

February 2018

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What Can Business do to Support Child Care?

By Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Child care offers a two-generational strategy for economic development by making it possible in the short term for people with young children to enter the workforce and by building our future workforce for the long-term. If we want to attract a younger workforce, a demographic in prime child-bearing and rearing years, we cannot afford to ignore the issues of access to high quality, affordable child care. If we want our children to have the skills they need to be our future leaders we cannot ignore child care. Understanding this value proposition leads to next steps of identifying initiatives at the company and community level to support the investment.



Individual companies and organizations are best positioned to gather information about what family needs their employees have. A variety of policies can help families with young children maximize their ability to fully participate in the workplace and be successful in their jobs. For instance, flexible work arrangements from telecommuting to off-hours work options might help employees better manage work and caregiving opportunities. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) gives families a tax break on child care expenses. Subsidizing the cost of child care greatly alleviates a family's financial burden and is not taxable for them for up to \$5000. On-site child care creates an easy option for families to access. There is a broad range of possibilities from low-barrier and easy-to-implement to higher cost infrastructure investments, and each company can do a cost-benefit analysis to determine what makes sense for them. The Home Depot is one company that looked at a variety of options and implemented several across a continuum of benefits, including building on-site child care for associates in the Atlanta area. Studies have shown that on-site care decreases absenteeism by 30% and employee turnover by up to 60%, a clear positive contribution to the bottom line.

Once business leaders and others successfully implement organizational policies, it is possible to tackle the issue of investing in child care as an economic development activity at the community level. Ultimately, this is where we can leverage the individual experiences we have to make a collective difference locally and potentially statewide, bringing together the expertise and ideas of multiple people to make a collective plan. In their publication "Workforce of Today, Workforce of Tomorrow: The Business Case for High-Quality Child Care" the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation highlights the state of Minnesota where "the business community has been credited with catalyzing improvements to the childcare system and garnering increased public attention and investment." Highlighting research on the economic impact of early learning and brain development made clear that a coordinated effort was needed, and the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) was formed. This private entity launched pilot initiatives to test ideas for how to make a difference. The success of these initiatives led to advocacy for public sector investment, leading to more sustainable, long term funding.

We can build this type of joint venture locally as well, creating a foundation for seeking investment on a larger scale, and eventually tying into statewide efforts that are aligned with our community goals. For instance, Vermont Birth to Five (VB5) announced in January their "Make Way for Kids" program and grant targeted to increasing the number of high-quality child care slots in Vermont by 500 annually. We might be able to identify a target like that for our region, maybe adding 50 slots in the next 3 years. Another statewide initiative is The Vermont Early Childhood Business Council, supported by The Permanent Fund, a forum where we can learn from others' experiences and amplify our own. In order to leverage those kinds of opportunities we need to create a local coalition to understand our community needs in terms of child care and economic development and coordinate our efforts to make a difference. High-quality affordable child care is not a luxury, it is a necessity for a healthy, prosperous economy.



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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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:

Family Circle

Thursday, February 22 ~ 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.

Play.Date. Brattleboro

Friday, February 23 ~ 5:00-7:00 pm

Downtown Brattleboro

Two hours of child care (by donation) at various kid-friendly locations downtown. Hosted by Downtown Brattleboro Alliance and Green Street Promises Community in conjunction with Elliot Street Fish, Chips and More. RSVP required, More info: www.facebook.com/play.date.brattleboro

Positive Solutions for Families

Six Mondays starting February 26 ~ 5:00-7:00 pm

Mulberry Bush Independent School

Provides information for families with children ages 3-6 on how to promote children's social and emotional skills and use positive approaches to help children learn appropriate behavior. FREE - dinner and child care provided. To register, call Janice 802-254-3755.



Winston Prouty Center Executive Director, Chloe Learey (second from left) received the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award from the Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting in January. She was recognized as an "innovative and imaginative entrepreneurial champion of the critical role early care and education plays in the socio-economic vitality of the Brattleboro area." Congratulations, Chloe!

