

November 2017

Volume 12, Issue 3

November is National Adoption Month

By Chloe Learey, Executive Director

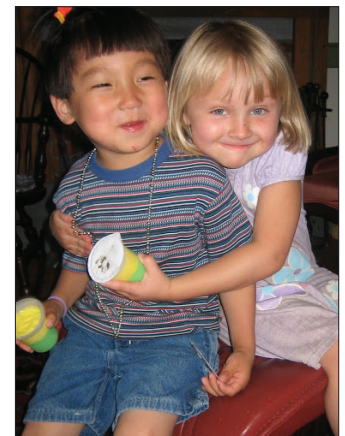


In 1984, President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week. Eleven years later, President Clinton expanded the week to the entire month of November. Considering there are over 110,000 children in foster care nationwide who are waiting for their forever homes, the goal of raising awareness about adoption remains as pertinent today. Given the many paths that can be travelled to adoption, from foster care to international adoption to open adoption, there are several different issues that can arise at various stages and settings in the life of a child and their families. Being aware of and sensitive to these issues is critical as we seek to build an inclusive world.

Families come in all shapes and sizes, and recognizing, respecting and embracing that fact is the foundation for being able to create safe inclusive spaces for ALL children and their families. Key is understanding that everyone has a unique history and story, and not making assumptions about their experience. Being authentically curious about someone's story leads to understanding. These

are principles of relationship-building that can be used everywhere in our lives. This is a great opportunity to reflect on these principles as we consider our work with children and families who experience adoption.

According to The National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG), some of the challenges that may arise for many children who have been adopted include "grappling with issues related to identity, belonging and attachment; managing complex and/or non-traditional relationships and roles with their birth family; experiencing grief and loss; and, figuring out how to be in a family of a different culture, race or ethnic group." Classrooms can be a space where it is easy to inadvertently come up against some of these issues. For instance, asking children who were adopted to do a family tree can be a loaded activity. Imagine a tree that is pre-labeled with terms like "mother" and "father", and "maternal and paternal grandparents" or makes other assumptions about family structure. Or imagine a child who does not know their birth history trying to complete a tree. This does not mean we avoid talking about families and history. It does mean we are sensitive to what can arise, and adjust accordingly. Perhaps it is as simple as letting children decide what their tree – or flower or garden – looks like and how it is populated. There are many resources available on the web, some from families who have adopted, that make it easy to adapt activities and others like it.



In some cases, children who have been adopted have experienced maltreatment, and having a trauma-informed approach is a way to create spaces respectful of that experience. Adaptations to classroom routines which may help accommodate a child who has experienced trauma include not using isolation as a punishment, remaining calm in the face of unregulated behavior that might be disruptive and focusing to help a child return to a regulated state before addressing the behavior, allowing extra time to transition between activities, and providing a visual schedule to help a child understand the structure and routine. Some of these strategies are helpful for many children, not just those who may have experienced trauma or been adopted, and implementing them does not have to feel like something extra.

Shame can be a defining emotion in the adoption triangle, from a child feeling unworthy and unwanted, to a biological parent feeling as though they have done something wrong, to a parent who struggles with what it means to adopt. Sharing the message that families form in many different ways, and that there are many types of families, can diminish the negative feelings of shame and other complicated emotions that come with adoption, and create a space where everyone belongs.

The QIC-AG reports that the United States has more than 1.5 million adoptees younger than 18 years old, and the median age of children adopted through the public child welfare system is five. Supporting parents and families of all kinds, including those created through adoption, is some of the most important work we can do to make sure our children have what they need to succeed.

