

The Prouty Voice

April 2016

Volume 10, Issue 8



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

Family Matters: Celebrate the Month of the Young Child

Why celebrate "Month of the Young Child"?

In 1971, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) began celebrating the "Week of the Young Child" during the 3rd week of April. In 1985, the Michigan state affiliate, MiAYEC started the Month of the Young Child, and many other states and regions have done the same, including greater Windham County and other part of Vermont. It is a time to focus on the importance of the early years, the needs of young children and their families, and to recognize the programs and services that support them. While early care and education is one of the areas that is highlighted prominently, it is important to consider the range of supports that touch young children, from pediatricians to child protective services, health departments to housing support. One of the hallmarks of working with young children successfully is working closely with families and caregivers as well. I often say that people should not go into working with young children unless they are good at working with adults! Celebrating Month of the Young Child means celebrating families, too.

By now you have likely heard why the earliest years are such a critical time for development. When 80% of a child's brain is developed by age 3, and 90% by age 5, it is imperative that we pay close attention to ALL aspects of a child's life and the environments in which they exist. Early education is what is happening all the time for young children as they absorb the world around them – at home, in the classroom, with other caregivers, at the doctor's office. Conversations about early childhood education often end up focusing on programs, whether center-based or home-based, and certainly this is a primary place that many children spend their days. However, keeping the conversation more broad helps to reinforce that early learning and development is happening across all settings, and it is not so much the setting that matters, but what is happening there to support the optimal development of children.

On the current edition of Family Matters, the talk show where we discuss topics of interest about early childhood, Sueño LeBlond shares her experience as an early educator and someone who is involved with planning this year's Month of the Young Child events in our region. As the Early Education Outreach Coordinator, Sueño interacts with many children, families and providers as she drives around the county in the Early Learning Express. She shares that this MOYC celebration creates opportunities to bring families together and connect them to each other and the community. Raising children is joyful, and can be very challenging! Supporting families to have the tools they need to support their child's development is some of the most important work we can do.

A full schedule of the free events happening around the region can be found at www.windhamchildcare.org. The 12th Annual Children's Art Exhibit is a wonderful kick-off for the month, and it is happening at the River Garden in Brattleboro on Saturday, April 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Please join us as we strive to make our community aware of the importance of early childhood.

Administration

802-257-7852

Chloe Learey Executive Director Ext. 11 chloe@winstonprouty.org
 Lisa Whitney Director of Operations Ext. 12 lisa@winstonprouty.org
 Paula Schwartz Development Assistant Ext. 41 paula@winstonprouty.org
 Susan Fiske-Gagne Bookkeeper Mike Curtis Assistant

Wish List

- *Baby Carriers/Slings
- *Infant Swings
- *Bassinets
- *Boppy Pillows
- *Booster Seats
- *(not new) Towels!
- *Baby Mirrors
- *Baby Beds (for toy dolls)
- *Rhino Balls

Some Important Phone Numbers

Please make a note of them!

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

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



If you have missed any of the videos for "Family Matters," you can catch up on www.brattleborotv.org, youtube.com or our facebook page.

If there is a topic you would like to see discussed on an upcoming episode please let us know!

Board of Trustees

David Dunn (President)
 Sue Dyer (Vice President)
 Jon Neurock (Treasurer)
 Sarah Nohl (Secretary)

Heather Golding
 Rachel Henry
 Frederic Noyes
 Thea Lloyd

Management Team

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

Save the Date

Winston Prouty Early Learning Center

Family Potluck Dinner

@ the VFW on Black Mountain Road in Brattleboro

Thursday, April 7th ~ 5:30-7:30pm

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

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!

