

The Prouty Voice

January 2017

Volume 11, Issue 5



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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(802) 258-2413

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www.winstonprouty.org



Note from Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Family Matters: Children in Custody

According to recent reports, the number of children in state's custody in our region continues to grow at an alarming rate. Sadly, with over 150, Windham County is among highest in the state, and the highest per capita. Coupled with the difficulty in identifying suitable foster families, these numbers are even more disturbing.

The Family Services Division within the Department of Children and Families, responsible for child protection, should be commended for working hard to address this issue.

Many of us who work closely with children and families in the community are discussing ways that we can collectively make a difference to help stem the tide that cannot be sustained by the system. This type of crisis does not lend itself to easy answers that are quick to implement.

Nonetheless, there are things we can do immediately to offer services along the continuum to help alleviate the need in the short term and long term. The Prouty Center has identified family support as a key area. Our recent name change to "The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development" acknowledges that the development of young children happens in the context of their family. We remain committed to work actively with both children and families in order to fulfill our mission. In fact, family development will be a primary focus of activity for the Prouty Center in 2017.

We believe all parents want to do well by their child, have strengths, and have something critical to share at each stage of development. However, we understand that not all parents have what they need to be successful parents. And, this is where we make a difference. We currently work with many families who are struggling with a variety of issues, from housing to substance abuse to parenting, by offering family support, nursing, early intervention and behavioral supports. We partner with families, help them identify their goals, and then support them to be successful in carrying out those goals. These might be goals related to parenting and child development, or they may be related to housing. Regardless of the goal, success means a positive impact on children. The better a family is able to function, the better a child will be able to develop.

One area we plan on expanding family support is in group work. Facilitated peer learning and support in groups is a model that we think can help build the capacity of families to successfully parent. This in turn makes an impact on the number of children who are able to stay in their homes. Building capacity can range from working on specific parenting skills to identifying resources to help remove barriers to success. For instance, if substance abuse is a primary barrier to a parent being successful in keeping his or her children, support to understand how substance abuse impacts child development, as well as accessing treatment will be a priority. There are a variety of resources in our community to support parent learning. Indisputably, there is a need for more parent education, especially in a targeted way. Offering opportunities well in advance of the point in which children cannot stay with their families, creates the chance for more success. Failure to find a way for parents to be successful means we will continue to have a crisis of the number of children in custody.

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
- *Towels (not new)
- *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.

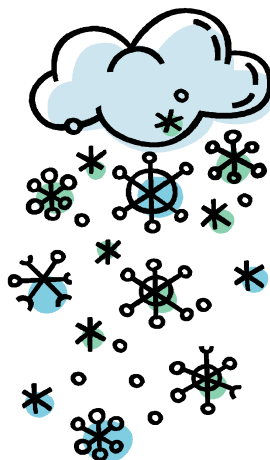
IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Tune in to

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

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

for Center closings or delays.



The Center does NOT follow the closing of the public school system. In general, due to the nature of our work for both the Early Learning Center and Community Based Services, we try to stay open as much as possible.

We expect that days the Center is open when the weather is not ideal may look a bit different from a typical day depending on which children and staff make it to the Center and at what time.

Decisions are typically made by 6:30 a.m. if the Center will be CLOSED.

Board of Trustees

David Dunn (President)
Sue Dyer (Vice President)
Jon Neurock (Treasurer)
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Rachel Henry
Frederic Noyes
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Ann Allbee

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!



Winter is a time when many households living with lower incomes are particularly hard-pressed to meet their food expenses, given the added burden of heating costs. Some cut down on the food they consume, or buy cheaper, less nutritious food as a means to cope with these added expenses. But good nutrition is essential for good health in all seasons. Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) wants Windham and Windsor county residents to know that many struggling households can get help with their food costs through 3SquaresVT.

3SquaresVT is Vermont's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, designed to help households without sufficient resources meet their need for healthy, nutritious food. The program helps eligible households stretch their food budgets and put three square meals a day on the table, at the same time freeing up money for other basic living expenses. Whether they are experiencing a short-term financial crisis or longer-term challenges, 3SquaresVT helps seniors, families, and individuals with lower incomes make ends meet. Monthly benefits come on a debit card accepted at many grocery stores and farmers' markets, making it easy for households to use them.

