

The Prouty Voice

March 2017

Volume 11, Issue 7

Note from Chloe Learey, Executive Director



Our Mission

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

Inside this issue:

Note from Chloe	1
Office News	2
Community Page	3
CBS News	4-5
ELC News	6-7
Calendar	8

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www.winstonprouty.org



FAMILY MATTERS— How are Vermont's Young Children and Families?

The fourth edition of Building Bright Futures' annual report "How are Vermont's Young Children and Families," released in December, included two additional features — recommendations for action and regional profiles.

The recommendations are taken from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care released in November 2016. While the Commission focused specifically on the early care and learning part of the early childhood system, Building Bright Futures is charged with bringing together multiple stakeholders, from education to health care to state services and families, to identify what we can do to make Vermont a better place to raise our youngest citizens. The report covers data from all aspects of life: Family and Social Relationships, Health and Development, Safety, Early Care and Learning, and Family Economic Well-being. Four indicators that our young children and families are doing well include: most children in the state have health insurance; the rate of poverty has decreased; more early education providers are participating in the quality rating system; and more children are getting vaccinations. These accomplishments should be celebrated.

However, significant challenges remain. While poverty has decreased in our region, we still see children and families struggle with making sure they have basic needs such as housing and food. The average length of stay in shelters has increased to 39 days, a record high. Sadly, more students are eligible for free-and-reduced lunch than ever before. In southeast Vermont, the rate of children under age 9 who are in state's custody is almost 15 per 1,000, one of the highest in the state. And, that number is rising. This is one of the greatest challenges in our community because it impacts us all. Children who are taken into the custody of the state are experiencing trauma in multiple ways, leading to increased risk for adverse childhood experiences or ACEs. The more ACEs a person experiences the greater likelihood they have of developing health problems, even into adulthood. While nurturing relationships can counter the negative effects of this trauma, the system is strained and can inadvertently contribute to the problem. Ultimately our community suffers when our children and families are not thriving.

One of the strongest assets of "How are Vermont's Young Children and Families" is that it gives us data over time which can help inform decisions about where to invest our resources — time, energy and money — to make a positive difference. The issues families face are complicated and interconnected. If we are going to make progress on some of our most challenging problems it requires people across sectors and generations coming together in a collaborative way to design solutions which are multi-faceted and touch many aspects of our lives. This is why a focus on integrating systems, such as Children's Integrated Services and Integrating Family Services, are so important.

The next episode of "Family Matters," the award-winning talk show about topics of interest to families with young children, will feature Building Bright Futures Coordinator Chad Simmons who will share highlights that are especially relevant in our community. You can read the report by visiting <http://buildingbrightfutures.org/initiatives/how-are-vermonts-young-children/>.

Administration

802-257-7852

Chloe Learey	Executive Director	Ext. 301	chloe@winstonprouty.org
Lisa Whitney	Director of Operations	Ext. 302	lisa@winstonprouty.org
Bridget Goodell	Operations Assistant	Ext. 304	bridget@winstonprouty.org
Paula Schwartz	Development Assistant		paula@winstonprouty.org
Mike Curtis	Assistant		

Wish List

- *Baby Bath Tubs
- *Highchair or Booster Seat w/Tray
- *Gently Used Infant/Toddler Shoes
- *Baby Carriers/Slings
- *Infant Swings
- *Bassinets
- *Boppy Pillows
- *Booster Seats
- *Doll House
- *Baby Mirrors
- *Baby Beds (for toy dolls)
- *Rhino Balls

Important Number to Note!

Please note that if you need immediate assistance after the office is closed, and the classroom isn't answering their phone, please call the ELC cell phone at **802-246-7852**. This rings to a cell phone that the ELC Staff brings with them onto the playground in the afternoons.

JOIN US!

in Vermont Hall, Winston Prouty Campus

Buy tickets at <http://winstonprouty.org/parforthecause/>



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Management Team

Chloe Learey, Executive Director
Lisa Whitney, Director of Operations
Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator
Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist
Kim Paquette, ELC Program Coordinator

Community Page

If you know of an event that may be of interest to the Prouty community, please email paula@winstonprouty.org with details. Thanks!

Seeking Long-Term Sub – Teacher Associate, Preschool

Seeking an energetic team player to join our program for at least six months. This is a 20 to 30 hours/week position working in one of our preschool classrooms. Level 3 on VT Northern Lights Career Ladder required (CCV Child Care Certificate, Associate's degree with 21 credits in early childhood, or completed VT Child Care Registered Apprentice program), and 2 years experience. A commitment to collaboration and learning, a can-do attitude, and a sense of humor are essential!

