [www.sierrafrontier.org](http://www.sierrafrontier.org)

Postcard picture courtesy of [Sierra Frontier Medical Resources](http://Sierra Frontier Medical Resources)

## Social Stories

Social stories are stories with visuals depicting a focus on a social situation that your child might have been affected by. These stories and visuals can provide your child with the needed information about events or situations that could be confusing or otherwise traumatizing. In this newsletter edition, we would like to share stories that help alleviate some of the anxieties and tension that have been brought up by our current Covid-19 pandemic.

[\*We Are Wearing Masks By Meredith Polsky\*](#)

[\*I Can Wear a Face mask! By the Autism Program at Boston Medical Center\*](#)

[\*Gabi Says, "I'm Confused!" No School, No Friends! A Story about Social Distancing\*](#)

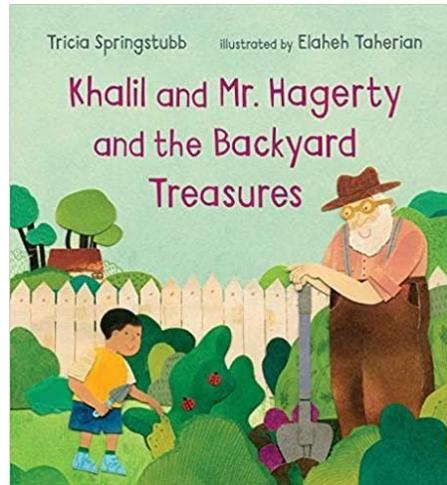
[\*Gabi dice: "¡Estoy Confundida!" ¡No Escuela, No Amigos!\*](#)



[\*What Nathan and His Friends Can Do: A Social Story About Staying Healthy By Amy Bamforth, MS \(Ed.\)\*](#)

[\*Lo que Nathan y sus amigos Pueden hacer: Una historia sobre cómo mantenerse saludable Por Amy Bamforth, MS \(Ed.\)\*](#)

# Book Review



## **Khalil and Mr. Hagerty and the Backyard Treasures**

Author, Tricia Springstubb and illustrated by Elaheh Taherian

A beautifully told cross-generational story of neighbors in an “up and down house” Khalil and his family live in the upstairs noisy apartment of the two-family house. Mr. Hagerty is elderly and lives alone in his downstairs quiet apartment. At first Khalil and Mr. Hagerty don’t appear to have a lot in common. Summer has come and gentle Mr. Hagerty has been working on his garden in the backyard, while Khalil has been hunting for interesting bugs and rocks, and reading in the grass.

They are an informal team. Mr. Hagerty helps Khalil with his reading of unfamiliar words and Khalil helps Mr. Hagerty find his misplaced items. As friends, they even share chocolate cake and cold milk together. But both are discouraged: Mr. Hagerty because of his vegetable garden and Khalil is unhappy at not finding buried treasure. One night, they both get the same thoughtful idea, which will make the other friend happy. What begins as looking for treasures in their backyard, ends with how they discover that friendship is the greatest treasure.

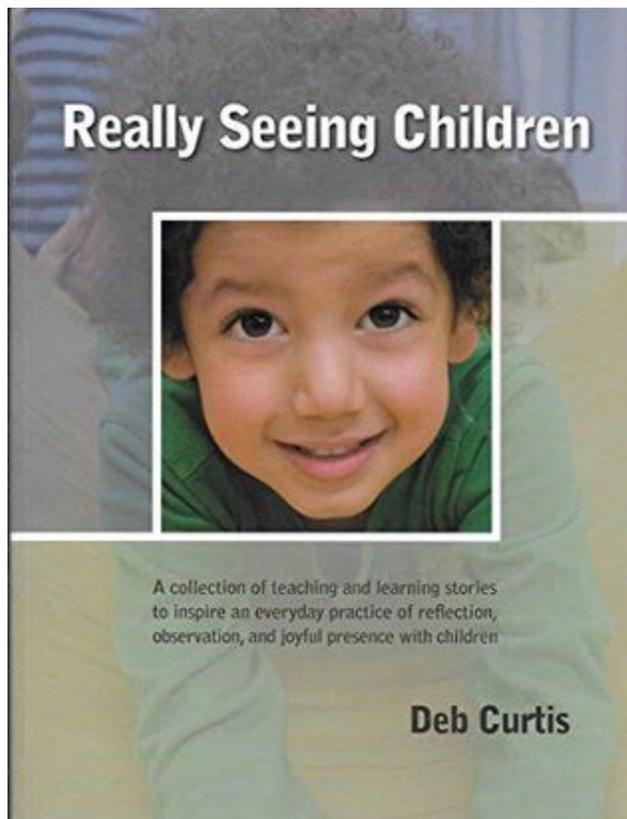
Springstubb's text is straightforward and signifies the importance of friends. The illustrations by Taherian of oil, pencil and collage further reveals the simple sweetness of a friendship. She dedicates the book *“to all the children around the world, who are in search of safety and peace”*.

During this time of separation from our normal lives, it is helpful to read delightful stories that remind us to dream and to take care of our neighbors.

Submitted by Karen Kosko

## Quote of the Month

“It’s no wonder children laugh so often – they have been in the world for such a short time and to them almost everything is unexpected, unusual and unconventional. Adults can learn to laugh with children if we slow down and marvel with them at the wondrous world they see. Humor reflects children’s growing understanding of the world around them. Yet, what I notice more is the social nature of humor. Laughing brings more laughing and often children will laugh with eager anticipation of others joining in. I believe that beyond the learning reflected in humor there is a deep sense of satisfaction that comes from sharing these moments with each other.” - Deb Curtis, *Really Seeing Children*



### ***You're Important to Us!***

We are eager for new members, and active members. Membership is free, although you're encouraged to help us as you can. Spread the word and let us know how you would like to be engaged at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com).

**Help bring our unique insights and skills to the profession and the public!**

If you would like to bring P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s perspective to more teachers on the ground working with young children, there are opportunities both in person and online. Email us at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com). [Particularly on NAEYC's HELLO open forum](#) we have seen opportunities to engage on these issues.

Join [actforpeace@googlegroups.com](mailto:actforpeace@googlegroups.com) to follow our members recommended actions and share your own! You can request to sign-up by email at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com) or directly through Google Groups. We hope you will spread the word about the actions by forwarding them on to others.

Since we don't charge dues, ***we count on donations*** from those who are able to continue our work. Pending next month's addition of a "donate" button to the News, please mail your check made out to P.E.A.C.E., Inc., to: 11 Cottage St., Chelsea, MA 02150.

Visit our Website, [www.peaceeducators.org](http://www.peaceeducators.org)

