

The Prouty Voice

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Family Matters: The positive outcomes from Early Intervention

By Chloe Learey, Executive Director

If you want to spend less money on special education in public education, invest in early intervention. If you want to spend less on health issues, invest in early intervention. If you want children to be ready for school invest in early intervention. If you want families to be able to support their children, invest in early intervention.

Fortunately we have decided as a nation to provide early intervention to infants and toddlers through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. The program started in 1986 to support the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities from birth to age 3 to minimize developmental delay and “reduce educational costs to our society by minimizing the need for special education services as children with disabilities reach school age”*. The program takes an interdisciplinary approach, working with children and families in natural environments, and helping families better understand and meet their child’s needs. Developmental delays and disabilities are “equal opportunity” and can impact any child and family regardless of race, religion, class, education level or other dimension of diversity. This program has been housed at The Winston Prouty Center since it began in our region. It was originally known as The Family Infant Toddler Program, and is now Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) Early Intervention (EI).



Speech delays are one of the most common issues that cause referrals to our Early Intervention program. Imagine you have a child who is not talking at 18 months, not saying “hi” or “bye”, “ma-ma” or “da-da”, “milk” or “cat” despite all the reading and talking you are doing with her. We know this is a critical time for brain development, and that the circuits in our brains are most flexible during the first 3 years of life, before anyone is even anticipating beginning kindergarten. Identifying a delay and exploring the possible causes is the most important step you can take in making a difference. One child we worked with started receiving services when she was 16 months of age and not yet talking. By the time she exited the program she was age-appropriate in her language and is no longer in need of any services. Last year on average 61% of children exited early intervention with age-appropriate functioning in the outcome areas we measure, and an average of 84% of those who were not age-appropriate had substantially increased their growth – a tremendous indication of the progress that is made.

Life can certainly be more complicated, too! Some children who receive early intervention may never reach age-appropriate function given their disability and will still require special education, although services can be less intensive due to the positive impact of EI. A few years ago we worked with a child who had complications at birth which caused significant brain impairment. Although he could not speak clearly, he was able to learn words through picture cards and eventually learned to use a communication device to be able to interact with family, friends and teachers. With appropriate supports he was able to participate full-time in an early learning center program with same age peers and transitioned to kindergarten with everything in place, ready and available to maximize his learning. He began services with Early Intervention at birth, and then worked with special education through the supervisory union from age 3 to 5. If we had waited until he was 5 years old to get started on teaching communication and other skills it would have been more difficult and more expensive to help him learn.

Even more importantly, Early Intervention gives families the skills they need to support their child, which also has a positive impact overall. On our most recent survey 87% of families said that Early Intervention helped them help their child develop and learn. Ultimately one of the most powerful things we can do in our programs is build capacity in others – children, families, colleagues – so that natural systems of support can be as strong as possible. Our goal is to help people have the skills and confidence they need to be successful, and Early Intervention gives children and families what they need to build a strong foundation for more positive outcomes in the future, including having friends and being able to participate as fully as possible in community.

* <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/importanceofearlyintervention.pdf>



The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development provides inclusive education and family support to promote the success of children and families.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Early Learning Center Family BBQ

Thursday, August 17th at 5:30 pm

Come play, connect and enjoy a meal with Prouty families and teachers. Optional - bring a dish to share.

Here We Grow Again!

Thursday, September 7th - 5:30-7:00 pm

A celebration of a year on campus and our merger with the Windham Child Care Association. Enjoy appetizers, drinks and learn about how The Winston Prouty Center is expanding its services for local families.

cheshire children's Museum
 149 Emerald Street
 Keene, New Hampshire
 (603) 903-1800

happy 5 birthday

5 DAYS OF FUN!
 On each of the 5 days from August 23 - 27, visitors can enter a free raffle for a daily prize. On the 27th, all daily entries will go into a final drawing for a **LIFETIME** museum membership for 5.

