

April 2018

Volume 12, Issue 8

April is Month of the Young Child

By Sarah DiNicola, Executive Assistant

The Month of the Young Child, celebrated across the country in April, is an opportunity for us to celebrate young children and the caregivers who lay the foundation for their future success. It's a time to turn our attention to the many people, places and programs that support the healthy development of our next generation.

Organizations who plan and support Month of the Young Child (MOYC) activities include: The Winston Prouty Center for Child and Family Development, Early Education Services, Windham Early Childhood Educators Co-op, Hilltop Montessori, Green Street Promise Community, and Parent Express. Over a dozen other local organizations participate by offering free and fun events to families throughout the month.



But the festivities aren't only about fun, they're also about learning! We now know that about 90% of the brain is developed by age 5. That means that all activities young children engage in – from mundane daily routines like brushing their teeth, to exciting adventures like watching a live puppet performance – can have a lasting impact on their growth. The opportunities presented by MOYC touch upon all aspects of a young child's development.

Music provides many benefits for the developing brain, including increasing sensory development, introducing patterns and rhythmic concepts which are the foundation to literacy and numeracy, and building coordination when music is mixed with movement. There are many MOYC events planned that provide children a chance to enjoy interactive musical experiences. Local musicians Andy Davis, Peter Seigel, Sobo Studios and Robin Morgan all host engaging sing-a-longs at various locations throughout the month.

It's important that children have ample time to practice their gross motor skills. Activities that allow children to practice balance and coordination, strength and endurance, attention and alertness and body awareness are essential their growing bodies. They can practice these skills at a Brattleboro School of Dance class or get their energy out with free play at the Brattleboro Rec. Department's open gym or KidsPLAYce. There are many outdoor activities planned too, including family-friendly hikes at the Retreat Farm, the Winston Prouty Center forest, and Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center.

When children are provided with the chance to create open-ended art projects, they're doing more than just making something pretty to look at. They are expressing themselves; they're practicing their fine-motor skills and, with engagement from adults, they can learn math concepts, practice their observation skills like noticing colors, lines, shapes, and so much more. Children will become artists at The River Gallery School's "Making Art with Found Materials" class, while the works of hundreds of young artists will be on display at the River Garden and Moore Free Library throughout the month. Families will also delight in the performance by the Early Learning Express Bookmobile Librarian, Sueño LeBlond, who mixes her captivating storytelling and imaginative artwork in a puppet variety show that audiences love.



Perhaps your child is drawn to animals. Exposing young children to creatures big and small expands their understanding of the world around them and provides opportunities to introduce science concepts. Hilltop Montessori School invites visitors to meet animals awaking for spring in a presentation by Teaching Creatures and Wild Carrot Farm will give families a chance to see a working farm in action.

The Month of the Young Child activities are planned with not only the children in mind, but their parents and caregivers as well. Parents can learn about how stressful events affect early development and ways we can work together as a community to build our individual and collective resilience at a presentation at the Winston Prouty Center; learn about available resources to support their family at the 14th Annual Young Children's Art Exhibit opening or build connections with other families at Early Education Services' Family Fun event.

To find out more details about these events and more, including dates, times and whether pre-registration is required, visit www.wisntonprouty.org/moyc.



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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UPCOMING EVENTS:



Summer Camp Fair

Friday, April 6 ~ 5:30-7:30pm
 River Garden

Local summer camps will have informational tables. Family-fun activities, live music, and a raffle for camp scholarships.

*Month of the
 Young Child event*

14th Annual Young Childrens Art Exhibit

Sunday, April 8 ~ 10:00-12:00 pm
 River Garden

Come enjoy the work of the community's youngest artists. Early childhood educators will be displaying their students' artistic creations. Fun, hands-on activities, refreshments, face-painting and information on resources and services available for young children and their families will be available.

*Month of the
 Young Child event*

Building Flourishing Communities

Tuesday, April 10 ~ 4:00 -5:30 pm
 4th Floor Holton Hall, Winston Prouty Center

Come learn about the ways stressful events in our early years of development affect us in ways that last our entire lives. Then, talk together about how we can work as a community to build our individual and collective resilience. There will be a presentation, discussion and snacks



Bookstravaganza: A Book Rehoming Event

Wednesday, Apr 18 - Monday, April 23 ~ 9:00 am-4:00 pm
 Vermont Hall, Winston Prouty Center

Thousands of books will be available for free or by donation.

*Month of the
 Young Child event*

Take a Walk with Mrs. Cranberry

Wednesday, April 18 ~ 3:30pm

Meet at Vermont Hall, Winston Prouty Center

Discover the trails of the Winston Prouty campus and meet our imaginary friends who live in the forest - like Mrs. Cranberry and Brother Cub and Sister Cub - along the way. Family-friendly hike led by Alfred Hughes, Jr.