To learn more about adoption and permanency-related resources and tips for youth and families, including families considering adoption and those who have already adopted, visit <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/>



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Sue Dyer - President
Frederic Noyes - Vice President
John Neurock - Treasurer
Ann Allbee - Secretary
Jenna Bagnall-Reilly
David Dunn
Thea Lloyd
Scott Lyford

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Chloe Learey
 Executive Director
 Ext. 301 chloe@winstonprouty.org
Lisa Whitney
 Director of Operations
 Ext. 302 lisa@winstonprouty.org
Margaret Atkinson
 Director of Dev. & Comm. Relations
 Ext. 307 margaret@winstonprouty.org
Paula Schwartz
 Finance & Human Resource Assistant
 Ext. 304 paula@winstonprouty.org
Sarah DiNicola
 Executive Assistant
 Ext. 309 sdinicola@winstonprouty.org
Eric Annis
 Campus Facilities Manager
Dennis Hammond
 Facilities Support
Mike Curtis
 Office Support

209 Austine Drive
 Brattleboro, VT 05301
 Tel (802) 257-7852
 Fax (802) 258-2413



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Making Connections Conference

Saturday, November 4

Brattleboro Retreat

Many of our Prouty employees will be attending this annual conference for early childhood professionals. Workshops include: Science Inquiry in the Early Childhood Classroom; The Relationship Between Substance Use and Incarceration: An Informed Response to Caring for Children; Culture In and Out of the Classroom; Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development

How to Understand and Reduce Anxiety in Children & Adolescents

Thursday, November 14 ~ 6:30-8:30 pm

Hilltop Montessori School

Free presentation with psychologist and anxiety expert, Dr. Paul Foxman, PhD, Founder and Director of the Vermont Center for Anxiety Care, and author of The Worried Child and Dancing with Fear. Q & A following. Space is limited/RSVP's required. (802) 257-0500. Sponsored by The Winston Prouty Center. More info: www.hilltopmontessori.org

Family Circle

Thursday, November 30 ~ 4:30-6:30 pm

Winston Prouty Center

Monthly gathering of families in the Acorn Room to connect, share a meal, learn and grow together. Light dinner is provided.

Reminder:



Please remember "No Tailgating" when entering the Center. This refers to letting people enter the building behind you. It is totally against our nature and what we have all been taught our whole lives; but please make sure that you do NOT hold open the door for others. All families and staff who are supposed to have pins, should have those. Visitors, guests, etc. MUST ring the door bell and someone from the staff will assist them to where they need to go. It is also good to remember that even though you might recognize familiar faces, things can change with custody/hours/etc. so please remember "no tailgating." Thank you!

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES (CIS)

Alison Wheeler, CIS Coordinator

Ext. 314 alison@winstonprouty.org

Willie Gussin, CIS Intake Coordinator

Ext. 303 willie@winstonprouty.org

CIS FAMILY SUPPORT

Kerri Beebe, Family Support Worker

Ext. 204 kerri@winstonprouty.org

Kellyn McCullough, Family Support Worker

Ext. 305 kellyn@winstonprouty.org

CIS NURSING

Jean Vulté, CIS Nurse & Lactation Counselor

Ext. 211 jean@winstonprouty.org

Sally Pennington, CIS Nurse & Lactation Consultant

Ext. 206 cisnurse1@gmail.com

CIS EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH

Jennifer Emerson, ECFMH Clinician

Ext. 202 jemerson@hcrs.org

Brandy Levesque, Consultation & Behavior Support Specialist

Ext. 228 brandy@winstonprouty.org

Shawn Lund, Consultation & Behavior Support Specialist

Ext. 216 shawn@winstonprouty.org

Maura Shader, ECFMH Clinician

Ext. 202 mshader@hcrs.org

CIS EARLY INTERVENTION

Lisa Adams, Developmental Educator

Ext. 224 ladams@winstonprouty.org

Mary Coogan, Early Interventionist

Ext. 315 mary@winstonprouty.org

Kathy Hallock, Developmental Educator

Ext. 219 kathy@winstonprouty.org

Ellen Ostrander, Early Interventionist

Ext. 227 ellen@winstonprouty.org

Joanne Shaw, Community Resource Parent

Ext. 208 joanne@winstonprouty.org

CHILD CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

Jeanna Genest, FAP Eligibility Specialist

Ext. 311 jeanna@winstonprouty.org

Tonya Kangas, CIS Child Care Coordinator

Ext. 312 tonya@winstonprouty.org

Sueño LeBlond, Early Childhood Outreach Specialist

Ext. 229 sueno@winstonprouty.org

Kristy Rose, Food Program Specialist

Ext. 317 kristy@winstonprouty.org

FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Emily Clever, Housing Resource Coordinator