\$5 ADMISSION August 23 - 27

BIRTHDAY CARD CONTEST!
 Design a birthday card for the museum for a chance to win gift certificates in three age categories with a grand winner receiving a yearlong membership for 5 people. For the entry form and additional information about this contest, visit the museum or website!

VIRTUAL HIGH FIVE DRIVE
 All this month, send us a picture of a "high five" stating what you have loved about the museum these past 5 years! Let's see those hands in the air!

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS
 Animals - People - Earth

LIVE ANIMAL BIRTHDAY BASH
Saturday August 26 at 11:00 enjoy the amazing animals of Wildlife Encounters. The entertaining educators will let you touch and hold exotic animals while you learn things you never knew!

ALL THINGS "5" SCAVENGER HUNT
 search high and low to find all of the 5's hidden in the museum!

5-A-DAY FRUIT AND VEGGIE CHALLENGE
 You'll be high-fiving each other when you complete the 5-A-DAY Fruit and Veggie challenge!

DECORATE A CUPCAKE
 This month's Cooking the Books on **Thursday August 24 at 11:00** will feature Sven Nordqvist's book *The Birthday Cake*. Children will then decorate their own cupcake!



COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES (CIS)

Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator

Ext. 314 alison@winstonprouty.org

Willie Gussin, CIS Intake Coordinator

Ext. 303 willie@winstonprouty.org

CIS FAMILY SUPPORT

Kerri Beebe, Family Support Worker

Ext. 204 kerri@winstonprouty.org

Kellyn McCullough, Family Support Worker

Ext. 305 kellyn@winstonprouty.org

CIS NURSING

Jean Vulté, CIS Nurse & Lactation Counselor

Ext. 211 jean@winstonprouty.org

Sally Pennington, CIS Nurse & Lactation Consultant

Ext. 206 cisenurse1@gmail.com

CIS EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

Jennifer Emerson, ECFMH Clinician

Ext. 202 jemerson@hcrs.org

Brandy Levesque, Consultation & Behavior Support Specialist

Ext. 228 brandy@winstonprouty.org

Shawn Lund, Consultation & Behavior Support Specialist

Ext. 216 shawn@winstonprouty.org

Maura Shader, ECFMH Clinician

Ext. 202 mshader@hcrs.org

CIS EARLY INTERVENTION

Lisa Adams, Developmental Educator

Ext. 224 ladams@winstonprouty.org

Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist

Ext. 315 mary@winstonprouty.org

Kathy Hallock, Developmental Educator

Ext. 219 kathy@winstonprouty.org

Ellen Ostrander, Early Interventionist

Ext. 227 ellen@winstonprouty.org

Joanne Shaw, Community Resource Parent

Ext. 208 joanne@winstonprouty.org

CHILD CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

Tonya Kangas, CIS Child Care Coordinator

Ext. 312 tonya@winstonprouty.org

RoseAnn Grimes, Referral & Eligibility Specialist

Ext. 313 roseann@winstonprouty.org

Jeanna Genest, FAP Eligibility Specialist

Ext. 311 jeanna@winstonprouty.org

Kristy Rose, Food Program Specialist

Ext. 317 kristy@winstonprouty.org

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Emily Clever, Housing Resource Coordinator

Ext. 203 emily@winstonprouty.org

Crystal Blamy, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator

Ext. 201 crystal@winstonprouty.org

August 1-7 is World Breastfeeding Week

In honor of World Breastfeeding Week, the Brattleboro community will be celebrating breastfeeding during the first week of August. This year the theme is "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together." Here's what been planned:

Gallery Walk Cabana – Located on Main St. in front of Vermont Artisan Designs during Gallery Walk (8/4): Demonstrates the space and materials needed for a breastfeeding/pumping area at work. This is part of Vermont's Breastfeeding Friendly Employer's project.

Gallery Walk Photography and Slide Show – Located at the Latchis Gallery on Main St. during Gallery Walk (8/4): Local photographer Zachary Stephens, together with his wife Michelle will be showing select images from their photographic project, Nursing Is Normal. The images show breastfeeding mothers and their children in various local settings. Information about local breastfeeding resources will also be available.