For more information visit our website at www.winstonprouty.org.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and names of 3 references by Monday, March 27th to:

Human Resources
The Winston Prouty Center
209 Austine Drive
Brattleboro, VT 05301
bridget@winstonprouty.org
Fax [802-258-2413](tel:802-258-2413)

Assistant Teacher and Substitutes – Pre-school

We are also seeking energetic team players to join our growing team. A commitment to collaboration and learning, a can-do attitude, and a sense of humor are essential. Seeking enthusiastic educators to join our program in the Assistant Teacher and Substitute Teacher roles, full-time and part-time positions.

Assistant qualifications include a CDA, Associate's degree or higher. Coursework in child development required (can be completed within the first 6 months of employment). Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and names of three references to Bridget Goodell at the address/email above.

Sandglass Theater Winter Sunshine Series - Puppet Shows for Kids of All Ages!

Saturday, March 18th, 11am and 2 pm, ages 2 and up
Double Image Theater Lab: I Laid An Egg

Saturday, March 25th, 11am and 2 pm, ages 5 and up
Brad Shur (Resident Artist at Puppet Showplace Theater): Cardboard Explosion!

Tickets: \$9 and \$30 for family of 4.
Shows at the Sandglass Theater, Putney, VT
Reservations are highly recommended
(802) 387-4051

<http://sandglasstheater.org/presenting/winter-sunshine-series/>



Community Based Services (CBS) 802-258-2414

Lisa Adams	Developmental Educator	Ext. 224	ladams@winstonprouty.org
Kerri Beebe	Family Support Worker/Housing	Ext. 204	kerri@winstonprouty.org
Crystal Blamy	Family Supportive Housing	Ext. 201	crystal@winstonprouty.org
Emily Clever	Housing Resource Coordinator	Ext. 203	emily@winstonprouty.org
Mary Coogan	Early Interventionist	Ext. 209	mary@winstonprouty.org
Willie Gussin	Family Support Worker	Ext. 303	willie@winstonprouty.org
Kathy Hallock	Developmental Educator	Ext. 219	kathy@winstonprouty.org
Rebecca Krause	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 211	rebecca@winstonprouty.org
Brandy Levesque	Consultation & Education, ECFMH	Ext. 228	brandy@winstonprouty.org
Shawn Lund	Consultation & Education, ECFMH	Ext. 216	shawn@winstonprouty.org
Kellyn McCullough	Family Support Worker	Ext. 305	kellyn@winstonprouty.org
Ellen Ostrander	Early Interventionist	Ext. 227	ellen@winstonprouty.org
Sally Pennington	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 206	sally@winstonprouty.org
Megan Seidner	Early Interventionist	Ext. 226	
Joanne Shaw	Community Resource Parent	Ext. 208	joanne@winstonprouty.org
Alison Wheeler	CIS Coordinator	Ext. 213	alison@winstonprouty.org
Maura Shader & Jennifer Emerson CIS Early Childhood Family Mental Health (ECFMH)		Ext. 202	

News from Community Based Services

Community Based Services includes; Children's Integrated Services (CIS), Family Supportive Housing (FSH), and the Early Education Initiative (EEI). CIS is a resource for families when they have questions or concerns about their child's development during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood.

Mary is participating in the Health Advisory Committee at Head Start. At the most recent meeting, the group discussed obesity in children and lead safety during pregnancy. Mary also received an oral health update for our community that an oral surgeon will be working 2 days/month at Estey Dental.

The Baby I Team will be coming on March 13th from 1-3pm to do an evaluation with our EI team. We will also invite them to come to our CIS Clinical team meeting during their visit to meet the rest of our team.

The Department of Health has hired Deb Kitzmiller as the new Maternal and Child Health Coordinator at the Brattleboro Office. Deb has worked as the OB Care Coordinator at Brattleboro OBGYN and worked closely with the CIS team in her position. She is also the co-founder of "It Takes a Village," which is a local volunteer home visiting program for new moms. We are excited to work with Deb in this capacity when she started in her position on February 27th.

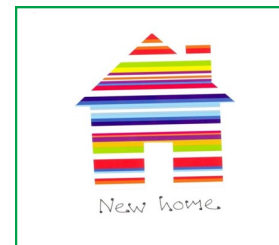
CBS Wish List

Rebecca Krause, CIS Nurse, is looking for a double stroller for one of her clients who has a set of twins. Please contact her at 257-2101 ext. 211, if you can help this family out. Thank you in advance!



