

The Prouty Voice

April 2017

Volume 11, Issue 8

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.

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FAMILY MATTERS: Investing in Early Childhood

The idea that there is a positive return on investment in early childhood programs is not new, and it provides an excellent rationale for Governor Scott's proposals in his budget to increase funding in this realm. A recent report from the Vermont Business Roundtable concludes that "Society would receive \$3.08 for every additional dollar invested by Vermont's government in the expansion of ECL (early care and learning) programs. After deducting costs, each child would produce more than \$52,000 in lifetime benefits to society."

The challenge is how to fund the investment in early care and learning, as well as higher education, without reducing resources for the K-12 system. As the state and local communities grapple with challenges such as Act 46 implementation, a greater understanding of how early care and learning fits into the education continuum is sorely needed. Years of research have shown that children who spend their early years in safe, healthy, nurturing and stimulating environments with plenty of opportunities to play, explore and develop strong relationships are successful in grades K-12.

Education for very young children is not sitting in a classroom learning letters and numbers. Everything in a young child's life is education! From meal time to playing, and even diaper changing, children are learning the social-emotional skills they need to be ready for and successful in kindergarten and beyond. Parents are their child's first and most important teacher, so it is critical that families have the resources, skills and knowledge they need to help their child develop. Public funding of early care and learning does not have to mean replicating the public school system for the birth to five set.

Support of early childhood involves building a holistic approach, working with the whole family, meeting them where they are, understanding their environment, and offering support where needed to help them be the best parents they can be. Helping parents be successful has benefits beyond optimal child development. For instance, the strain on our community from the number of children in foster care is unsustainable. The most fundamental preventive work we can do to slow that trend is to invest in early childhood services that support child and family development. When families have what they need then their children do as well. This is the difference that organizations like The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development makes every day for families. This is why the investment needs to impact all of the services and supports offered – from early care and learning to family support to health care (including mental health).

An integrated family-centered approach is what is needed to reap the full benefits of any public funding of early childhood education. A child's brain has developed 80% by age 3, long before they enter kindergarten, and before they are even eligible for public pre-school funding in Vermont. Pitting players in the education realm against one another simply creates a false competition and detracts from the needed funding solution. Let's make sure our investment represents the continuum of early care and learning in a holistic way. We cannot afford to do otherwise.

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

- *Big Bibs
- *Highchair or Booster Seat w/Tray
- *Gently Used Infant/Toddler Shoes
- *Baby Carriers/Slings
- *Infant Swings
- *Bassinets
- *Boppy Pillows
- *Booster Seats
- *Baby Bath Tubs
- *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.

Cultural Exchange

On March 20th and 21st, we hosted the staff from the Family and Child Education Program at The Little Singer Community School on the Navajo Nation in Arizona. Miriam Dror, MA, LCMHC, received a grant to fund this opportunity to investigate the importance of, and the building of, community as the ground for growing healthy families and children. As part of this cultural exchange, Etta, the principal of the school, and teachers, Judy, Betty, Rosie and Rosebell, did a presentation on their school as well as on the Navajo culture. They taught us about how their culture deeply informs its understandings of child and human development and the curriculum of their pre-school. The Little Singer teachers also observed some of our classrooms and met with the Family Support Team. It was interesting to see how another culture approaches child and human development and we gained new insights and ideas as a part of this wonderful experience.



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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!

Thanks again to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers and mini-golfers who helped make the **3rd Annual Par for the Cause** a great success! It was a really fun night of great food and drink, good friends and many rounds of mini-golf.



Seeking Long-Term Sub – Teacher Associate, Preschool

Seeking an energetic team player to join our program for approximately four 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 three references by **Friday, April 14th** 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.



ELC Annual Book Exchange Friday, April 14, 2017



Please bring books to school to swap with your child's classmates. We ask that you bring in 1-3 books appropriate for your child's age level.

On Thursday, April 13th, the books will be displayed in the small room, off the multi-purpose room, and classrooms will take turns coming in to examine and read them. On Friday, small groups will go in to make their selections. If your child is not in school on April 14th, you may exchange the day before or stop by on Book Exchange Day.

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.

The Month of the Young Child includes interesting events for parents too!