SEVCA's Family Services staff are available to assist households to apply for 3SquaresVT. Many Vermonters are eligible for the program and don't know it, so SEVCA encourages any family having trouble meeting their food expenses to contact them. 3SquaresVT also helps the local economy by bringing federal dollars to the state and encouraging local spending, helping to support businesses and farmers in our communities. Call SEVCA at (800) 464-9951 to locate your nearest SEVCA office for an application or appointment to get help applying for 3SquaresVT.

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.



Welcome Brayden David Wheeler!

**Born December 15th at 3:12 a.m.
7 lbs., 14 oz. and 20 inches long**

**Congratulations Alison and David and
Sydney, Dawson and Layla!!!**

Our CIS region has been assigned a new CIS TA Liaison: Karen Bielawski-Branch. Karen joined the state CIS team, taking Jane Ross-Allen's former position. Karen is the CIS Continuous Quality Improvement Coordinator and has extensive background in ECFMH, PCC work, and foster and adoptive parent training.



Congratulations Kathy on completing your Bachelor's Degree in Psychology!

CBS Wish List

One of our Community Based Services families is searching for a crib and mattress (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 Kerri at 257-2101 ext. 204 if you can help this family out.
Thank you so much!



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 Brown

Ext. 205 amy@winstonprouty.org

Oak: Sarah Bemis, Lorraine Gilman

Ext. 217 sarah@winstonprouty.org

Birch: Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes Jr.

Ext. 220

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

Congratulation Alyssa on completing The Fundamentals for Early Childhood Education course!

Non-Teaching Staff

Liz Martin

Paul Rossi

Volunteers

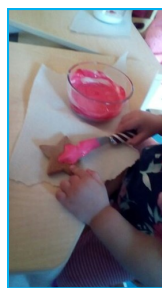
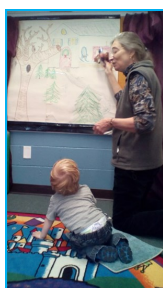
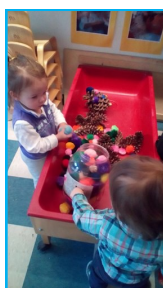
Susan Mandell

Bob Peeples

Acorn Room (Infants) from Nancy: As the year ends we reflect on the past year. We celebrate our success and ponder the challenges of the year and how we can make them better. New Year's Resolutions we call it. Mending misgivings and resolving issues from the past. Resolution, it gives us hope for what lies ahead in the future year. We make these Resolutions to improve our health and our lives for ourselves and our families. This year I too reflect, on my new job and the new infant program here at Winston Prouty. We have been together now for almost 6 months and this is our half way point. This is the time of year to celebrate the young lives that have touched me and given me more purpose and joy in my life. I look at all they have accomplished in such a short time. These individuals show me resilience, perseverance, fearlessness and courage every day. They are master inventors as they discover how their bodies work, how to take care of themselves, how to form relationships of trust and love. They are figuring out how to navigate through this strange new world. I am humbled witnessing their accomplishments. And then I look ahead, looking forward to the New Year, new adventures and yes, resolutions. What can I improve on, and how will I give back to these young ones who give me so much? As I continue to study the RIE philosophy and put it to work, many words come to mind. Purposeful, Mindful and Authentic. I resolve to bring those words consciously into my work every day. I can remember that each action and interaction has a purpose as I interact and have teachable moments. I can be mindful of how I hold, feed, change and nurture these little ones. I can be my authentic self and respect these individuals for their authenticity. Helping them discover their world in a supported, and nurturing way. And so I propose we all ponder on how we will better our lives and the lives of others. We can take purpose, mindfulness and authenticity into each and every work place, family place and situation, improving our lives and the lives of those around us. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year from the Acorn Room!

Elm Room (Young Toddlers)

- This group is now becoming interested in using manipulatives such as pegboards and shape sorters. Below we see a group figuring out how to maneuver the pegs as well as sort them by color.
- Sensory play! Below are contrasting prickly and soft choices with pinecones and pom poms. Sensory choices like this motivate fine motor practice, offer social time, a chance to examine nature items up close, and vocabulary building.
- The storyboard is a frequent part of our circle time. The children can predict the next part of the story, and answer questions that are asked about each. Currently we are doing "The Woodcutter" with the concept of "hot" (fire and candle) and "cold" (outdoors and snow). Familiarity and repetition are important for toddlers and support memory recall and retention of information. We love to hear how they chime in with the "chip chop" refrain.
- Cold weather means more indoor gross motor play and the indoor slide also invites turn taking.