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 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

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 FAMILY SUPPORT

Kerri Beebe, Family Support Worker

Ext. 204 kerri@winstonprouty.org

Kellyn McCullough, Family Support Worker

Ext. 305 kellyn@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

CBS WISHLIST:

Little Tykes ride-on pushtoy or tractors

One king-size or two twin-size box springs

FREE Tax Preparation

If you live or work in Windham County and your household income meets eligible criteria below, you could have your taxes prepared for FREE!!! Choose either in-person preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program or self-prepare at MyFreeTaxes.com.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

- Household income at or below \$54,000
- IRS certified volunteers
- By appointment on Thursdays, Feb 1 to April 12, 2018
- Brattleboro Retreat



MyFreeTaxes.com

- Household income at or below \$66,000
- Self-file at myfreetaxes.com
- File anywhere with high-speed internet
- Begins mid-January 2018
- In-person support available at VITA site on Thursdays, 11am-5pm

Do you need access to the internet to file your taxes? We have a workstation available to Prouty families and clients. Stop by or call the main office to reserve a time.

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



Please remember to turn off your engines during pick-up and drop-off. Young lungs at play! Thank you

GROWING OUR GARDEN

It's time to plan our new garden! Last year, Winston Prouty tilled up a new garden plot thanks to a Farm to Preschool grant from the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation. As the ELC classrooms select seeds for their playground garden boxes, the Garden Committee is thinking about how to use this new space.

We envision a garden that provides hands-on learning opportunities for all ages and nutritious snacks for the classrooms throughout the year. Imagine: fresh peas and strawberries in the spring; crisp cucumbers and green beans in the summer; sweet apples and carrots in the fall; frozen berries, pickled green beans, apple sauce, and

homemade tomato sauce all winter long; and baby food puree of all colors and flavors!

A garden of this size and impact takes time - especially in the form of volunteer hours. If this project piques your interest, we would love your help! For families with children in the ELC, any time you volunteer in the garden counts towards your annual 10 "parent hours". Some tasks that will need doing: raking woodchips into paths, transplanting starts, weeding and thinning, canning and pureeing.

We would also be very grateful if you or someone you know is willing to donate any seeds or plant starts. Buying pea and carrot seeds, but only planting half the package? We'll happily plant the rest! Buying a tray of flowers, but only have room for half? We'll happily plant the rest!

And finally, we will be holding a snack sale to raise money for our garden in conjunction with Winston Prouty's Par for the Cause event. We will be looking for donations of snacks and baked goods to sell at the family day on Sunday. What could you bring?

Whether you are an experienced gardener or a complete novice willing to learn, we hope are willing to get your hands dirty and help us grow our garden. If you are interested in helping the Garden Committee, please let Sueño or your classroom teacher know. Many thanks.



Here's how you can help our garden grow:

- donate seeds or plant starts
- volunteer to prepare beds, plant seeds, thin seedlings, help harvest and can veggies & fruits
- make a baked good for our bake sale at the March 4th Par for the Cause indoor mini-golf fundraiser

To support this project, contact Sueño at sueno@winstonprouty.org or let your classroom teacher know!

Acorn Room

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

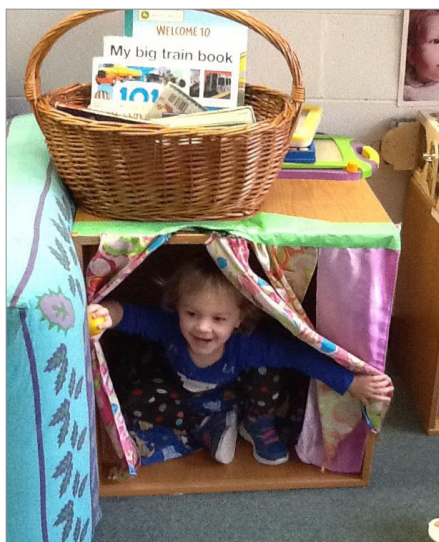


Elm Room

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



Our circle time storyboard is "The Woodcutter" with the concepts of "hot" (fire and candle) and "cold" (outdoors and snow) and many pictures to talk about on the board. Familiarity and repetition are important for toddlers and support memory recall and retention of information.



A new addition to the room is our "peek-a-boo" box which encourages both interactions like the one pictured and a quiet spot for a child who wants to retreat from bustle of a toddler classroom.



Toddlers like to model what they see adults doing!