- ♦ **Community Conversation: Bridging Early Learnings & Public Schools:** Weds., April 12, 6-8 pm, at the Brattleboro Retreat, Education Conference Room. Join a conversation about the best approaches to delivering high-quality, affordable and accessible care and learning for children. Panel of presenters and open discussion. Light dinner and childcare available. RSVP Chad at csimmons@buildingbrightfutures.org or 802-451-9345.
- ♦ **Infant and Caregiver Massage Class:** Sat., April 15, 9:30-11:00 am, at the EES Conference Room, 130 Birge St., 2nd floor. Join an introduction to the wonders of Infant Massage! Learn about the practice and benefits for you and your baby. Limit 10 caregivers and 5 infants. Pre-registration required. Tonya Kangas at 802-254-5332, X319.
- ♦ **Mother Up! Monthly Meet-Up:** Mon., April 24, 5:30-7:39 pm, at KidsPLAYce, 20 Elliot St. Mother Up!: Parents Exchange for Change, a project of 350Vermont, brings together families to talk about the tough realities of climate change and to participate in the just transition to a healthier and safer world. A simple vegetarian meal and childcare for ages 8 and under will be provided. Contact Abby Mnookin at abby@350vt.org.



Job Opportunity — Respite Provider

Looking to hire a part-time Respite Provider. One Saturday or Sunday per month with flexibility in hours, and one to two evenings per week for about 3 hours for my physically and intellectually challenged son. He is 28 years old, but the size of a four year old, and very cuddly. Generous hourly wage, paid monthly. For more details and inquiry's please call Joanne Shaw at 387-6643, after 5pm.

CBS Wish List



◆ Rebecca Krause, CIS Nurse, is looking for a crib and stroller for one of her moms. Please contact her at 257-2101 ext. 211, if you can help this family out.

◆ Kerri Beebe, CIS Family support, is searching for a crib and mattresses (not older than 10 years old and slats no more than 2 3/8 inches between crib slats so that a baby's body cannot fit through the slats. If a soda can fits easily through the slats on the crib, the spaces between the slats are too wide). Please contact her at 257-2101 ext. 204, if you can help this family out.

Thanks so much!

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
- Cleaning supplies such as dish soap, bleach, broom, dust pan, etc.
- Dish cloths and dish racks
- Picture frames, key chains
- 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. Brandy Levesque

Ext. 220 brandy@winstonprouty.org

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

Volunteers

Susan Mandell
Bob Peeples
Amelia Goodnow
Kayla Parro

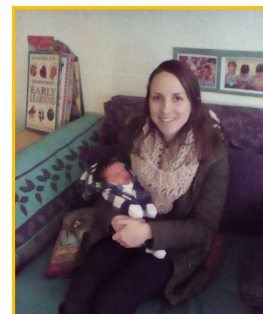
Baby News: Welcome Grayson! He was born March 9th and weighed in at 6 lb., 13 oz. Mama Allie and baby are doing great!

Non-Teaching Staff

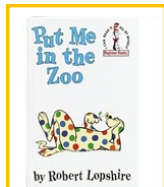
Liz Martin
Paul Rossi

Acorn Room (Infants) We are so excited for spring. These babies (young toddlers) have been getting outside a lot more lately. What we are really looking forward to is being able to explore the outdoors. We are all mobile babies now and are looking forward to exploring the grass, dirt and leaves. Plans are underway to spruce up the infant toddler yard and make it more baby/toddler friendly. We would like to add gardens (perennial and veggie), as well as clean up all the old bark mulch and seed the yard so it is green and grassy. We also want to add shade to some areas, sensory play and have a stable area for babies to roll and crawl on and toddlers to role play. We are planning on having a couple of work days once the snow is gone and the ground is dry. If you are a gardener, carpenter or love the outdoors and you need to do your volunteer time please contact Susan or Nancy and we will put you on the list! Happy Spring!

Elm Room (Young Toddlers) The toddlers are having an interesting time with our daily snack time examination and taste testing of various fruits and vegetables. Our annual "Fantastic Food" unit goes along with National Nutrition Month, but we're having so much fun we may extend it another month. We talk about colors, textures, smells, and tastes. Everybody at least "kisses" the food even if they do not eat it. This exposure and familiarity often leads to more receptive acceptance of foods, especially if children have seen other people enthusiastically sample things. We do remind families to keep trying rejected foods, because it may take as many as 16 exposures before a child is comfortable with a strange flavor. Children may also try foods at school that they will not try at home, so don't be discouraged! We're so grateful that the Bookmobile experience continued throughout the winter with the wonderful interactive storytelling in our own room with master Storyteller Sueno, pictured below reading to infants and toddlers. Snow or no snow, we got out almost every day!