Campus Update

- **Available Space** – several people have expressed interest in renting or buying space on campus and have toured the available options. Available space includes: the lower level of VT Hall, office space on the 2nd floor of Holton Hall, the two dorms, Wheeler House and the President's House. A diagram of the campus is posted on our web site under News/Austine Campus Updates. It is likely the dorms will be rented to educational groups this summer. The middle floor of VT Hall will be storage for now, and will need some renovations before being ready to occupancy. The kitchen will also become available to rent, we hope to multiple users.
- **VT Hall Renovations** – bids are being gathered and decisions will be made within the next week or so about the work on the upper level. We anticipate demolition work to begin the first week of April, and our general timeline for moving remains the same (between the school-year and summer programs in the Early Learning Center). We expect to have an Open House so families and others can see the space.
- **Frisbee Golf course** – this public course is closed for now to accommodate programming on campus with middle school students. We will continue considering how best to allow for multiple uses of the campus in a way that works for different constituents.
- **Soccer Field** – the Ultimate Frisbee team has expressed interest in using the lower soccer field for practice during April and May. Brattleboro Youth Soccer Association has been using this field as well, and this will likely continue.



Thank you to everyone who helped make **Par for the Cause** a successful and entertaining event, including those who were able to come! A special shout out to ELC parent, Marcy Short, who once again oversaw the Par's raffle ticket sales.

Also a big thank you to everyone who was able to come out and volunteer time to help with organizing, packing and moving on Saturday, February 27th, and Saturday, March 26th. A special thanks to the Brattleboro Rotary Club for all their help on March 26th. We couldn't have done it without all of you!!

Community Based Services (CBS) 802-258-2874

Lisa Adams	Developmental Educator	Ext. 24	ladams@winstonprouty.org
Kerri Beebe	Family Support Worker/Housing	Ext. 26	kerri@winstonprouty.org
Crystal Blamy	Family Supportive Housing	Ext. 13	crystal@winstonprouty.org
Emily Clever	Family Supportive Housing	Ext. 25	emily@winstonprouty.org
Mary Coogan	Early Interventionist	Ext. 15	mary@winstonprouty.org
Terrill Douglas	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 28	terril@winstonprouty.org
Willie Gussin	Family Support Worker	Ext. 26	willie@winstonprouty.org
Kathy Hallock	Developmental Educator	Ext. 16	kathy@winstonprouty.org
Brandy Levesque	Inclusion Facilitator	Ext. 31	brandy@winstonprouty.org
Kellyn McCullough	Family Support Worker	Ext. 21	kellyn@winstonprouty.org
Sally Pennington	Maternal Child Health Nurse	Ext. 28	sally@winstonprouty.org
Megan Seidner	Early Interventionist	Ext. 24	
Joanne Shaw	Community Resource Parent	Ext. 14	joanne@winstonprouty.org
Shelly Torunski	Developmental Educator	Ext. 30	shelly@winstonprouty.org
Alison Wheeler	CIS Coordinator	Ext. 29	alison@winstonprouty.org

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.

Alison attended a meeting on March 21st with Cynthia Twombly, VT Dept. of Health, Margaret Atkinson, WCCA, Chad Simmons, Building Bright Futures, and Kurt White, Brattleboro Retreat, to talk through the barriers to providing onsite child care for parents/caregivers who go to the Retreat every morning for medication assisted therapy for opioid addiction. This meeting went very well, and as a next step, Kurt volunteered to draft a short survey that can be given to patients in order to better understand the need/potential need for child care as a barrier to continuing therapy. Once the survey is complete, administered and we are able to see data, we plan to re-convene to discuss next steps.

Chloe and Mary were recently notified by the State CIS Team that our Early Intervention program **Meets Requirements** for the FY 2014 reporting period. Congratulations to our hard-working and dedicated EI Team! In this notification, the State commended our EI program on several fronts, including a survey response rate that was 10% higher than the State target; data that was consistently timely and accurate, particularly the attention to detail and the way our EI Team brings things they notice or anticipate to the State's attention in a collegial way; and 100% submission of the required Child Outcome Summary Forms for the reporting year. The State also recognized Brattleboro for being a targeted support region to participate in exploring strategies associated with the State Systemic Improvement Plan. We thoroughly recognize the extra time and effort this commitment requires.

