

The Prouty Voice

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Our Mission

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

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Note from Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Navigating the challenges of parenthood

The recent prominence of the debate about childhood vaccinations creates a good opportunity for us to reflect on the challenges of modern parenthood. Whether the world has truly become more complicated or not can certainly be debated but the answer will not make it easier to face the complications and challenges. Some of the challenges may have greater implications than others. For instance, “to vaccinate or not” is perhaps of different significance than when to feed a child solid food or have them sleep in their own bed or learn to use the toilet, but as a parent, particularly with a first child, these are looming questions that seem critical and can cause great struggle in that phase. Everyone has advice, and it comes in all varieties. How is a parent supposed to proceed? We may model (or reject) the parenting we received, we may do lots of research, we may talk to our doctors or other professionals. Ultimately, though, parents have to make a decision either by taking action, or not as the case may be. There is no magic answer, we do the best we can, we hope we have accessed enough information and we leap.

There is a lot of judgment about parenting in our culture, and a lot of blaming of parents for what ails their children. Are you a helicopter parent? You smothered your child! Are you a free-range parent? You let your child go wild! It feels like you can’t win, and it is an interesting tension we walk between our belief in a “right to parent” and cultural expectations for parenting. What is parenting? It is not just having a child. It is accepting the responsibility for providing an environment which supports the optimal development of a child. We have measures of typical development as a standard to use about “how your child is doing”, i.e., is she walking around 12 months, is he using 5 to 20 words by 18 months, etc. However, individual optimal development may vary, and the trick is to understand who your child is and what they need to succeed. This can make it difficult to interpret the advice we get. Sometimes there is the gem we uncover, “that is just like my child!” and sometimes we can’t seem to find anything that aligns with what we are experiencing.

The work we do at the Prouty Center, both in the community and on-site, is grounded in a framework called Touchpoints which we use to join parents and families as they discover their child and parenting. The principles and assumptions of the framework do not provide answers but rather offer a structure for how to approach the primary questions that arise for families: How is my child doing, and how am I doing as a parent? When we partner with families to help them answer these questions we are well on the way to helping them figure out how to create the conditions for optimal development for their child. This is how we help parents navigate the challenges of parenthood.

Visit <http://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/> for more information, and this link for a good overview of the model: http://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Touchpoints_Model_of_Development_Aug_2007.pdf

Administration

802-257-7852

Chloe Learey	Executive Director	Ext. 11	chloe@winstonprouty.org
Lisa Whitney	Director of Operations	Ext. 12	lisa@winstonprouty.org
Angela Hoag	Office Manager	Ext. 10	angela@winstonprouty.org
Miles Shaw	Assistant		

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Tune in to

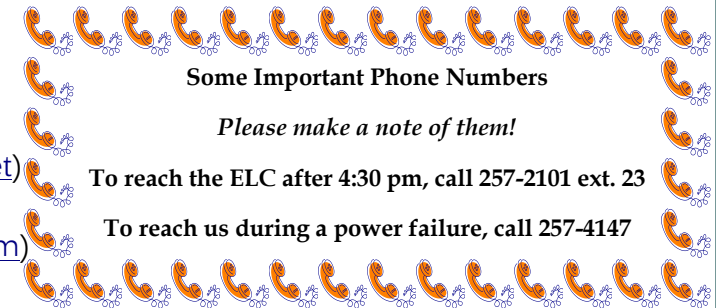
WTSA (96.7 FM, 1450 AM, online at www.wtsa.net)

WKTV (92.7 FM, 1490 AM, online at www.wkvt.com)

for Center closings or delays.

Decisions are typically made by 6:30am

If the center will be CLOSED.



Some Important Phone Numbers

Please make a note of them!

To reach the ELC after 4:30 pm, call 257-2101 ext. 23

To reach us during a power failure, call 257-4147



Wish List

*Boppy Pillows	*Push toys
*Baby mirrors	*Rhino balls
*Booster seats	*Highchair
*Gallon of neutral wall paint	
*1 Piece toddler snow suits	
*Kitchen table and chairs (adult size)	
*Cause & Effect toys (non battery operated)	
*1 Twin Bedframe	*1 Full Size Mattress



Board of Trustees

David Dunn (President)	Rachel Henry
Sue Dyer (Vice President)	Frederic Noyes
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Sarah Nohl (Secretary)	
Heather Golding	

Management Team

Chloe Learey, Executive Director
 Lisa Whitney, Director of Operations
 Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator
 Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist
 Sara Lovell-Allbee, Education Supervisor

Community Page

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



Save the Date

Winston Prouty Early Learning Center

Family Potluck Dinner

@ the VFW on Black Mountain Road in Brattleboro

Thursday, March 12th ~ 5:00-7:00pm

*“The adults can talk and the children can play,
we all have to eat dinner anyway!”*

The most important thing is that you come join us; Please see Susan to sign up to bring something or help in some way!