*Month of the
 Young Child event*

Puppet Variety Show

Friday, April 20 ~ 10:00-10:30 toddlers, 10:45-11:30 preschoolers
 Vermont Hall, Winston Prouty Center

Bringing story time to the next level- Winston Prouty Center's bookmobile librarian presents an engaging variety of storytelling techniques including shadow puppets, crankies, and more. Sharing her love of stories and art, Sueño delights young audiences with her simple productions and abundant enthusiasm.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

CBS Wish List: Twin Mattress



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

Melissa Dawson, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator

Ext. 201 melissa@winstonprouty.org

Kellyn McCullough, Family Support Worker

Ext. 305 kellyn@winstonprouty.org

Evon Valentine, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator

Ext. 203 evon@winstonprouty.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 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 NURSING

Jean Vulté, CIS Nurse & Lactation Counselor

Ext. 211 jean@winstonprouty.org

Sally Pennington, CIS Nurse & Lactation Consultant

Ext. 206 cisnurse1@gmail.com

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

Save money and eat well with the

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT and 3SquaresVT

Working Vermonters with Income under \$53,930 may qualify to get a credit or refund on your taxes. It's called EITC. You can get EITC even if you don't owe taxes.

If you receive the Vermont EITC and have children under 18 then you likely qualify for 3SquaresVT – a nutrition program that helps you buy more food. When kids get 3SquaresVT benefits, they also get free school meals.

Apply now! Dial 2-1-1 or visit vermontfoodhelp.com.

Not sure if you received the Vermont EITC? Check your last tax return or call the VT Tax Department at 1-866-828-2865.

For more information or help filling out a 3SquaresVT application please contact SEVCA at 1-800-464-9951. You will be directed to your local Family Service worker.



ADULT DENTAL CARE DAY

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Who should attend?

Windham County residents, age 18 or older (no children, please)

What services are provided?

Fillings and extractions only (no wisdom teeth)

What is the cost?

FREE with suggested donation of \$20

Where do I go?

Register at Brattleboro Elks Lodge #1499*
75 Putney Road, Brattleboro

When do I register?

7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Patients will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis, then treated at participating dental offices according to the services needed.

*Transportation from the Elks to the dental practice is provided, if needed.

Call Vermont 2-1-1 for more details.



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 & Brianna Root, Floating Teachers

Bob Peebles & Susan Mandell, Volunteers

Pin Code Reminder:

Every person authorized to pick up children from the ELC has an individual pin code that they should use. If you need to send someone who is not on the list to pick up your child, please DO NOT give them your pin code. Instead, please have them ring the bell for entry. Thank you.



Thank you to Jade's mom Brianna for sewing a bunch of colorful bibs for our toddlers. Everyone loves them!



Acorn Room

Nancy McMahon, Mandi Martin / Ext. 218

Email: nancy@winstonprouty.org

April is a big month in the Acorn room Archer, Eli, Brooks and Aiylah all turn 1 year old this month!

We also welcome Millie who is starting in the Acorn room this month! We are looking forward to April and hope the weather becomes warmer. We are singing songs about birds, bunnies, chicks and cows.

We are experimenting with new foods, new words and learning to stand walk and run! We are planning a spring clean-up day in the infant toddler yard to spruce up our outdoor classroom. Stay tuned for time and date! If you are a parent who needs to do some volunteer time this could be a good activity. We are hearing birds on our walks and watching the snow melt away, can't wait for spring to get here!



Elm Room

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

The ELM Room had a "Fantastic Food" theme to compliment National Nutrition Month. Even unpopular foods are fun to describe and smell, (and sometimes we are surprised to find that we do like the taste!) So far we have tried a different fruit or vegetable every day, from exotic ones like Jack Fruit and Dragon Fruit to ordinary ones such as oranges, lemons, and limes, sweet potatoes and white potatoes, and different colored peppers. We have discovered that some foods taste and smell very different cooked than raw.



We learned we always wash our fruits and vegetables before eating. Here we are washing all our pretend foods at the sensory table before putting them in bins in our new dramatic play area, "The Prouty Fruit Stand."



Money has been a popular prop. Here Teacher Allie is encouraging pretend shopping with a toy cash register and a cash box for play money



We looked at photos of foods in ads and filled our paper plates with glued on pictures --which gave us another opportunity to name and describe some of our fantastic foods.



We also are fortunate to have a great collection of books about food and food jigsaw puzzles as pictured here.

We are having so much fun with this theme that we plan to keep it going next month and even repeat some foods. Continuing to sample unfamiliar foods is a good way to get them added to your child's diet. One nutritionist said it might take 16 tries get used to a new food --so remember not to give up when anybody says they "don't like it!"

Willow Room

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

This month in the Willow room, we explored a transportation theme. We read books with different types of vehicles and discussed what each did. We painted with cars, used gears as stamps, and counted and sorted shapes. Friends have been very enthusiastic about the sensory table lately, scooping and pouring colored rice. They even pretend to make food and feed the rice to small dolls. Willow room friends made oobleck (cornstarch and water) and played with the slimy substance that changes from solid form to liquid form. They let the oobleck drip onto their hands. Another exciting activity this month was an experiment called "dancing raisins". We watched raisins sink in a glass of water and go up and down in carbonated liquid as if the raisins were dancing! Friends made observations about the bubbles they saw in the carbonated liquid.