Indoor movement games are really important in the winter. Here we are using hula hoops to go in and out. We also use them to jump into or chase as they roll.

Willow Room

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



January was a wonderful first month in the Willow Room. We enjoyed getting to know one another as well as learning classroom routines. We explored art through painting and gluing. We sang silly songs about our names, acted out different emotions we feel, and scooped and poured in the sand table. In the big room, we ran and rode bikes with Maple room.

Next month we will be engaging with a winter theme. We will transform our dramatic play area with an igloo and arctic animal artwork. We will investigate ice by freezing toys inside ice and painting with colored ice. We will sing songs and read stories about cold snowy winters. In addition we will talk about what it means to be a good friend to celebrate Valentine's Day. Have a great month!

Maple Room

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



Oak Room

Sarah Bemis, Alyssa Kelly / Ext. 217

Email: sarah@winstonprouty.org

The month of January we learned all about transportation. We enjoyed racing our matchbox cars around large number mats made to look like a road. We also enjoyed transforming our sensory table into a car wash. At our writing table we began to practice writing three letter words related to transportation such as; cab, jet, and bus. We also created a number of art pieces this month. In one project the



children used basic shapes to build a picture of a transportation vehicle they choose. Some children made airplanes, trains, ambulances, race cars, boats and more! We also used templates and sponge paint to create unique art pieces and explore color mixing. A science activity we explored was creating parachutes using coffee filters, straws and Easter eggs. Children colored the filters using markers and water. When dry they assembled the parachutes and watched as they flew out the window and three floors to the ground! We have also been working on learning more about our feelings. Each day at circle we see a photo of a friend with a new feeling. We describe what that feeling looks like on someones face and body and how it feels inside. We also take time to share an experience of when we may have felt that way. So far we have learned about the following feelings: happy, sad, angry, surprised, afraid, and worried.

The month of February we look forward to exploring two themes; weather, and love, kindness, and friendship. We also welcome Emily, a Keene State College student, and Shyanne, a student from the Windham Regional Career Center, into our classroom this month.



Birch Room

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

We have had so much fun in January learning about water, snow, and ice; and exploring them inside the classroom, on campus, and on our walks in the woods. Inside, we filled the sensory table with snow and added liquid water colors and droppers. We loved to see what happened when we mixed different colors together in the snow! In the science center, we filled buckets with plastic bugs, insects, and small blocks and put them in the freezer. When the water froze, we took out the buckets and used tools to try to get the toys out of the ice. During the extremely cold stretch early in the month, we filled the sensory table with warm water and bubbles. Outside, we enjoyed making snowmen, sledding, making snowballs, and finding icicles. We talked about winter animals and made snowy owls to display around school. We found many different kinds of animal and people tracks during our walks around campus. We read stories and sang songs about snow and ice this month; our favorite new song is called "10 Little Snowflakes!"

February will be a month full of learning about our families and friends. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Chinese New Year! Happy February from the Birch Room.



10 Little Snowflakes

Tune: 10 Little Indians

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my tongue! (stick tongue out)

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my hat! (pat head)

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my mittens! (wiggle hands)

One little, two little, three little snowflakes,
Four little, five little, six little snowflakes,
Seven little, eight little, nine little snowflakes,
Ten little snowflakes on my boots! (point to feet)



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February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Happy Birthday Ellen!
4 Lloyd is 1!	5	6 Oliver is 4!	7 ELC closes at 3:30 for ELC Atticus is 1!	8	9	10 Tui is 2!
11 Happy Birthday Kerri!	12	13	14	15 Madeline is 2!	16 Owen is 5! Nevaeh is 2!	17 Happy Birthday Lisa W! Nick is 3!
18	19 Justin is 3!	20 Madeline is 1!	21	22 Boden is 4! Happy Birthday Joanne! Acorn Room Family Circle 4:30-6:30	23	24 Happy Birthday Paula!
25 Autumnrose is 3!	26	27 Liam is 4	28			

UPCOMING
DATES:

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

Friday, March 23 - ELC Closes at 12:00 for Parent Teacher Conferences

Monday, March 26 - ELC Closed for Parent Conferences

Next month! Please join us for our 4th annual mini-golf fundraiser!

