



## P.E.A.C.E. News for May 2020

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

# ACTION ALERTS!



A CALL FOR COORDINATED ACTION  
TO **PROTECT AND SUPPORT**  
ALL YOUNG CHILDREN  
AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

@UNICEF/UN069047/Moore

## Child Care Everywhere Is Suffering: *Stand with Us and Help!*

The Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) partners have co-developed and launched a [Call For Coordinated Action](#), urging all governments, global partnerships, multi- and bi-lateral agencies, political bodies, funders, international non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, the business sector, academia, civil society organizations, networks, and advocates to prioritize and invest in the needs of ALL young children and their parents and caregivers, especially the most vulnerable, during the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery.

The Bipartisan Policy Center reports that 60 percent of child care programs in the United States are closed for the foreseeable future, and that almost two-thirds of parents needing child care have difficulty finding it. Almost 80 percent of essential workers haven't been able to continue using their regular child care arrangements. Considering these facts, Congress passed, in the CARES Act, another \$3.5 billion for the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG), to help emergency and frontline workers get child care during the pandemic. That money has been disbursed to the States.

## Staying Safe During Covid-19

Staying home during Covid-19 is a privilege for some, and not always the safest options for others. Currently, we see an increase in stress factors due to financial insecurities, job losses, health concerns, and other external factors which can result in unsafe circumstances and abuse. The National Domestic Violence Hotline website provides support for survivors and here are some of their suggestions: practice self-care, reach out for help, and create a safety plan. The website also provides information and support for people observing concerning behaviors or abuse. Read more about staying safe on [their website](#).



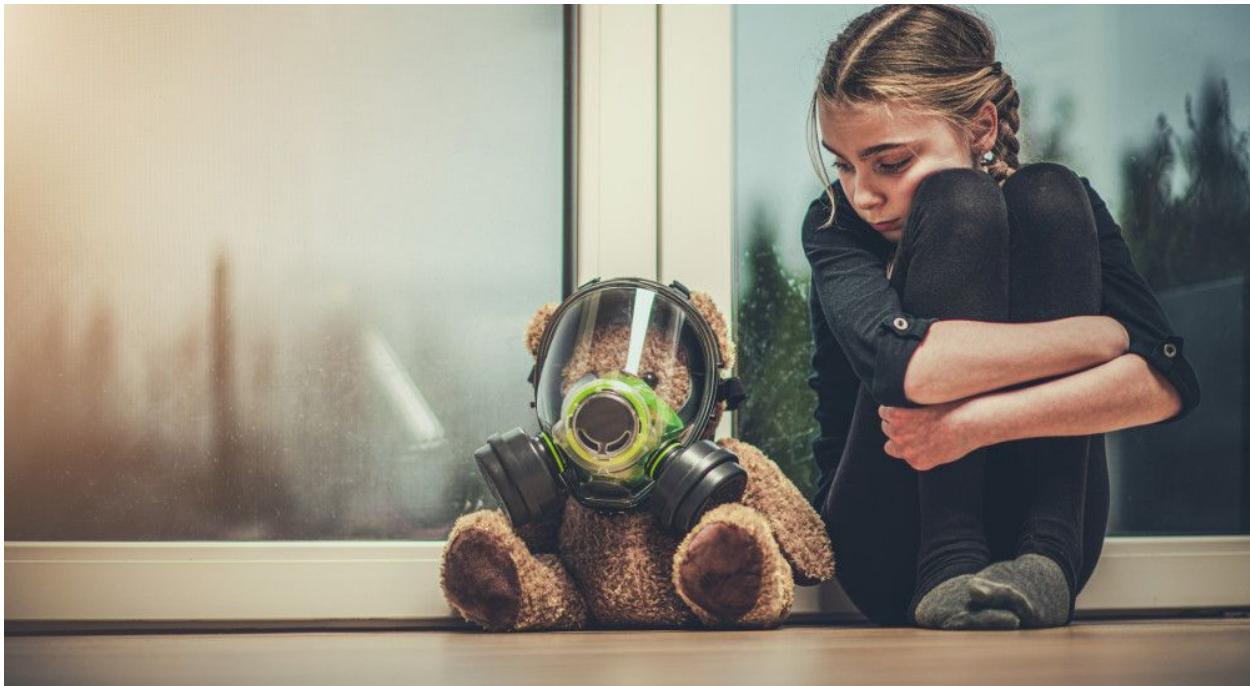
# Talking with Children About Covid-19

## Messages for Parents, School Staff, and Others Working with Children

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published supporting information for parents, family members, educators, and other trusted adults on how to guide children through the process of comprehending Covid-19. The CDC website is providing us with general principles on how to talk to children about the disease as well as facts for discussion. Here are some examples of the general principles:

- Remain reassuring and calm
- Make yourself available to listen and talk
- Avoid language that blame others and create stigma
- Pay attention to what children hear or see, on television, radio and online
- Provide accurate and honest information
- Teach children everyday actions to prevent the spread of germs

Please [continue reading more](#). Also see the book review for [\*Something Strange Happened in My City\*](#) below.