The Big Latch On – On Saturday, August 5 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Living Memorial Park Playground's Gazebo, Nursing mothers and their infants will gather to join breastfeeders worldwide in support of breastfeeding. There will be a count taken at 10:30 a.m. In 2016, there were 17,992 "latched on" children during this event worldwide!

Displays – The community celebrates breastfeeding with a number of displays in locations throughout Brattleboro including a Main St. banner; window display at People's United Bank; visual celebrations at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, the VT State Office Building and Brooks Memorial Library; and a series of Life-sized Images of Breastfeeding Moms. Can you find them all? Five cardboard images of women breastfeeding their children will be located around Brattleboro for the entire month.



NEED BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT? Our CIS Nurses are available for home visits and to answer any questions you have!

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Kimberley Paquette, ELC Program Coordinator
Ext. 306 kim@winstonprouty.org

Angela Hoag, ELC Administrative Coordinator
Ext. 210 angela@winstonprouty.org

Sueño LeBlond, Outreach Specialist
Ext. 229 sueno@winstonprouty.org

Lyn Call, Sara Fradkin, Brianna Root, Kathy Wright
Floating Teachers

Bob Peebles, Susan Mandell, Amelia Goodnow, Kayla Parro
Volunteers

Paul Rossi, Liz Martin
Kitchen & Lunch Support

WISH LIST

- 3-5 piece puzzles
- drying rack
- crib
- highchair
- thick glossy easel paper that will hold up to many layers of fingerpaint
- small plastic kiddie pool and sand to bring the beach to Brattleboro

Acorn Room

Nancy McMahon, Michlle Goodwin, Mandi Martin
Ext. 218 / Email: nancy@winstonprouty.org

This summer has been a time of transitions as our 2016-2017 infants graduate to the Elm Room. Four of our now toddlers have made the leap into Susan's room and have transitioned nicely. We have begun welcoming in new families into our room and are preparing to receive more new friends by the end of August! Our room has gone through so many changes as our babies have developed into amazing toddlers, and now it's time to scale the room back down to younger babies. We have become such a mobile and active room, and have witnessed the miracle of the first year of life for baby, and the first year of family for many of our moms and dads.

It's a bittersweet feeling really, to see how far these children have come in one short year and then send them out of the nest to their next experience. My sadness of losing these babes is accompanied with the excitement of bringing in new families and new infants, with wonderment and curiosity.



It's a lot like the changing season ahead. We feel sad at the end of summer when the mornings start becoming colder. The glorious sunsets earlier. But the anticipation of the red sweet apples, the colored leaves, give us something to look forward to. And so it is in the Acorn Room as we prepare for our next season of care. We hope you all enjoy this last hurrah of summer! And we will see you in the fall with a fresh new crop of babes!

This upcoming year we will be introducing "Family Circle" with our new families. This will be an experiment in encouraging and building community in our room. Stay tuned for more in September!

Elm Room

Susan Heimer, Allie Barrett

Ext. 207 / Email: susan@winstonprouty.org



The Younger Toddlers have welcomed Holly, Payton, and Madison and their families this month. One of the ways we are getting to know each other better is through viewing our Family Portrait Boards.



There is nothing like a cool drink on a hot day as we enjoy our play yard time!



Some of our favorite summer time play is outdoors with balls, hoops, and ride-on cars. Not pictured here are the water table, sandbox, and planter boxes requiring toddler attention.



Say cheese! Our dress ups and the props that go along with them allow safe pretend imitation of the familiar world and actions that toddlers see day to day.

Maple Room *Amy Fulton, Mindy Brennan / Ext. 205 / Email: amy@winstonprouty.org*

Our summer program has officially begun, and with it comes changes in curriculum and schedule, and in new students beginning and old friends leaving us.