Winston Prouty's **Family Supportive Housing Program (FSH)** assists chronically homeless families in finding stable housing and providing case management to support them in their housing. To celebrate, we want to provide families with **New Beginnings Baskets** on their move-in day. Our FSH program needs your HELP filling the baskets! We are seeking :

- Monetary donation – any donation appreciated
- Batteries for smoke detector
- Safety covers for outlets
- Gift card – for food or merchandise
- Coupon for a discount
- Key chain
- Cleaning supplies such as dish soap, bleach, broom, dust pan, etc.
- Dish cloths
- Picture frames
- Dish racks
- Items such as band-aids, thermometer, ice pak for first aid kits



These baskets will also have helpful information about community supports and ideas for budgeting and saving. Our goal is to fill 20 baskets. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Kerri at 257-2101, ext. 204 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Resources

State-wide community resources	Vermont 2-1-1	2-1-1	www.vermont211.org
Child care referrals and resources	Windham Child Care Association (WCCA)	802-254-5332	www.windhamchildcare.org
WIC	Vermont Department of Health	802-257-2880	www.healthvermont.gov
Mental health and substance abuse services	Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)	1-888-888-5144	www.hcrs.org
Housing and other services for people in poverty	Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	802-254-2795	www.sevca.org
New Moms Network (Dawn Kersula, MA, RN)	Brattleboro Memorial Hospital	802-257-8278	E-mail: dkersula@bmhvt.org www.bmhvt.org
Local event listings and information	Parent Express	603-352-1234	www.sentinelsource.com/parent_express/

Early Learning Center

802-257-2101

ELC Program Coordinator

Kimberley Paquette

Ext. 306 kim@winstonprouty.org

ELC Administrative Coordinator

Angela Hoag

Ext. 210 angela@winstonprouty.org

Teaching Staff

Acorn: Nancy McMahon, Michelle Goodwin, Mandi Martin

Ext. 218 nancy@winstonprouty.org

Elm: Susan Heimer, Allie Barrett

Ext. 207 susan@winstonprouty.org

Maple: Amy Fulton, Mindy Brennan

Ext. 205 amy@winstonprouty.org

Oak: Sarah Bemis, Lorraine Gilman

Ext. 217 sarah@winstonprouty.org

Birch: Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes Jr.

Ext. 220

Floater: Kathy Wright, Lyn Call, Alyssa Kelly, Katie Farnsworth, Sara Fradkin

Baby News: Welcome Atticus! He was born February 7th and weighed in at 7 lb., 6 oz. Mama Mandi and baby are doing great!

Non-Teaching Staff

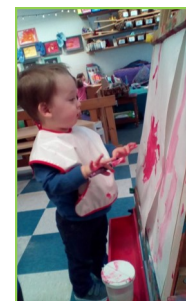
Liz Martin
Paul Rossi

Volunteers

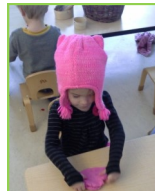
Susan Mandell
Bob Peeples

Acorn Room (Infants) from Nancy: In our infant program we've been inspired by the RIE Philosophy. This is a philosophy that shows respect & trust in our infants. One way we do this is by offering uninterrupted play to our babies. So what may this look like? When we're not changing, dressing, walking, feeding or napping our infants, we're providing a safe nurturing play space that encourages cognitive challenges, self-directed play & interactions with infants. We as the teachers become passive - we position ourselves in the room & quietly observe. We don't initiate play, nor do we interrupt struggles. We watch & see if the child can problem solve. We narrate or ask open questions to encourage play when needed. There're times our infants may need help & we're there on the floor ready, but most times we trust their bodies & abilities & they simply amaze us. We get to see our children playing games with each other like peek a boo or chase. They look at books together & sooth each other. This group has started some imaginative play as we've introduced a baby corner. We welcomed 6-week-old Brayden Wheeler to our group last month. Our older babies are quite interested in him and in our baby dolls. They hug and rock them, carry them around, feed them & dress them. The children also sparked an interest in animals & animal sounds, which we have been exploring in our circle times. During uninterrupted play we have a wooden farm & animals set up. The children explore the animals with their hands & mouths. They spend time putting them in & out of the barn. They make animal noises, sort them, take them from each other & give them to each other. I always thought in the past that I had to direct & lead their play, on the contrary I set up the space & sit back to be amazed at what these little inventors can do.