Picture Courtesy of Kelty Mental Health Resource Center

# The Mashpee Tribe Needs Our Help!



In late March this year the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe received an email from the Department of Interior that they would be “dis-establishing” the tribe's sovereignty and taking the 233 acres of land out of trust. The Mashpee have been on this land for 1200+ years and welcomed the Pilgrims 400 years ago this year. Because the tribe challenged this ruling the Department of Interior gave them 45 days to repeal since early April. A court challenge is also due March 6.

If the Department of Interior rules against the tribe, the tribal center which includes headquarters for tribal police, the tribal court, food programs, programs for youth and elders will be forced to close. Also the **Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project** which runs a Montessori based preschool with 26 students 2.7 to 7 years of age with five teachers. Please do what you can to contact Congress, esp. The Senate Committee of Indian Affairs who are overseeing this “disestablishment”.

Support Links for Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

[\*\*Petition in Support of H.R. 312 Mashpee Reservation Reaffirmation Act\*\*](#)

[\*\*Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project\*\*](#)

[\*\*#StandwithMashpee T-shirts\*\*](#)

# Covid-19: Now Is the Time to Document Your Family's Stories

By Dr. Donna J Satterlee

Now is the time to document the unprecedented events occurring in the world today from your children's perspectives.

Create a family story, including bits and pieces from the news, and how your family has adjusted to the new normal. Have a discussion with your children about the school and program closures, quarantines, and social distancing.

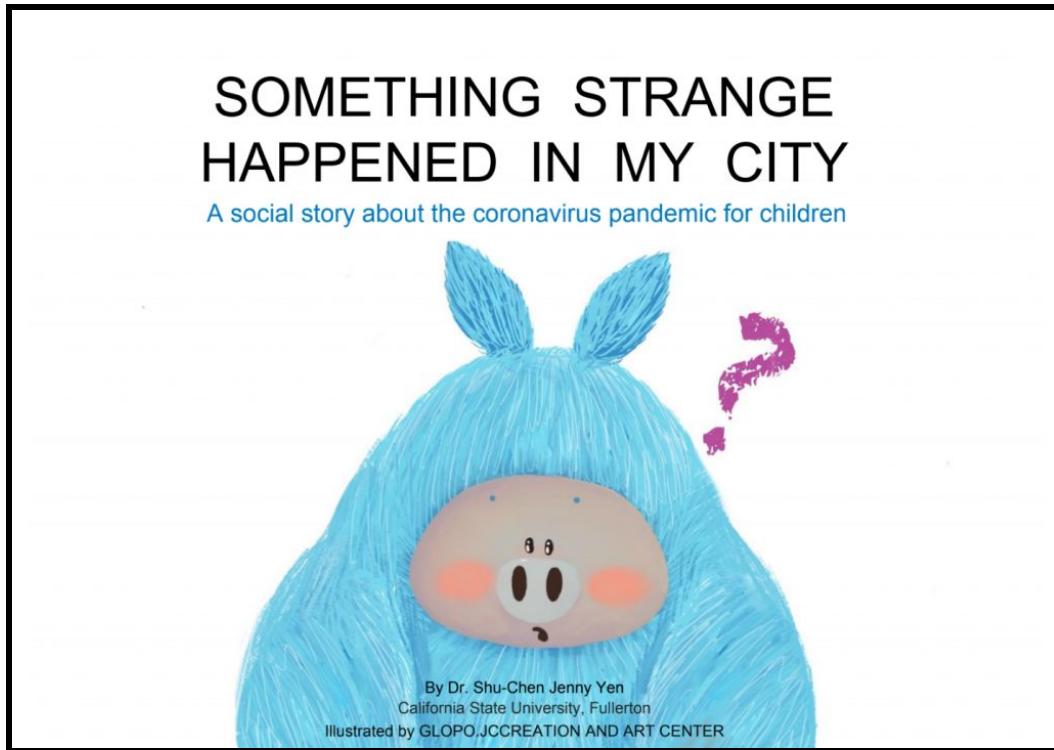
Record their feelings of anxiety, disappointment, and frustration. Also, try to focus on the positive or "bright spots" such as family bonding and togetherness.