Ext. 203 emily@winstonprouty.org

Crystal Blamy, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator

Ext. 201 crystal@winstonprouty.org



Project Feed the Thousands is the largest food drive in Southeastern Vermont and Southwestern New Hampshire. It was started in 1994 with an initial goal of filling a single tractor trailer with food for people in Brattleboro area. Over the years, both the need and Project Feed have grown. Today, Project Feed the Thousands collects multiple tractor trailers' worth of food and personal care items for thousands of people in six nearby communities. This year, they also aim to raise \$85,000 to serve 200,000 meals to neighbors who would otherwise go hungry. Look for a donation box here at Prouty as well as local banks and grocery stores.

- 1 in 7 Vermont children live in food insecure household
- Last school year 51% of students received free school meals
- Last year 6,699 individuals/3,855 households in Windham County receive 3SquaresVT
- 1 in 10 Vermont household are food insecure
- The Brattleboro Groundworks Foodshelf supports an estimated 12,000 visits for those in need for food each year



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Kimberley Paquette, ELC Program Coordinator
Ext. 306 kim@winstonprouty.org

Angela Hoag, ELC Administrative Coordinator
Ext. 210 angela@winstonprouty.org

Kathy Wright **Paul Rossi, Liz Martin** **Bob Peebles, Susan Mandell**
Floating Teacher Kitchen & Lunch Support Volunteers



The ELC Playground cell phone number has changed: (802) 380-6388

You would use this number to contact the Early Learning Center staff members after 4:30pm if you cannot reach anyone on our main line and need to report a last-minute change for your child's pick-up arrangement.

Acorn Room

Nancy McMahon, Michelle Goodwin, Mandi Martin / Ext. 218

Email: nancy@winstonprouty.org

October was a very busy month for the Acorn Room. We so enjoyed the warm month and enjoyed our fall walks, observing the changing landscape. We had our second Family Circle, which is giving families the chance to get to know each other and discuss common topics. The room was open for Open House as we offered cookie decorating to all families and friends. We got a visit from our local firefighter and got to see the big truck. Halloween was fun seeing everyone dressed up.

Our babies continue to amaze us with their rolling, crawling, and babbling. They are beginning to form relationships with each other and deeper relationships with us the teachers. They are experimenting with new foods, and are now getting big enough to enjoy the Great Room.

November will bring shorter days and colder nights. We will sing songs, read stories about the moon, stars, and sun. Songs like twinkle twinkle, this little light of mine, Mr. Sun, and you are my sunshine. We will learn new finger plays, new sensory activities and bundle up for our late fall walks. We will have a family circle in November, as well as Celebrate Joey's Birthday who will be 1 on November first. Happy Birthday Joey!!!!

We say goodbye to autumn as we eagerly await the magic of the upcoming Holidays!



Elm Room

Susan Heimer, Allie Barrett, Brianna Root / Ext. 207 / Email: susan@winstonprouty.org

Our color of the month for November will be brown. We will be doing a lot of painting - especially blending different colors to see what shades of brown we can create. We'll also try to color blend play dough to see if we can make brown. The children will have the chance to make collages, with both magazine cut-outs as well as items we collect from nature. Finally, we focus on "Please" and "Thank you" with the children.

We painted some small white pumpkins with orange paint!



They all love our art projects! Here a child is really focused and taking his time painting his whole entire pumpkin orange.



Marble Painting at Open House



They loved picking the red apples at Green Mt. Orchards. It was fun having most of the families get together for this fun fall event!

Maple Room

Amy Fulton, Mindy Brennan, Sara F. / Ext. 205 / Email: amy@winstonprouty.org



The month of October was very busy in the Maple Room. We started with making mini-apple pies, which took some doing for our two year olds as they were eating apples as quickly as we could cut them. It didn't matter at all, eventually we did make, bake and eat the pies and they were delicious!

