

The Prouty Voice

October 2016

Volume 11, Issue 2



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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209 Austine Drive
Vermont Hall
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Phone:
(802) 257-7852

Fax:
(802) 258-2413

Website:
www.winstonprouty.org



Note from Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Play-based Learning in Early Education

A few years ago a parent called to let me know that her child, who had just finished pre-school at Prouty, was considered 'behind' in kindergarten because he could not read yet, and thus at risk of needing intervention. While this is one of my only experiences of essentially being told that our pre-school program was not preparing children for school, it sticks out in my mind as a warning for what is happening in early education. More activities that look like "sit-at-your-desk-and-do-worksheets" can be seen at earlier ages as pressures mount for good test scores. This type of 'learning,' especially if it is the primary approach, effectively silences creativity, curiosity and engagement, and focuses on rote learning and memorization. One could argue that this can be harmful at any age, but when it is applied in the earliest years it means that other skills which are critical for learning are not being developed. For instance, some studies have shown that play helps children develop the social-emotional skills that help them focus and regulate. Without those skills they cannot sit and do a worksheet! A strong foundation for learning begins with helping children learn how to navigate all aspects of the world, and at a young age this is done through play.

There is a continuum of thinking about play-based learning that ranges from "free-range" with no adult interaction to play that involves adult guidance. Some might distinguish this as the difference between "child care" and "early education." although that delineation seems better suited to keeping children safe vs. providing intentional programming. Of course many would say that education is always happening for young children given the rate of brain development they are experiencing – they are learning something from every interaction they have! Regardless of the language the word "intentional" comes to mind as a way to describe how to approach play-based learning in terms of considering it early education. Understanding child development and providing an environment designed to help them maximize their learning and development, including the type of materials, the schedule, and the activities is the hallmark of early education. This means understanding play as the primary mechanism through which children learn, and creating that environment accordingly. A language-rich space that includes books, storytelling, paper and writing utensils will build the foundation a child needs to learn to read, for instance. Learning to take turns and share those books helps a child develop some of the skills needed to be successful in a classroom. An adult being available to respond to the interests of the child and extend the opportunities for learning helps children continue making progress. For instance, reading a book like [Go, Dog, Go!](#) is a great activity in and of itself, and noticing something that interests the children from the book and creating an activity around it, like coming up with their own party, or making hats, or drawing dogs, or counting all the cars in the book makes it a more robust child-directed, adult-supported learning opportunity. Someone observing that activity without understanding child development might think the kids are "just drawing", not knowing that they are learning academic, social and other skills that will help them be successful in school and beyond.

So was the child who could not read "not ready for kindergarten"? Hopefully the early literacy skills he developed in preschool, along with the lessons he learned about how to be part of a group and be engaged in learning will serve him well. For great information on this topic, check out the resources listed in this document from The Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute: <http://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/resources/handout-resources-support-incorporating-playful-approaches-learning-and-development>

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

- *Highchair or Booster Seat with Tray
- *Baby Carriers/Slings
- *Infant Swings
- *Bassinets
- *Boppy Pillows
- *Booster Seats
- *(not new) Towels!
- *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.

Winston Prouty Honored by BCTV

Winston Prouty Center has been selected to receive an award from BCTV at their Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 6th, at 6 p.m. at 118 Elliot Street.

Winston Prouty will be recognized as Community Partner of the Year for 2015-16. "You had an extremely prolific year, producing nine episodes of your series, 'Winston Prouty presents Family Matters,' over the past 12 months, and used BCTV to build awareness about your organization and child development."

The Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, from 6-8 p.m., will be followed by BCTV's 40th Anniversary Party with live music and dancing, and we hope you'll come to celebrate with us!

Assistant and Per Diem Teachers

We are always interested in adding fun and dedicated early educators to our team!

We are looking for Part-time Assistant Teachers, who can work in the afternoons. We are also looking for Per Diem teachers, who don't have set schedules and may be needed on short notice.

Please see our web site for more details.

Board of Trustees

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

Rachel Henry
Frederic Noyes
Thea Lloyd
Scott Lyford

Management Team

Chloe Learey, Executive Director
Lisa Whitney, Director of Operations
Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator
Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist
Kim Paquette, ELC Program Coordinator
Sara Lovell-Allbee, Education Consultant

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:

Community Kitchen – We continue to have requests about using the kitchen, and VT Dinners, who is the anchor kitchen tenant, is helping us manage the requests and scheduling. If you now anyone needing commercial kitchen space for food production they can get in touch with Lisa or Chloe.

