

January 2018

Volume 12, Issue 5

Why Should Business Care About Early Childhood?

By Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Two reasons: (1) Your ability to hire excellent employees, both now and in the future, depends on it; and (2) your local, regional and state economy will be stronger for it.

The case for investing in our youngest citizens has been made over and over, through research like that of James Heckman, which demonstrates that for every dollar invested in child development there is a 13% return on investment over time (heckmanequation.org), or Timothy Bartik's research which shows \$12 in future economic earning for the national economy, and \$9 for a state's economy for every \$1 invested (From Preschool to Prosperity, 2014). Even though we have been seeing this research for years the investment in early childhood continues to lag. If we want to address some of our most pressing issues at the community, state and national level we must act on the information to make change.

One obvious way to invest in early childhood is through high-quality child care or early education. The distinction between education and care is a false one in early childhood because EVERY environment is a learning environment for young children. It is the quality of the environment – whether home, school or care – that is important. Investing in high quality child care provides a two-generational approach by supporting the current workforce and preparing the future workforce.



Gone are the days when one income adequately supported a household. According to a report from the Center for American Progress over 75% of children under the age of 5 live in households where both parents work. Parents who have access to reliable, flexible high-quality child care are more able to participate in the workforce, continue their education, and be more productive in their jobs due to decreased absenteeism. The availability of child care also helps businesses attract and retain quality employees, one of the most pressing human resource issues businesses face.

The quality of our future workforce depends on the development of cognitive ('academic') and noncognitive ('social-emotional or character') skills. The enormous growth of the brain between birth and age 5 provides the most critical foundation for skill development, and research shows that cognitive development is embedded in noncognitive skills, such as getting along with others, being motivated, listening and communicating well, having initiative, paying attention and showing perseverance. High-quality early care and education provides the platform for the development of these critical skills and thus future success.

Not only does child care contribute to economic growth by supporting the current workforce and providing the foundation for the future workforce, the industry also purchases local goods and services and provides employment opportunities. Because it is a decentralized and somewhat fragmented sector the impact it has on the local economy is not always recognized. In addition, the child care market is weak because high-quality care is unaffordable, unavailable, and consumers do not necessarily understand quality. When a year of full-time cares costs almost \$10,000 a year on average families cannot afford to pay even if they can find a spot, much less one that is high-quality. This is not just a problem for the family, it is a problem for our businesses and communities. A 2016 study in Louisiana estimated that inadequate child care cost the state was \$2 billion. Businesses cannot afford to ignore the critical role high-quality child care plays in our local and state economy. There are many avenues that business can take to invest in early childhood, from policy development and advocacy to piloting innovating programs to philanthropy. This is a conversation our community needs to have if we want to really make a difference on issues like attracting a younger workforce.



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
Mike Curtis
 Office Support

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



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Twinkle Town Winter Block Party

Saturday, January 13 ~ 12:00-8:00 pm

Downtown Brattleboro

Elliot Street will be closed to traffic for a family-friendly event hosted by Brattleboro Downtown Alliance and Elliot Street Fish & Chips. Lantern-making, campfire sing-a-long, sledding, hot cocoa, live music, bike decorating contest and more.

Family Circle

Thursday, January 25 ~ 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.

Blue Moon Hike

Wednesday, January 31 ~ 4:30-6:00 pm

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center

Guided snowshoe walk through the dusky woods; ending on the summit of Heifer Hill to enjoy the rising Blue Moon—the second full moon of January. Listen for owls, foxes, coyotes, and look for tracks.

More info: www.beec.org

ELC teachers love dress up, too!



A snapshot from our staff holiday party in December.

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

Crystal Blamy, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator

Ext. 201 crystal@winstonprouty.org

When the weather drops into the single digits, it is common for parents to want their children to stay indoors to play. Before you go and curse the cold weather for keeping your playful children indoors all winter, remember to consider all of the benefits that cold weather has when it comes to children's health, development, and well-being.



Layer up well and try these fun activities:

- **Spray paint art** - fill spray bottles with water and food coloring and draw in the snow
- **Target snowball** - hang a target in the tree or against a wall and let the children take aim with snowballs
- **Tic Tac Toe** - use sticks and pinecones and make a grid in the snow
- **Snowman hat trick** - build a snow man and take turns throwing hats on the head.
- **Frozen bubbles** - blow bubbles outside in the cold air. They last longer and are much harder to pop!
- **Ice sculptures** - freeze large slabs of plastic containers and use food coloring for color. Use a hammer to sculpt the ice block

Source: <https://www.fix.com/blog/keep-kids-playing-outdoors-in-winter/>

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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

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

Paul Rossi, Liz Martin, Kitchen & Lunch Support

Kathy Wright, Floating Teacher

Bob Peebles, Susan Mandell, Volunteers

.....
NOW HIRING
.....

Please help us spread the word!
We are now hiring for Part-time Toddler
and Assistant Teachers. You can
find more details on our website
www.winstonprouty.org.

Acorn Room

Nancy McMahon, Mandi Martin, Brianna Root / Ext. 218
Email: nancy@winstonprouty.org

We would like to welcome Islay Urquhart, and her family Kora Skeele (Mom) Joe Urquhart (Dad) and big brother Jameson. Islay started this week. Our crew has been very curious and welcoming to baby Islay. We are so glad you have joined our Acorn crew! We have also a new addition to our room. We have hired a new assistant internally! Brianna Root (Bri) has been helping out in the Elm room this past fall. Bri started this year as a full time sub and has accepted the assistant teaching position in the Acorn room as of January 16th.