We had our parent conferences and home visits and that was a wonderful way to start our month. Thank you so much to all our families who welcomed us into their homes. We loved seeing Mom's, Dad's, and siblings all together, and getting to know you more personally.

Other activities were: stringing beads, building with magna-tiles, exploring with orange shaving cream, meeting with the Brattleboro Fire Department, easel painting, dressing up in costumes, and rice play in the sensory table.

Maple Room welcomes Jordan's baby brother Avery, who was born on September 26th, and we are thrilled that Cora's family is expecting a baby sister in February!



Birch Room

Jamie Champney, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes, Jr.
Ext. 220 / Email: jamie@winstonprouty.org

October was a fun and eventful month in the Birch Classroom. We learned all about apples, starting with a trip to the Green Mountain Orchard in Putney. We enjoyed a wagon ride with Toby the golden retriever, cider donuts and apple cider, apple picking, and a trip though the pumpkin patch! We used the apples we picked at the orchard to make many yummy treats including apple bread, apple crisp, and apple sauce. We used some of the apples to have an apple taste test and got to explore the apples using our five senses. We also used some of the apples for our apple printing pictures hanging in our classroom.



We had a great time at our open house showing our families our classroom. Thank you to Orin's mom Jamie and Sienna's Nana Barb for donating the pumpkins to our classroom that we carved at the open house! We used the seeds from the pumpkins to make cinnamon pumpkin seeds and the kids each took home a bag of pumpkin seeds with the recipe attached so they could make them at home.

Thank you to the Brattleboro Fire Department for taking the time to come visit our school and teaching us about fire safety. The kids loved seeing the uniforms, the fire trucks, and seeing you "Stop, Drop, and Roll!"



Oak Room

Sarah Bemis, Alyssa Kelly, Mariah Norcia / Ext. 217 / Email: sarah@winstonprouty.org

October has been an exciting month in the Oak Room! This month we have been learning about fall and apples. Thank you to all the families that joined us on our field trip to Green Mountain Orchards. Our friends really enjoyed the trip and getting to bake some delicious apple treats. In the classroom we have enjoyed a new apple basket math game that helps us identify our numbers and practice counting objects. We have been working to create beautiful artwork to share. Using our hands and fingers we painted fall trees. We also used some of the apples we picked to create unique apple printing pictures both in class and as an activity at open house. Our sensory table has been filled with sunflowers and we have enjoyed learning the different parts of this local flower. The writing table has been a popular choice this month as friends learn to use different writing tools and make marks, pictures, and letters on their papers.

This month we have started to learn more about our emotions and work to verbally identify what we are feeling. Teachers and friends notice when someone may be feeling an emotion ("Oh, you look so excited about that!, Are you worried? Does that make you frustrated?"). We have begun to create activities around our feelings and worked to create pumpkins in art with a wide range of faces. The month of November we look forward to learning about different community helpers.



Helping out with paperwork in the office!



WELCOME MARIAH

Mariah Norcia will spend most of her time in the Oak Room, but she will float to other classes as needed and will help out at the front desk, too.

I am the new assistant teacher in the Oak Room. I recently start working here at Prouty after I decided to make a career change. I made the move to pursue working in early childhood education because of my passion of working with children. I love watching children grow into themselves and being part of their everyday learning process. In my free time I enjoy hiking and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to meeting all the families of the children here at the Prouty Center.

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Josephine is 1! The ELC closes at 3:30 for ELC Staff meeting	2	3	4 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
5	6	7	8	9	10 The Center is closed for All-Staff meeting	11
12	13	14 Jeremiah ia 5! Leah is 3!	15	16	17 Happy Birthday Nancy!	18
19	20	21 Rue is 2!	22	23 The Center is Closed for Thanksgiving Alex H is 2!	24 Cortland is 2! Payton is 2!	25 Alex D is 2!
26 Izaiah is 1!	27	28	29 Larkyn is 1!	30 ACORN Room Family Circle 4:30-6:30pm		

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, December 6 - ELC Closed at 3:30 for ELC Staff Meeting

December 22-29 - Center closed for Winter Break

Monday, January 1 - Center closed for New Years Holiday