Audrey Duck is “Tired of The Virus!”

New Video by DEY Helps Children Cope with Emotional Toll of Ongoing Pandemic

Dr. Susan Linn and her puppet Audrey Duck navigate the stresses of isolation, loneliness, and conflicting needs facing families today

BOSTON, May 11, 2020 – As the nation nears two months of social distancing in response to the pandemic, leading child advocacy group, Defending the Early Years (DEY), offers a new video that helps adults talk with children about the ongoing challenges around the Covid-19 crisis. The second in a series featuring author, psychologist, and award-winning ventriloquist, Susan Linn, Ed.D., Brookline, Mass., and her puppet, Audrey Duck, supports parents navigating the stresses of isolation, loneliness, and conflicting needs facing families today.

“Many of us are feeling quarantine-fatigue, but young children can be especially vulnerable to emotional strain from the changes in their lives and the ongoing isolation they are experiencing,” said Nancy Carlsson-Paige, co-founder and senior advisor of Defending the Early Years. “Much of the public discourse about children has focused on their academic needs, but their emotional needs are equally important.”

“The pandemic and necessary social distancing are as stressful for children as they are for adults. Kids miss their friends, schools, and day care and many parents are burdened with working from home, even as they try their best to care for their children,” says Dr. Susan Linn, National Advisory Board member for Defending the Early Years. “I’m thrilled to be working with DEY to provide families with a much-needed tool for coping.”

In the video, Audrey Duck declares she’s “tired of the virus!” She wants her mask “all the way off.” She misses her friends and her teacher, and is disappointed that she won’t have a birthday party. And while Audrey is wondering why Susan has been snapping at her, Susan is struggling to carve out time to work.

The “I’m Tired of the Virus!” and “Who is ‘Corona Virus’?” videos can serve as a springboard for discussion about things that can be hard for families to talk about.

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About Susan Linn and Audrey Duck

Susan Linn, Ed.D., is a world-renowned expert on creative play and the impact of media and commercial marketing on children. Her book, Consuming Kids has been praised in publications as diverse as The Wall Street Journal, and Mother Jones and helped launch the movement to reclaim childhood from corporate
marketers. The Boston Globe called her book The Case for Make Believe “a wonderful look at how play can heal children.” Her work has been featured on Good Morning America, Today, Sixty Minutes, Dateline, The Colbert Report, and the acclaimed documentary The Corporation. Dr. Linn was Founding Director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood from 2000-2015. She is currently Research Associate at Boston Children’s Hospital and Lecturer on Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She has lectured on the importance of creative play, the impact of media and marketing on children, and the use of puppetry as a therapeutic tool in venues throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

About Defending the Early Years
Defending the Early Years (DEY) is a nonprofit organization advocating for developmentally-appropriate learning in early childhood and elementary school years. Founded by respected experts in early childhood education, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Ed.D. and Diane Levin, Ph.D., and steered by a National Advisory Board, DEY aims to educate parents, teachers and administrators on the evidence-based approaches to how young children learn best; to embolden a return to a model of active, play-based and experiential learning and ongoing observations and formative assessments over time; and to make these opportunities available to every young child. For information, visit dey.org, Facebook: @DefendingtheEarlyYears, Twitter: @DEY_Project, and YouTube.

Media Contact:
Nancy Retherford, Nancy.Retherford@dey.org; +1.317.460.6838