Holton Hall – Only one office remains available for rent! It is on the second floor, and is just under 300 square feet. Interested parties can contact Lisa or Chloe.

Soccer – Brattleboro Youth Soccer Association is in full swing for the fall, and that is who is using the soccer field by the highway on a regular basis.



Photo Credit: Howard Weiss-Tisman/VPR

Scott Farm Orchard

14TH ANNUAL HEIRLOOM APPLE DAY
Sunday, October 9, 10am, 12pm, and 2pm!

Sunday October 9th, The Scott Farm will host its annual Heirloom Apple Day, a celebration of its heirloom apples, fresh, baked and squeezed. Visit their apple barn at 10, 12 or 2 for a free tasting of some of 120 varieties of apples and listen to the enlightening history of these unique fruits with our orchardist, Zeke Goodband. Heirloom apples and cider will be on sale after the tasting. Whetstone Cider Works will be sampling their hard ciders and Rigani Wood-Fired Pizza be making seasonal sensations in their oven.



The Grammar School

Saturday, October 8, from 10 am to 4 pm, The Grammar School in Putney, Vermont, will transform its campus into a medieval village once again as it hosts its annual Medieval Faire. This event has been a family favorite for more than 25 years! Enjoy the festivities while the King and his royal court preside over the Faire. Kids can ride a flying dragon, battle a knight, and watch a joust with medieval riding games. Fairgoers can also shop for goods in the village market and watch extravagant entertainment, including live music and a puppet show. You can even be knighted by the King himself! And the event is free!!

The Grammar School is located at 69 Hickory Ridge Road South in Putney, Vermont. To reach the campus, take I-91 to Exit 4, then turn right on Route 5N, left on Westminster Road (at the Putney General Store), then left again on Hickory Ridge Road. Follow the signs to the Faire!

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
Kellyn McCullough	Family Support Worker	Ext. 305	kellyn@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 latest Perinatal Wellness Initiative meeting was held at Prouty on September 8th. Kate and Jack from the HCRS Crisis team and Sandra Wood from the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Consultation Service joined the meeting to discuss how we can best collaborate to meet the needs of mothers in crisis and to determine shared training needs.

Kerri attended Part 2 of the Parents as Teachers training on September 12th and 13th in Fairlee, VT. This section of the training focused on children ages 3-5.

The state team invited EI teams throughout the state to attend a debriefing meeting about the Early Intervention Certificate process on September 14th. Mary represented CIS at this meeting. She also attended the latest meeting on Comprehensive System of Professional Development for EI on September 12th.

Seeking an Early Childhood Professional to Join Dynamic Team!

Children's Integrated Services (CIS) is hiring an experienced early childhood or mental health professional to provide consultation and education to early childhood teachers in the area of social emotional development and behavior support. Successful candidates will have 3 or more years of experience working with young children in early care settings, preferably classroom-based, and be knowledgeable about The Pyramid Model and positive behavior supports and interventions. Some work in homes with families is also expected. This position is part of the CIS team of early intervention, family support, nursing, and early childhood and family mental health providers. Travel is required throughout the Brattleboro AHS Region.

Please send a letter of interest and resume to:

Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator
 The Winston Prouty Center
 209 Austine Drive
 Brattleboro, VT 05301
alison@winstonprouty.org
 Fax 802-258-2413
 EOE



If you have missed any of the videos for "Family Matters," you can catch up on www.brattleborotv.org, [youtube.com](https://www.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!

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 Room (Infant): Nancy McMahon, Mandi Martin

Ext. 218 nancy@winstonprouty.org

Elm Room (EL1): Susan Heimer, Allie Barrett

Ext. 207 susan@winstonprouty.org

Maple Room (EL2): Amy Fulton, Mindy Brown

Ext. 205 amy@winstonprouty.org

Oak Room (EL3): Kim Paquette, Sarah Bemis, Lorraine Gilman

Ext. 217 kim@winstonprouty.org

Birch Room (EL4): Louisa Oakley, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes Jr.