Elm Room (Young Toddlers) This is our last full month with Teacher Allie for awhile. We wish her love & best wishes as she awaits the arrival of her baby mid-March. We'll miss her when she's out on maternity leave. February included a Valentine party. Thank you to the Darrow family for the sweet Valentine crowns & special snack. There's high interest in our new storyboard "Hickory Dickory Dock" because every child becomes an interactive player with a colored mouse. Counting numbers on the clock promotes number recognition & sorting out the colored mice promotes color recognition. We also are very adept with the concepts of "up" & "down" with this story. Toddlers learn so much with sensory play! We're enjoying both the social & fine motor aspects of using the water table with sink and float objects. Other sensory opportunities included baking raisin cake (with flour & spices in the sensory table as well as in the mixing bowl), bubbles, coloring pasta, & the big daily play material: SNOW! Pink was our color of the month, which was explored with easel paint pots of white & red, mixed with a paintbrush (& sometimes our fingers!)



Maple Room (Older Toddlers) As February came to an end, we reflect on a month full of fun, holidays & lots of snow. We've just retired our "bear cave" & have added a Maple Room Grocery to our dramatic play area. We made colored ice to paint with & discovered that yellow & blue make green. Lyn made us some wonderful pink play dough, just in time for Valentine's Day. It was great to have two different kinds of dough to use. Elm room invited us in to sing along with them when Desi's Grammy came in to lead it. It was great fun! February meant we glued lots of hearts on everything - we even had heart stickers that we stuck onto our Valentine Bags. We made hearts for our parents and told them how much we loved them. Everyone shared Valentine cards with their friends and had so much fun opening and reading their cards on Valentine's Day. We had our special healthy snack of raspberries, strawberries, watermelon & grapes. Thank You to Benjamin's family for sending in strawberries. We discovered that the fruit was more popular than the vegetables. We'll have to try to find a way to convince our toddlers that cherry tomatoes & red peppers are yummy! The next day Mindy made mini donuts with her donut baker. We had chocolate frosting & almost everyone wanted purple sprinkles on their donuts.



Oak Room (Preschool) The month of February was a land of fairytales in the Oak classroom! We focused on three of our favorite fairy tales this month and created many different learning experiences based on the stories. When reading *The Three Little Pigs*, we made pig puppets and enjoyed retelling the story in our own special ways. We created a science experiment to test the strength of each building material in the story. Our predictions were confirmed when we discovered bricks are stronger than straw. The week of the *Gingerbread Man* allowed us to bake our own gingerbread people and run as fast as we could on the playground. The third story we explored was *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Through this story we were inspired to start growing our own grass in the classroom. We spent the week crossing the bridge as Billy Goats and learned the differences in things that were small, medium and large. In March we look forward to a variety of different word play experiences. We will be using nursery rhymes and songs to explore onsets and rhymes with the words we use each day. We will also be working to identify and construct with a variety of different shapes. We are excited for the opportunity to connect with families at the end of this month at our parent conferences.



Birch Room (Preschool) We've been very busy - each day finds us exploring new art materials, practicing writing letters & our names, learning new song movements, playing memory & board games, cooking & eating fish & preparing different meals in the dramatic play area, & building tall towers & castles with blocks. It's amazing what children at this age can create using their imagination & powers of observation. We have also been learning about Tucker Turtle, a turtle who used to hit, kick or yell when he had big feelings. But Tucker learned a new way to deal with his feelings. He tucks inside his shell & takes 3 deep breathes to calm down. When he's calm, he's able to think of solutions for his problem. We've been practicing calming down like Tucker Turtle. We have our own Tucker (a soft puppet), which the children can hold to remind them to breathe when they get those big feelings. The children have been busy making their own turtle shells as a way to reinforce this concept. Social emotional learning is a huge part of a preschool curriculum. Just as they need support & instruction to learn math & literacy, children need instruction & practice around social emotional skills. We will continue to enrich our curriculum with activities & lessons related to learning about feelings, friendship skills, & problem solving.



March Happenings

Developmental Disabilities Month

March 2: Read Across America (Dr. Seuss Day)

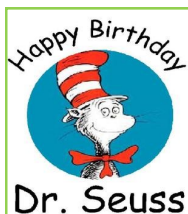
March 3: Nat'l Day of Unplugging

March 8: International Women's Day

March 12: Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 20: Spring Equinox



The **Center closes** at 3:30 on the first Wednesday of each month for Staff Meeting.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CENTER CLOSED at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting	2	3	4
5	6 Oliver is 3!	7	8	9 Happy Bday Paul	10	11 Happy Bday Amy Kyra is 3!
12	13	14 Happy Bday Michelle	15	16	17	18
19	20 Happy Bday Alfred	21	22 Happy Bday Angela Evelyn is 5!	23	24 ELC Closes @ 12:00 for Parent Conferences	25
26	27 ELC Closed for Parent Conferences	28	29	30	31 Deshawn is 5!	

**Upcoming
Events:**

April 5th 1st Center Closes at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting
April 17th-21 ELC Closed for Spring Break