The theme for July was "Camping" and for August is the "Ocean, Lake, & Beach". We have already set up part of our room as a camping area, and we need to thank several families for helping us with props. Boden's Grampa "Denny" helped us put our "tent" up and the children loved watching him with his drill. Sadie's family bought us 6 flashlights for the children to use; batteries included. Dennis, staff member and family friend of Coulson, also found us some flashlights. Lastly, Oliver's family is lending us a picnic table.

Field Trip to Retreat Farm

On July 5th we spent the morning at the Retreat Farm. Everyone had a wonderful time on the nature walk, visiting the animals and having a picnic lunch. Thank you to all our family members for driving us!



Sprinkler Days and Rainy Days!

It is so important in the summer to be outside and having fun. Maples use the sprinkler on Mondays and Thursdays and are having a blast getting very wet. We have been using our bubble wands too, and love chasing the spheres through the water and across the lawn. In addition, we plan to go outside on rainy days, (light to moderate rain) so a raincoat and boots are helpful.



Oak Room *Sarah Bemis, Alyssa Kelly / Ext. 217 / Email: sarah@winstonprouty.org*

July has been a delicious month in the Oak Room as we explore activities about a favorite summer treat - ice cream! We have been enjoying taking orders, playing cashier, and scooping in our new ice cream shop. We have also practiced our counting and number recognition by playing an ice cream math game that encourages us to dish up to twenty scoops at a time! We have been creating beautiful masterpieces using unique materials such as puffy paint and cotton we dyed ourselves.

The use of balance boards allows us to enjoy moving our bodies inside our classroom in new and different ways. The Oak Room has also started to play 'The Great Bean Bag Race'.



In this race we aim to toss a bean bag into a hole representing one of four shapes. We created a bar graph to track the points for each shape, the first shape to the top wins!



In the month of August we look forward to exploring an ocean theme in our classroom. We also look forward to spending more time outside. We are excited to begin our sprinkler Friday's and take more walks in the woods!

Birch Room

*Jamie Champney, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes, Jr.
Ext. 220, Email: jamie@winstonprouty.org*

July has been a fun and eventful month in the Birch Classroom! We have been learning all about camping and fishing. We set up a tent in the dramatic play area and have been enjoying a variety of camping food cooked over our pretend campfire. Alfred has had a wonderful time teaching the children about Hawaiian style camping and culture, and the children have had fun using the leis and grass skirts donated to us by one of our families. In the block area the children have been using a wooden boat and boats made out of cardboard to go fishing. We have also enjoyed many art and cooking projects to go along with our camping and fishing theme.

Our first sprinkler day of the summer was a big success and we have decided to have a sprinkler day every Wednesday for the rest of the summer. We were excited to invite our families along on one of our nature walks followed by a story and picnic lunch this month.

This month we welcome Boden, Liam, and Parker to the Birch Classroom. We are so excited to have them join our class and we look forward to a fun summer!



August 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Sienna is 5! | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Shawndra is 4! | 8 | 9 Sophia is 4! | 10 | 11 Caitlin is 2! Christin is 2! | 12 Layla is 4! Happy Birthday Lisa! |
| 13 | 14 Happy Birthday Crystal! | 15 | 16 Happy Birthday Brandy! Kamron is 2! | 17 ELC Family BBQ 5:30 Ember is 2! | 18 Summer Program Year Ends Carter is 2! | 19 Keira is 2! |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Jacob is 3! Mason is 4! |
| | ELC Closed for In-Service and Prep | | | Center Closed for All-Staff In-Service | | |
| | | | Samuel is 2! | | | |
| 27 | 28 Program Year Begins | 29 Athena is 3! | 30 Marcus is 2! | 31 | | |

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, September 6 - NO early release for staff meeting

Monday, September 4 - Closed for Labor Day

Thursday, September 7 - "Here We Grow Again" Campus Anniversary & Merger Celebration

Saturday, September 23 - United Way of Windham County's Day of Caring - volunteer opportunity to help discover and sort the many boxes of children's books we have on campus.