Chloe, Sally and Alison have been reviewing the current structure of the nursing hours and supervision in CIS. Recently we restructured supervision to better reflect our current needs. Lois Trezise, former Midwife at Brattleboro OBGYN, has agreed to provide monthly CIS Nursing supervision, beginning March 7th. We also recently posted a Part-time Maternal Child Health Care Nurse position to work 20 hours a week with a flexible schedule. We are in the process of interviewing for this position.

CIS Wish List

In late January, one of the families in the our community lost their home to an electrical fire. They are in need of a whole host of household items, including diapers, wipes, non-perishable food and a printer (regular home printer to connect to a laptop). Prouty is working with other local organizations to help support this family. Please contact Kellyn McCullough at Ext. 21 for the current list of needed items.

Recently an opportunity has presented itself to potentially receive a donated double-wide trailer that the family could place on their property in Putney. At least \$10,000 needs to be raised in order to transport it to their property, so any and all financial contributions would be gratefully appreciated. Any tax deductible donations can be made out to the Winston Prouty Center for Child Development with a memo that the donation is for the Shane P. Goldsmith benefit fund. Checks can be dropped off in person or mailed to: Winston Prouty Center for Child Development, Attn: Kellyn McCullough, 20 Winston Prouty Way, Brattleboro, VT 05301. Please email Kellyn with any questions at kellyn@winstonprouty.org Thank you for considering this family for financial assistance in this time of great need.

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

Education Supervisor

Sara Lovell-Allbee

Ext. 32 sara@winstonprouty.org

ELC Coordinator

Kimberley Paquette

Ext. 32 kim@winstonprouty.org

ELC Program Assistant

Angela Hoag

Ext. 19 angela@winstonprouty.org

(Bridget Goodell will be covering for Angela's maternity leave.)

Teaching Staff

EL1: Susan Heimer, Amy Fulton

Ext. 20 susan@winstonprouty.org

EL2: Brianna McCain, Lyn Call

Ext. 18 brianna@winstonprouty.org

EL3: Michelle Goodwin, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes Jr.

Ext. 22 michelle@winstonprouty.org

EL4: Ana Williams, Maggie Sullivan, Kristine Arnold

Ext. 17 ana@winstonprouty.org

Floater: Kathy Wright, Mandi Martin, Mare Lundy, Lorraine Gilman

Non-Teaching Staff

Liz Martin
Paul Rossi

Volunteers

Susan Mandell
Bob Peebles

Encouraging Literacy: Stories, FingerPlays and Songs by Amy Fulton

Early literacy experiences are among the most important experiences a child care teacher can provide for children. Children learn about language through their interactions and relationships with their peers and important adults. (Literacy is the ability to read and write to communicate.)

A visitor to any ELC classroom would observe teachers reading to children, singing songs or reciting fingerplays. You would likely see a child sitting in a teacher's lap listening to a story book (board books for EL1). It is often a favorite story read over and over again. This is a wonderful way for young children to learn vocabulary and the prosody (rhythm) of language. They love visually interesting pictures, pointing to objects they recognize or even a favorite character. Labeling the images is just as much fun as reading. One of EL1's favorite stories right now is *Five Little Monkeys*. Sometimes we sing it or we read it - or just look at the pictures. Lately the pictures of bandages on the monkey's head or the mom calling the doctor are very interesting!

Other times we would be seen sitting with a group of children singing a song or reciting a fingerplay. We have circle time every day and sing a variety of favorite songs, which the children often choose. There are so many to pick from - *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, *The Wheels on the Bus* - are only a couple. Songs are sung throughout the day: at transition times, snack time, on our walks and on the playground. We sing about butterflies, horses, acorns, birds, apples and the sun. On Fridays we have All-School Sing and all the children and teachers in the ELC join together to sing our favorite songs, fingerplays and movement games.

When children hear all this language, look at books, sing songs and recite fingerplays, they are learning language. It is one of the most important things we can do for our young children. So please read, sing and talk to your children every day. You are ensuring that they will develop into literate school age children. To help you on your literacy journey, I've included the lyrics to some of our favorite songs/fingerplays.