We made it through the recent cold spell! Keep sending in those warm snowsuits, hats, mittens, and foot wear as we will continue our outside walks and explorations on nice days.

We have a new spot to leave car seat. In the big hallway on the blue shelf you will see sign that says car seats. You can leave them there till pick up. We're hoping this will be more convenient.

Please check your child's basket to see if they need extra clothes. Some of the clothes in there may not fit anymore. As the babies are starting to eat solids we tend to go through at least one change a day.



We celebrated Brayden's first birthday!



Does she like it?



Yes, she does!

Maple Room

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

December was a short month for us, not even 3 whole weeks. We started the month with changes to the dramatic play area; we added strollers, and mixing bowls, and spoons for stirring. We also added a mail center and wrote "notes" and put them in envelopes. We loved our new water colors, and learning how to dip the brush into water and swish the paint onto paper. We also were gluing stars and triangles on to paper in celebration of the holidays.



This month we introduced rhythm sticks and sang "Hans Michael". Can you believe we had 10 children with 20 wooden sticks and no one got hit by one! We are actually very skilled in our tapping techniques! Our theme for January is winter weather and birds. We plan to make collages out of egg shells, make bird feeders out of pinecones, sort feathers, decorate mittens, make birds to hang in our windows, as well as snowflakes. We will make egg salad and blue playdough. We will sing songs about birds and snowmen, as well as read books about winter and birds. We are always working to bring fun, educational activities into our program and

take our lead from the interests of the children and developmentally appropriate practices. If you have any ideas or interest that you'd like to share with us, please let us know. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom for a morning or even an hour, we would love that too!



Elm Room

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

In the month of December we were very busy as we had a "Winter Wonderland" full of fun activities such as making ornaments, making gingerbread dough and festive songs! We had a small all school sing with the infant room and sang some holiday songs together.

For the month of January, we will be focusing on a transportation theme with cars and trucks and things that go. We also have a color of the month and this month will be blue as we will be doing color blending and lots of sensory filled activities. We also have Jade and Madison who are turning the big TWO this month. We also welcome back Susan as she is easing her way back into routine and being with the kids!



Cortland playing with the slime at the "Winter Wonderland"



We made sugar cookies and decorated them!

Birch Room

Jamie Champney, Kim Jacques, Alfred Hughes, Jr.

Ext. 220 / Email: jamie@winstonprouty.org

December was a month full of celebrations in the Birch classroom. We welcomed winter and had so much fun exploring the fresh snow and walking on the Blue trail. We searched for animal tracks and made lots of tracks of our own. On the 15th we had our winter workshop in the gross motor room. We had a great time participating in activities including watercolor snow painting, winter bean bag toss, and a mitten matching game. Thanks to everyone who helped make this such an exciting event!



January will be a month full of snow, snow, snow- and ice. We will be learning all about winter and winter animals. We look forward to another month of building snowmen, playing in the snow, exploring the trails, and of course-snacking on snow!

Reminder to OAK & BIRCH families:

Please return your Kindergarten
Survey by Friday, January 12th.
Thank you!



Oak Room

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

The month of December was filled with celebrations in the Oak room. We celebrated six friend's birthday's this month! Our theme for this month was 'Around the World: Cultural Celebrations'. We learned about three major holidays that are celebrated by many people all around the world; Hanukkah, Santa Lucia Day, and Christmas. We created paper plate menorahs for Hanukkah. For Santa Lucia Day we made paper crowns with candles. One of our families came into class dressed in traditional white robes and red sashes wearing wreaths filled with candles. They sang to us in Swedish and shared a delicious snack of ginger cookies. To celebrate Christmas, we transformed our dramatic play area into a cozy living room complete with a fireplace and a Christmas tree. We made ornaments as gifts to share with our families to hang on their Christmas trees for years to come.

We read many different books that describe the holiday's celebrated in December and we also read about the winter season and the dramatic change in weather we felt this month as we got our first snow fall. We have enjoyed ripping, tearing, sorting, and grasping at the tissue paper and bubble wrap that filled our sensory table this month. We also enjoyed the ELC winter celebration where we played bean bag toss games, felt slime, played a mitten matching game, colored snow, and painted ornaments.

In the month of January we look forward to learning about transportation!



Willow Room

Colleen Quigley / Ext. 212 / Email: colleen@winstonprouty.org



This month the Willow room opens in the Early Learning Center. The Willow room is an older toddler room aged two to three.

My name is Colleen Quigley and I am excited to join the Winston Prouty team. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston and have been working in early childhood education for eleven years. Most of my career was spent working in childcare centers in Massachusetts. Most recently I taught in St. John, USVI where I resided for the past few years. I am looking forward to exploring all that Vermont has to offer.

This month's theme is "All about me and my feelings". We will be getting to know one another while exploring our new classroom. We will also have a focus on identifying and managing emotions. I look forward to a great first month!

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Happy Birthday Chloe!	3	4	5 Ibrahim is 1!	6
7 Lloyd is 1!	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 The Center is closed for All-Staff In-Service	16	17	18	19 Jade is 2!	20 Triton is 2!
21 Kai is 3!	22	23	24	25 Acorn Room Family Circle 4:30-6:30	26	27
28 Happy Birthday Mandi! Madison is 2!	29 Happy Birthday Kim P!	30	31			

UPCOMING
DATES:

Wednesday, February 7 - ELC Closes at 3:30 for ELC Staff Meeting

Monday, February 19 - Center closed for President's Day Holiday

**Save the date for our
4th annual mini-golf
fundraiser!**

