

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Audrey Duck asks, "Who is 'Corona Virus'?"**

### **DEY Offers Guidance, Resources to Support Young Children and Their Families Through COVID-19 Crisis; Audrey Duck Video Helps Answer Questions and Concerns**

BOSTON/NEW YORK, April 7, 2020 -- With the sudden disruption of our daily lives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [Defending the Early Years \(DEY\)](#) today released special [guidance and resources](#) to help parents and educators support young children in adjusting and getting the most out of this unfamiliar experience. Resources include a [video](#) featuring author, psychologist and award-winning ventriloquist, [Dr. Susan Linn](#), and her puppet, Audrey Duck. Together they address questions and concerns children likely need help with during these uncertain times, from "Will I get sick?" to "Who is 'Corona Virus' and why won't he let me play with my friends?"



"Children are being asked not to see their friends or grandparents; to learn at home; to play independently while adults in the home are working. Add the anxiety of overhearing conversations between adults or on news coverage and it can be very unsettling," said Nancy Carlsson-Paige, co-Founder and senior advisor of Defending the Early Years. "Audrey Duck's video is a wonderful way to start important conversations with children about these issues. Susan and Audrey are captivating, and Audrey asks the questions that many children are needing answered right now, but may not be able to articulate to caregivers."



Photo by Susan Nolan

The new [DEY Guidance for Supporting Children through COVID-19](#) offers insights for helping young children adjust to new restrictions and routines including recommendations for new approaches to screen time, academic expectations and learning through play. Dozens of thoughtful ideas encourage using the time to teach children new skills, from baking and musical instruments to first aid and new chores. The guide also connects to resources from respected organizations including [Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment \(TRUCE\)](#) and [Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood \(CCFC\)](#), who offer a deeper dive into recommendations and ideas.

"We want to help parents and educators discover some worthwhile possibilities even in the midst of this crisis," said Carlsson-Paige. "We hope our guidance and resources inspire even more ideas that can help young children feel safe and be creative at this challenging time."

**About Susan Linn and Audrey Duck**