Community Based Services (CBS) 802-258-2874

Emily Clever	Family Supportive Housing	Ext. 25	emily@winstonprouty.org
Crystal Blamy	Family Supportive Housing	Ext. 13	crystal@winstonprouty.org
Mary Coogan	Early Interventionist	Ext. 15	mary@winstonprouty.org
Jillsen Deignan	Developmental Educator	Ext. 24	jillsen@winstonprouty.org
Terrill Douglas	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 28	terril@winstonprouty.org
Kathy Hallock	Developmental Educator	Ext. 16	kathy@winstonprouty.org
Sally Pennington	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 28	sally@winstonprouty.org
Brandy Levesque	Inclusion Facilitator	Ext. 31	brandy@winstonprouty.org
Joanne Shaw	Community Resource Parent	Ext. 14	joanne@winstonprouty.org
Alison Wheeler	CIS Coordinator	Ext. 29	alison@winstonprouty.org
Kellyn McCullough	Family Support Worker	Ext. 21	kellyn@winstonprouty.org
Shelly Torunski	Developmental Educator	Ext. 30	shelly@winstonprouty.org

Volunteer: Teddi Tucci

News from Community Services:

The Children's Integrated Services program at The Winston Prouty Center is a resource for families when they have questions or concerns about their child's development during pregnancy, infancy and early childhood. CIS was created by the state of Vermont to help ensure the success of children and families through early supports and services. CIS is open to all families.

- CIS would like to thank our volunteer for the past 3 years, Teddi Tucci. Teddi is moving closer to her family in Connecticut and we wish her well in her new home. Thank you, Teddi, for all you contributed to CIS!
- We are in the process of interviewing and hiring for a full-time Family Support worker in CIS.
- Our CBS Family Support team will be attending OEO's 2nd Annual Poverty & Opportunity Forum for Sharing Ideas and Practices among Community Partners on 3/31/15 at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, VT.
- Some CBS staff will be attending the Child Development Division's Zero to Six Conference—Applying the Developmental Perspective to Achieving Safety for our Most Vulnerable Children on 3/10/15 at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier. The Keynote Speaker will be Brenda Jones Harden, PhD. Her focus is on the developmental and mental health needs of young children at environmental risk, specifically children who have been maltreated, are in the foster care system, or exposed to multiple family risks such as maternal depression, parent substance use, and poverty.
- Emily Clever is working on collaboration with the Brattleboro Area CoC to plan a series of Renter's Education workshops. These will be held in the evening (5:30-7:30) here at Prouty beginning on April 8th. There is a planning group working on the curriculum, child care, food, incentives, and guest speakers. Reach-up will be allowing participants to fulfill part of their work requirement by attending these workshops.

- Brandy Levesque will be holding a training with funding from Race to the Top on the Ages and Stages questionnaire 3 here at Prouty on 3/19 from 1-4pm. CBS staff in Early Intervention, Family Support, Nursing, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, Family Supported Housing and the Nurse Family Partnership nurses will be attending.
- Kellyn is working with a young single mother who just recently obtained stable housing and in February was offered a full-time employment position after being on Reach-up and in job placements for a couple of years. This mother will be working with children in an alternative school setting who are experiencing social/emotional or behavioral issues.
- Family Supportive Housing is working in collaboration with two local landlords to master lease 3 apartments. Three families have been successfully housed in these units over the last two months!
- A family in the Family Supportive Housing program has just secured long-term stable housing in a project based unit through Windham and Windsor Housing. This is the family's first time having stable housing in over two years!
- January was one of the busiest months we have had for CIS, with 74 referrals coming in for Early Intervention, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, Nursing, Family Support and Specialized Child Care!

Resources

State-wide community resources	Vermont 2-1-1	2-1-1	www.vermont211.org
Child care referrals and resources	Windham Child Care Association	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

Education Supervisor

Sara Lovell-Allbee

Ext. 32 sara@winstonprouty.org

Non-Teaching Staff

Liz Martin

Paul Rossi

Volunteers

Susan Mandell

Marki Webber

Teaching Staff

EL1: Susan Heimer, Kelsey Carew

Ext. 20 susan@winstonprouty.org

EL2: Jordan Wyckoff, Maggie Sullivan, Katrina Irish

Ext. 18 jordan@winstonprouty.org

EL3: Ana Williams, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes Jr.