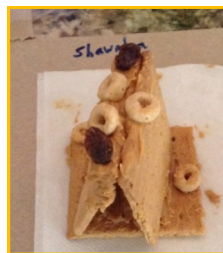
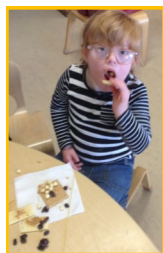
Maple Room (Older Toddlers) Our Maples were busy learning about the zoo and wild animals this month. We celebrated Dr. Suess' birthday by reading, "Put Me in the Zoo." We put lots of wild animals out (Thank you to Kim J. from Birch Room for lending us some animals), used an wooden crate for the zoo, and read lots of bear books. We even made fuzzy bears out of felt and feathers. We're learning about farm animals now, in hopes that spring will actually arrive. To celebrate the seasonal changes we had our own mud season in the sensory table, which changed to shamrocks and gold coins to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Did you know that a very quiet Leprechaun came to our room during rest and left footprints all over our room? We used finger paint and handprints to make shamrocks, and cut up magazines to make a collage. We even used our wild animals to make footprint paintings. Other activities included: making glitter slime and apple pizza, a float and sink experiment in the sensory table, and gluing with egg shells and glitter! We've been using the Big Room in the morning and afterward, we have started some group activities. With all our teachers available, we each have a small group and work together with the same manipulatives. Usually we can have three groups and some of the things we've been exploring are the wooden blocks, Magna-Tiles, Bristle Blocks and Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head.



Oak Room (Preschool) March has been a busy month in the Oak classroom. We have been exploring our art skills through the use of water colors and chalk rubbings. We can't wait to showcase our work during the month of the young child art exhibits in downtown Brattleboro! We have also been working on recognizing numerals and their quantities by playing a number of different games. Salt trays have allowed us to combine letter recognition and writing with a sensory experience. We have also enjoyed playing with new dress up clothes in our dramatic play area. In the science center our grass we planted in February has grown and is now several inches tall. We love watching it grow each day and have noticed more birds visiting our feeder as the weather gets warmer. In April we look forward to learning about spring! Thank you to all our families who attended parent-teacher conferences. We enjoy getting a chance to connect with each one of you and celebrate the growth of your children.



Birch Room (Preschool) This month we have continued with our very important work around social skills. The children have really taken to Tucker Turtle. It not only helps them to calm down, but it has increased their sensitivity and empathy towards others. For example, a child notices a peer crying and brings them Tucker to snuggle with. We've also been learning about problem solving. We're using a model we call "Breathe, Think, Do." This is adapted from a great free app called 'Sesame Street Breathe.' The children are moving from learning this process to using it in the moment when a problem arises. Another topic has been turn taking. Children practice turn taking in group games, with play ideas and materials/ toys and in conversation. We've begun to think about and study structures. Currently we're focusing on our homes and buildings. The children have been drawing and building with a variety of materials. We plan to continue with structures that other animals make, like spider webs and bee hives. We're beginning to notice signs of spring, although Mother Nature isn't being very cooperative! Thanks to everyone for sharing your recycled materials. Children have been busy at work creating collages, sculptures and other artistic representations. It was a pleasure meeting with parents this month for conferences. Not only do you learn about your child and his/her activities in the classroom, but we learn so much from you! If you haven't had an opportunity to have a conference, but would like to, please let us know.



April Happenings

Autism Awareness Month
Keep America Beautiful Month
Nat'l Fair Housing Month

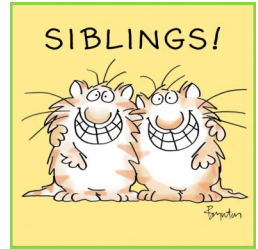
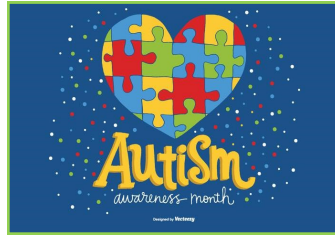
April 10th: National Siblings Day

April 10th: National Farm Animals Day

April 16th: Easter

April 22nd: National Earth Day

April 28th: National Arbor Day



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Happy Bday Alyssa CENTER CLOSED at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting	6 Happy Bday Lyn	7	8 Happy Bday Eric
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Happy Bday Kellyn
16	17	18 Matthew is 5! Happy Bday Eric	19 Rylan is 1!	20	21	22
CENTER CLOSED for Spring Break						
23 Haydan is 5!	24	25	26	27 Happy Bday Susan	28	29
30 Marcus & Alexis are 4! Happy Bday Mike						

Upcoming
Events:

May 3rd Center Closes at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting
May 29th Center Closed for Memorial Day