Fanga Alafia (Nigerian Folk Song)

(Welcoming Song)

Fang-ga A-la-fia
Ah-she Ah-she
(pronounced Ah-shay)

Fang-ga A-la-fia
Ah-she Ah-she
(Spoken)
With my words, I welcome you
(extend open arms)
(gesture to mouth)

Fang-ga A-la-fia
Ah-she Ah-she
Fang-ga A-la-fia
Ah-she Ah-she
(Spoken)
With my thoughts, I welcome you
(extend open arms)
(gesture to temples)

Fang-ga A-la-fia
Ah-she Ah-she
Fang-ga A-la-fia
Ah-she Ah-she
(Spoken)
With my heart, I welcome you
(extend open arms)
(hands on heart)

See? There is nothing up my sleeve!
(gently tug on cuff of sleeve)

I'm An Acorn

I'm an acorn, small and round
Lying on the cold, cold ground
Everybody steps on me
That is why I'm cracked you see
I'm a nut!
(Click, click with tongue)
I'm a nut!
(Click, click with tongue)
I'm nutty!
(Click, click with tongue)

Five Little Ducks

Five little ducks
Went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But only four little ducks came running back.

Four little ducks
Went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But only three little ducks came running back.

Three little ducks
Went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But only two little ducks came running back.

Two little ducks
Went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But only one little duck came running back.

One little duck
Went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said
"Quack, quack, quack, quack."
But no little ducks came running back.

Five little ducks
went out to play
Over the hills and far away
Papa duck said,
"QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!"
Five little ducks came running back.



April Happenings

Autism Awareness Month

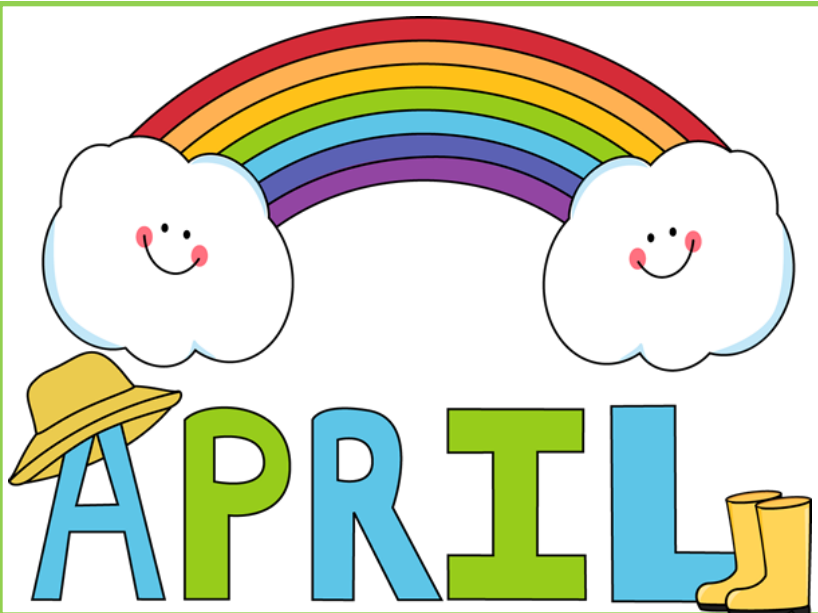
National Poetry Month

National Gardening Month

April 10st National Siblings Day

April 22nd National Earth Day

April 29th 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 Addison is 5!	6 Happy Bday Lyn! CENTER CLOSED at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Matthew is 4! Happy Bday Eric!	19!	20	21	22	23 Haydan is 4!
ELC CLOSED for Spring Break						
24	25	26	27 Happy Bday Susan!	28	29	30 Marcus is 3! Happy Bday Mike!

Upcoming Events:

May 4th: CENTER CLOSSES at 3:30 for ALL Staff Meeting

May 30th - CENTER CLOSED for Memorial Day