And thank you to Leah's mom and grandmother for baking cookies and letting us mix up colored frosting to decorate our own cookies. How wonderful to have volunteer projects like this!

Maple Room (Older Toddlers) The Maple room has been very busy working in the “Maple Room Mail” or in the “Workshop” hammering and drilling. With the month full of holiday preparations and the winter arriving, it made sense that those would be our themes. Our goal every month is to plan activities that meet the needs and interests of our growing toddlers.

This month our activities centered around two themes: the weather and holidays. We made colored snowflake out of coffee filters and eyedroppers to apply water colors to the paper. Amy made sets of mittens to match and clip together with tiny clips. There are so many wonderful patterns it’s hard to tell which ones are our favorites. We made pinecone bird feeders and snowman pizza. We traced our hands and made our own mittens. We even brought snow inside to play with. It was so much fun!

To celebrate the holidays, we set up a mail office called the “Maple Room Mail.” We have bags to pack, and boxes and envelopes too. There are stickers to use as stamps and boy do we love to stick them all over everything. We mailed some cars and even a drill. Some of us took advantage of this time to write notes to Mommy and Daddy. We have recycled cards to mail, and hopefully time to mail a card to our families. To add to our holiday theme, we plan to make Latkes and serve apple sauce with them. Mindy will share her Menorah with us, and we may even light some candles and play with a dreidel. We’ve learned a few songs to go with our theme, mostly winter or holiday one. Our favorites are Jingle Bells, Five Little Bells, Frosty the Snowman, Hans Michael, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, and My Dreidel.

Oak Room (Preschool) December in the Oak room has been abuzz with activities. We have had fun playing in the snow and searching for tracks that animals have left behind. The sensory table has been filled with ice, snow, and water each day as we discover the properties of solids and liquids. Our theme this month was holidays. We explored these with a variety of different songs, games, books, art and cooking projects. In our dramatic play center, we have been working to care for babies by practicing changing them and rocking them to sleep by the fireplace. We have enjoyed creating shapes using our pattern blocks and building with Legos. In our writing center, we have also been working to write notes and draw pictures to give as gifts during this holiday season. In January, we look forward to learning about animals that hibernate. We will also read multiple versions of the classic story *The Gingerbread Man*. Through this we will practice our re-telling skills and work to create art inspired by the characters in the book.



Birch Room (Preschool) Our community theme is going well. The veterinarian clinic has many new patients. Besides giving the animals their annual checkups and fixing broken legs and tails, they’re now checking for ticks and giving flea baths! At the grocery store/deli, Alfred and the children have been exploring food in many different ways: through smelling different spices, tasting different kinds of food, creating little pizzas, eating and painting different types of pasta, and reading stories about food and nutrition. Their favorite book was *Stone Soup*, which they also made in the deli. Our post office has slowed down due to the class making holiday gifts and ornaments. The children worked very hard on them and they came out really great!

We are now in the process of learning our ABCs! Not just the old favorite song, but also how to draw them, recognize their shapes and find them in our names. We would also like to welcome Jack to our classroom.



January Happenings

National Blood Donor Month

National Skiing Month

Train Your Dog Month

Jan. 13th National Sticker Day

Jan. 16th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 20th Penguin Awareness Day

Jan. 25th National Opposite Day

The ELC is looking for some **BIG BOOKS**! The kids love exploring these books and they are great for group reading. One of our volunteers, Bob, has purchased some that he has shared with the children and we have a few of our own, but we would love some more! If you have any you would like to donate or buy, that would certainly count towards your parent hours. Please see Angela with questions. Thank you!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 CENTER CLOSED for New Year's Day Holiday	3	4	5	6	7 Jovon is 3!
8 Annaliesa is 2!	9	10	11 Aviv is 5! Melody is 4!	12	13	14
15 Ellery is 3!	16 CENTER CLOSED for Staff In-Service	17	18	19 Jade is 1!	20	21 Kai S is 2!
22	23 Daniella is 5!	24	25	26	27	28 Madison P is 1!
29	30	31				31

Upcoming
Events:

February 1st Center Closes at 3:30 for All Staff Meeting
February 20th Center Closed for President's Day Holiday