Next month we will have a focus on our five senses. We will explore our sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell through different activities. We will finger paint, make scented playdough, have a taste test, guess objects inside a bag using only our hands, explore a baking soda and vinegar reaction, and listen for birds on a nature walk. We look forward to exciting activities in the month of April!



Maple Room

Amy Fulton, Melaney Moorhead, Sara Fradkin / Ext. 205

Email: amy@winstonprouty.org

The month of March was true to form with windy, snowy weather and finally the very beginnings of spring. The Maple room has been enjoying watching the weather change as we begin taking walks around the Prouty Campus. We walk on the pathways and visit our new favorite spot, the little bridge and stream. We have noticed that the ice is gone and we have found some green moss growing in the water. We use sticks to pretend we are fishing and pretend that the leaves and moss are fish when we scoop them out of the water!



Another exciting adventure is going on our first woods walk. We climbed over fallen trees, through water and mud, and made our way up to the frog pond. We were a little sad to see it still has ice on it, and no frogs in sight. We loved the walk and running or rolling down the big hill was so much fun!

We celebrated St. Patty's Day by making lots of green things, such as playdough and slime. We even had green water in the sensory table. On the first day of spring, we found out that Mindy's baby boy Leo arrived and both are doing well!



Oak Room

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

The month of March was filled with wonder as we explored fairytales in the Oak room. We read the poem and sang the song of Humpty Dumpty and created an art activity where Humpty was sitting on a wall and he told us how he was feeling. We also read the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. In our art project children got to choose who climbed up the beanstalk and what they got to discover at the top. For a math activity we created a beans with numbered leaves. Children had to identify numbers and place the correct amount of beans on each leaf. When reading the story of The Three Little Pigs we built houses in the block area and used pig puppets to retell the story. We also enjoyed using our felt board to retell the story of The Three Little Pigs. This month we also enjoyed Easter egg math. In this math game we had to count the dots at the bottom of each Easter egg and connect to the numeral written on the top half of the eggs. At story time each day we read a new version of classic fairytales. By the end of the month children became wonderful at noticing the similarities and differences between each version of the same story. They would notice when an author would change the ending of a story or if they would change the characters but keep the plot line same. A favorite for us was reading the classic Goldilocks and the Three Bears and then reading Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs, in which Goldilocks wanders into the house of three hungry dinosaurs!

We are so happy to share that our classroom has received over 50 free books through the Scholastic Book Clubs program this school year. Thank you to all parents who supported your child's love of reading and helped us grow our classroom library! In the month of April our theme will be animals. We look forward to learning about a variety of different animals including; farm animals, pets, and jungle animals.



Birch Room

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

We had another exciting month in the Birch classroom! We started the month celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd with a Green Eggs and Ham breakfast, story time, and pajama day! In dramatic play we had some fun "snowy day" dress up days. We have enjoyed our last month of winter and first month of spring having "ice cream snow snacks" at our outdoor ice cream snow shops! We also continue to love listening to nature lullabies at the waterfalls and streams.

We've been practicing our writing and fine motor skills using sand, finger paint, and colored goo (corn starch and water). We have spent the month playing our favorite memory and matching games in our small groups. We look forward to continuing to welcome and celebrate spring by learning about the change in season, bugs and insects, flowers, and exploring the outdoors!



QUESTION OF THE DAY:

Have you ever tasted sap?

- Liam - No, I don't like it
- Orin - Yes, it tastes like water
- Adrian - Yes, it's really good
- Parker - Yes, it's yummy and sweet
- Shawndra - It tastes like water with sugar
- Luna - Yes, it tastes like water
- Boden - Yes, it tastes like water
- Charlotte - No, but I tasted it here
- Layla - Yes, it tastes like water mixed with syrup
- Sienna - Yes, two times. It tastes like water with maple sugar.

2018 APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Aurora is 1!	4 Archer is 1! Center closes at 3:30 for All Staff meeting	5 Happy Birthday Alyssa!	6	7
8 Owen is 2!	9 Arlin is 2!	10	11	12 Happy Birthday Sarah D! Holly is 2!	13 Enrollment paperwork due for next year	14
15	16	17	18 Happy Birthday Eric!	19 Rylan is 2! Jared is 3!	20	21
ELC closed for Spring Break						
Bookstravaganza: A Book Rehoming Event						
22	23 Bookstravaganza	24 Eli is 1!	25 Aiylah is 1!	26 Acorn Room Family Circle Maple Room Family Nutrition	27 Happy Birthday Susan!	28
29 Brooks is 1!	30 Bishop is 3!					



- Wednesday, May 2** - ELC closes at 3:30 for ELC staff meeting
- Monday, May 28** - Center is closed for Memorial Day
- Thursday, June 28** - Preschool Graduation