*Your children should be the ones to illustrate the story. [Continue reading more about keeping peace in families](#)*



Picture courtesy of Maryland Families Engage

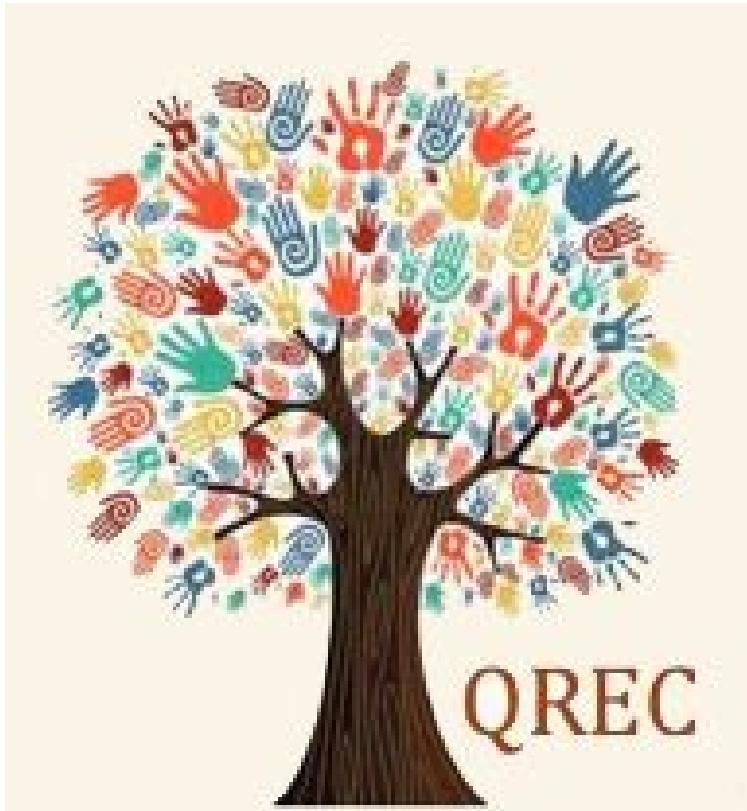
## Book Review



### Something Strange Happened in My City

Our 2018 Peace Award winner, Professor Jenny Yen of Fullerton College, has published a new book and video explaining the pandemic to young children, "[Something Strange Happened in My City](#)". It's a warm and understanding conversation between a young child and their mother, wondering about staying at home, keeping away from other people, and all those other changes people have been going through recently. P.E.A.C.E. is a partner with NAEYC's Asian Interest Forum and others in offering this free resource to help teachers, parents, and children understand where we are and where we're going from here. The book, which was noted in [last month's P.E.A.C.E. News](#), has been translated into a number of other languages, and it has an [animated version](#).

## Celebrate the Earth and Our Green Planet



There's an inspiring, [annotated list of 13 children's books celebrating Earth Day and our green planet](#), at a Quaker website referred to us by our own Susan Hopkins.

The same website has also another [annotated list of “Books for These Trying Times”](#).

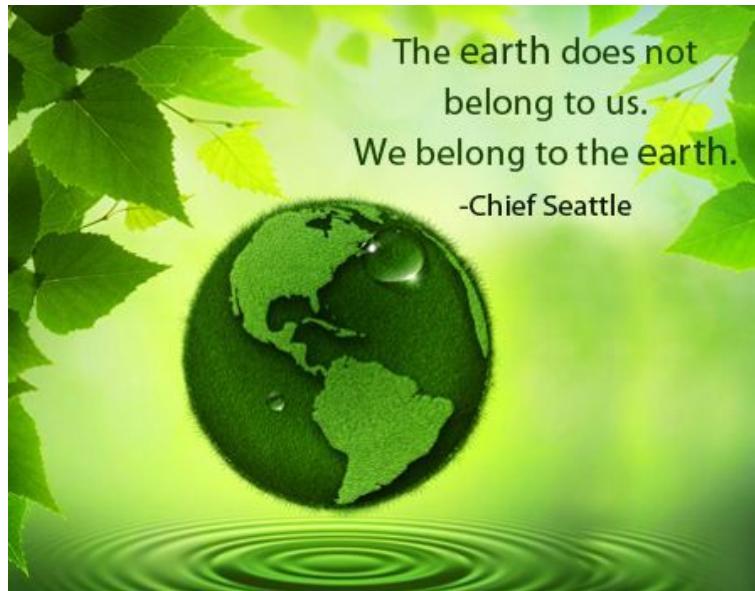
## In Loving Memory of Kurt Fischer



Kurt Fischer passed away quietly in Jamaica Plain, MA on March 30 of this year as the country shut down with the COVID-19 crises gripped the country. Many early childhood educators may have never heard his name or of his work but they have certainly been influenced by him. Born in 1943 in Maryland, Fischer went to both University of Denver, Yale, and Harvard Universities and studied Piaget and cognitive development. His most well known work was at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Fischer's work was called dynamic skills theory or cognitive and emotional development theory and is considered by some as a "Neo-Piagetian". He spent his career applying Jean Piaget's insights to the brain and its functions in development. Fischer worked with Howard Gardner and David Rose in their breakthrough ideas about brain development of young children. He was founding editor of the journal Mind, Brain and Education and helped us as teachers to look more closely and seriously at the cognitive development of the children we work with. We are all influenced and indebted for his work.

[More information](#)

## Quote of the Month



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

We are eager for new members, and active members. 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. Look for a PayPal donation option on our website, or 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)**