Ext. 22 ana@winstonprouty.org

EL4: Ylan Roy, Amy Fulton

Ext. 17 ylan@winstonprouty.org

Floaters: Kathy Wright, Lyn Call and Martha Rath



One of our substitutes, Paula, brought in a few things to share with the children for Chinese New Year. Coloring pages and a mobile of the different animals represented provided fun, hands on learning to EL3 :) She also read a story to them during lunch time. We are so lucky to have such wonderful substitutes!



You're never too old,
too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book
and read to a child.

-Dr. Seuss



Garden and Spring Projects

Although the ground is still completely covered in snow, soon it will be time to start thinking about spring and planting gardens. The garden at Winston Prouty is a favorite activity for many children. All the classes are involved in some part of planting seeds, watering the plants, weeding, digging, and especially sampling the fruits and vegetables we grow.

Gardening with children is a great way to get them to try new foods. Many children who dislike eating fruits and vegetables are much more likely to try them if they are involved in the process of growing the food. Recently a child in EL4 told me she was a picky eater and usually didn't eat vegetables, but loved eating kale from the Prouty garden because she had grown it!

Even though it is still winter there are projects that you and your child can start inside. Squash, broccoli, peppers, pumpkins, herbs, and flowers are some of the easiest seeds to start indoors this spring. Using yogurt containers, plastic cups, or egg cartons you can grow seeds inside until they can be transplanted to the garden.

Other fun inside projects:

Seeds in a Bag-

Put seeds in a plastic bag with a paper towel or cotton balls. Add a little water, tape the bag to a window with lots of sun, and watch for your seed to grow! Remember to leave the bag unsealed a little bit.

Grow an Avocado Tree-

Eat an avocado and save the seed. Wash the seed and push toothpicks into the sides of the seed so it can rest in a cup of water with pointy end sticking up and the bottom in the water. In 2-6 weeks roots and a stem will sprout.

Julia McDougal-Ronconi (Calvin and Louis's mom) will be one of the parent volunteers in charge of the garden this year. If you would like to help or have any questions please feel free to contact her. ~Martha Rath

ELC's Frittata Recipe (feeds 50 hungry kids!)

**Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit*

**Whisk 36 eggs in a large bowl*

Mix In:

1 1/2 bags of shredded cheese

1/2 big can of tomatoes

1 bag of spinach

1/2 tsp of salt

2 cups of milk

**Rub pans with butter*

**Pour into pans and place in oven for about 50 min.*

The ELC has been serving up this frittata recipe and the kids all seem to love it!

We added the spinach in the beginning and a few months ago added the tomatoes!

It's a great way to use up some veggies you might have or introduce new ones to your kids!

Just remember the recipe on the left is enough to feed about 50 kids! So if you are gonna try it at home you might want to cut those amounts back a bit :)



March

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



March Happenings

Epilepsy Awareness Month

Music in our Schools Month

National Nutrition Month

National Professional Social Work Month

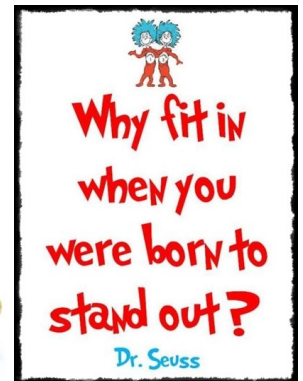
Women's History Month

March 2: National Reading Day

March 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 20: First Day of Spring



Upcoming Events:

April 1: Center Closes at 3:30 for All Staff meeting

April 20-24: ELC CLOSED for Spring Break

March 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 Happy Bday Dr. Seuss! 	3	4 Center CLOSES @ 3:30 for ALL Staff Meeting	5	6 Emma is 2!	7
8 Spring Clocks Forward!	9 Happy Bday Paul!	10	11 Happy Bday Amy!	12	13 Griffin is 2!	14
15 Regan is 5!	16	17 Happy St. Patty's Day! 	18	19	20 Happy Bday Alfred! First Day of Spring 	21
22 Wilder is 3! Happy Bday Angela!	23	24 Anastasia is 4!	25	26	27 ELC Closes @ 12 for Parent Conferences	28
29	30 ELC CLOSED for Parent Conferences	31 Bentley is 1! Deshawn is 3!				