Ext. 220 kim@winstonprouty.org

Floaters: Kathy Wright, Mare Lunderville, Lyn Call, Alyssa Kelly

Non-Teaching Staff

Liz Martin
Paul Rossi

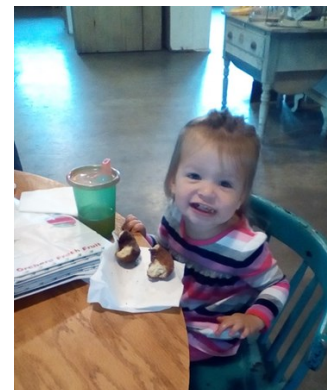
Volunteers

Susan Mandell
Bob Peebles

A big welcome to **Luisa Oakley** who joined the Prouty Center as lead teacher in the Birch (EL4) preschool classroom. Luisa has an extensive background in early childhood education and special education. She has been working with children under the age of 5 for the past 9 years. She started out in the public school system in NYC working as a teacher in a special education classroom and has also worked as an early interventionist. We're very excited to have her as part of the Prouty community!

Elm Room (Young Toddlers)

This month we have been getting to know our friends a bit more! Every month we focus on a specific color, and this month we have been focusing on yellow! We have been doing art projects such as finger painting with yellow paint. We have also used yellow play dough! We also went on our apple orchard trip last Friday with our class and it was a blast. One of the parents even was able to get us a horse ride instead of wagon ride - what a fun time it has been this month!



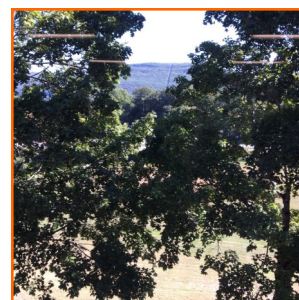
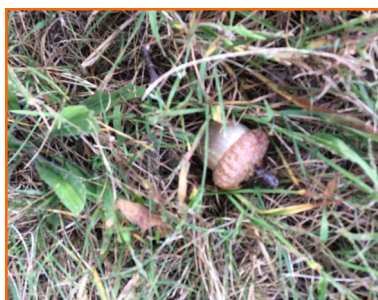
Maple Room (Older Toddlers:)

The month of September has been exciting as we adjust to our new group! Mindy and I are having a grand time with our Maple Room friends, and we asked them what they would like to share in the Voice. It was unanimous! The playground! As older toddlers we are playing on the big playground now and we want to thank everyone who helped put our playground together. We love the structure! Climbing up the big ladder and going down the slide is such an amazing accomplishment. We can even go up the slide, but only on the left. Thank you for our sand box. We really enjoyed using it last week when we had a rainy day. Going on walks is a favorite activity too. We are practicing our gross motor and stair walking skills. Going up the stairs is Benj and Boden's favorite, but going down the stairs is everyone else's favorite. Lastly, we are excited to have two new friends - Oliver and Desiree - join us this month!



Oak Room (Preschool)

Fall has been a wonderful time for exploration in the Oak Room. We have explored the campus and learned all about each other. We now know how tall we are, what foods we like to eat, and what we like to play with. We can't wait for the trees to have some color so we can identify what type of trees have what color leaves. We enjoyed our acorn hunt and exploring with them. We continue to enjoy the campus! Here is a view outside our window! Please stop in and see us when you can.



Birch Room (Preschool)

Our friends have been quite busy learning about their body parts and their senses. We have made touch books using different materials like lamb's wool, sandpaper, packaging material and scrubbing pads. We are learning descriptive words like soft, bumpy, rough, hard and fluffy to describe different objects we encounter both in the classroom and on our hikes. In the dramatic play center, the children are learning to use their senses to create yummy treats. They used their sense of smell to learn about rose water, vanilla and cinnamon. We like to cook on Wednesdays and have made treats like English Muffin Pizzas. At the art center, the children are using different materials to explore their creativity. We used ink to make fingerprints and footprints. Next week, we will be visiting Green Mountain Orchards and learn about farming and where our food comes from. We look forward to many apple activities after our adventure. We would also like to welcome our new friends, Indigo!



October Happenings

National Bullying Prevention Month

Head Start Awareness Month

National Book Month

National Chili Month

Oct. 10th Columbus Day

Oct. 26th Nat'l Pumpkin Day

Oct. 31st Halloween



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy Bday Kim
2 Sierra is 3! Daniel is 3!	3 Melissa is 1!	4	5 CENTER CLOSED at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting	6	7	8
9	10 Kali is 4!	11 Ava is 4!	12	13 Happy Bday Willie	14	15 Aliana is 3! Ivan is 1!
16	17 Happy Bday Allie	18 HBD Rebecca	19	20 Benjamin is 3!	21	22 Happy Bday Sarah
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**Upcoming
Events:**

November 2th: Center Closes at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting
November 10-11th: ELC Closed for Parent Conferences/Home Visits
November 24-25th: Center Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday