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## Summer Child Care Challenges

By Chloe Learey, Executive Director

Everyone is excited for summer! Vacations are scheduled, kids are glad to be out of school, and the warm weather means life gets a little easier. Except if you're working full time and need to find something fun, safe and engaging for your young children to do while you work.

While many early care and learning programs for infants through preschool continue services for the summer, kindergarten-age children and beyond are left to access options that might be less convenient for families, unaffordable, and end up creating more of a burden. Some of the child care challenges identified in the survey recently done by the Child Care Counts coalition are amplified in the summer. When families are required to piece together an assortment of options issues around scheduling and flexibility at work become even more important. For instance, you find a great day camp, but it only runs for half the day, so you have to figure out transportation and another activity to fill in the day. Or you cannot afford the overnight camp that is available, so you find yourself leaving work early, negotiating with other families to swap kids, finding a neighborhood kid or older sibling to babysit. These are not bad options in and of themselves, but the challenge of coordinating the logistics and the likelihood that changes can happen that will cause the plan to fall apart means increased stress and possible consequences at work ranging from lost productivity to turning down promotions to leaving full-time work that has benefits. The feedback from families who participated in the survey was clear: "challenging", "stressful", "frustrating", "extremely difficult" were words used repeatedly to describe the impact limited child care availability has. This does not even begin to address the issue of quality. There are some camps and programs families might not feel confident are the best for their child, but it is the only choice they have.



Challenges aside, there are some great programs in our area for families to access, many of which are included in the compilation Youth Services puts together ("Summer Resources for Health Youth and Families" under Publications on the web site). Organizations like Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, Boys and Girls Club, The Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro School of Dance, Creating with Clay, The Grammar School, the Retreat Farm, Green Mountain Camp for Girls, Hilltop Montessori, Kroka, Meeting Waters YMCA, New England Youth Theater, River Gallery School, St. Michael's School, and Vermont Wilderness School offer a range of programs for youth of all ages. Many offer scholarships and some participate in Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program, which helps eligible families pay for child care services for children up to age 13 (or up to age 19 if the child has special needs).

The challenge of child care is not just an issue for families with children. It impacts all of us who work with and employ people with young children. It weighs on families across the economic spectrum and is a major piece of infrastructure to take into consideration when discussing the economic health of our community. Let's do all we can to keep this important piece of the economic development puzzle part of the on-going conversation.



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

### Presentation for Prouty parents: How to help children respond to household rules & routines

*For families in Maple, Oak and Birch classrooms*

**Tuesday, July 10 ~ 4:15-5:30**

**Conference Room, Winston Prouty Center**

Would you like your children to listen to your requests, talk kindly to one another and help with tasks at the end of along work and school day? Are you wondering what strategies to use? Brandy Levesque, CIS Behavior Consultant and Pyramid Model coach will be sharing ideas for how you can more positively address challenging behavior. The Pyramid Model is a framework we are using in the Early Learning Center to support social emotional development. The strategies and techniques of the framework work at home, too, and we would love to share them with you.

### 3rd Annual Blueberry Bash

**Wednesday, July 18 ~ 12:00-5:00**

**Mount Snow Resort, West Dover, VT**

A new addition to the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival, offering backyard games, live music, BBQ, and more. Challenge your family and friends to games of cornhole, Kan Jam or horseshoes, and let your kids take on the obstacle course. Don't miss the water balloon toss, tug-of-war or epic Blueberry Jell-O Pie contest, with a grand prize of a season pass to Mount Snow. Entry and all activities are FREE

### Ice Cream Making: Shake, Shake, Shake

**Wednesday, July 25 3:30-5:00pm**

**Brattleboro Food Co-op Cooking Classroom**

Bring a friend to make some home-made ice cream the old-fashioned way. We will use fruits which are in season now — strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, and others. Dairy and non-dairy options are available. This class is free for all, but you must register: 802-246-2821 or [Shareholders@BrattleboroFoodCoop.coop](mailto:Shareholders@BrattleboroFoodCoop.coop)



## COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

### CBS WISH LIST:



Children's  
hangers

#### 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 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 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

#### FAMILY SUPPORT

Kerri Beebe, CIS Family Support Worker

Ext. 204 kerri@winstonprouty.org

Kellyn McCullough, CIS Family Support Worker

Ext. 305 kellyn@winstonprouty.org

Evon Valentine, Family Supportive Housing Coordinator

Ext. 203 evon@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 & Child Care Referral Specialist

Ext. 317 kristy@winstonprouty.org



**NO APPLICATION.  
NO REGISTRATION.  
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## 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, Amy Mulherin & Brianna Root,**  
Floating Teachers

**Bob Peebles, Volunteer**



### Our garden is growing!

Thank you to everyone who donated time, plants and money to help start our new garden. The variety in the playground planters show the personalities of each classroom. Down in the big garden, tomatoes and zucchini are setting fruit. And up above in the planters along the building, beautiful sensory gardens are filling with color, texture, scents and flavors!

We encourage you to join our garden community. Take time to sniff, feel, and even sample plants in the barrel planters where we have created a "sensory garden" experience. Walk down the hill past the playground and visit the big garden. While you're there, pull some weeds and earn family volunteer hours.

Ways you can participate:

- Weed! Want company? Join garden committee members for Weeding Wednesdays 4:30-5:00.
- Donate tomato cages or mulching material.
- Share a recipe. Send one of your favorite garden vegetable recipes to [sueno@winstonprouty.org](mailto:sueno@winstonprouty.org), or leave a copy at the front desk for her. LOOK for the Recipe of the Week near the ELC mailboxes and give it a try.

## Acorn Room

*Nancy McMahon, Mandi Martin / Ext. 218 / Email: [nancy@winstonprouty.org](mailto:nancy@winstonprouty.org)*

As we watch Brayden and Atticus move up to the Elm room this month, I'm reminded of how much growth and how many developmental milestones happens the first year of life. Both children started at 6 weeks of age in our room. They slept, smiled, nursed and observed their new setting. In a year's time they have learned all about their environment. They have learned how to navigate, how to initiate, how to negotiate, how to play and build relationship with their peers and teachers and themselves. They have discovered crawling, creeping, walking, climbing and running. They have gone from breast milk to eating guacamole, sandwiches and anything else they desire. Their physical growth is astounding and their verbal and social responses amazing. This solidifies for me the miracle of life as I watch these two very young infants turn into fiery, silly, inventive and independent toddlers. Can't wait to see how they grow next year!!!!



## Elm Room

Allie Barrett / Ext. 207 / Email: [allie@winstonprouty.org](mailto:allie@winstonprouty.org)

What a busy month we had in June! Our theme was farm and the color of the month was silver and white. We did some white and silver collage. For our farm theme we had out the silos, barns and farm animals such as the horses, pigs and cows. We also went to the Retreat Farm where we saw many Farm animals such as an Ox, baby piglets, goats, bunnies and donkeys!

Happy Father's Day to all those dads are out there, you are doing such a great job. The children made some paper towel shakers for them.

We have increased mix up with the Maple room to 3 days a week to those children who will be moving up starting July 2nd!

We also want to thank Susan who will be retiring and last day was June 22nd for all her hard work and growth she has given us! We will miss her!

### SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 - 5:00 pm

Celebration of Susan's  
retirement, following  
22 years of teaching at  
Winston Prouty!



"I'm making this for my daddy"



Colleen Maple Room  
teacher reading with  
Payton during mix up



Checking out the new  
playground at the Retreat Farm



We loved to pet  
"Butterscotch" the goat!



We even got to pet  
some chickens!



## Maple Room

Amy Fulton, Sara Fradkin, Colleen Quigley / Ext. 205 Email: [amy@winstonprouty.org](mailto:amy@winstonprouty.org)

During the month of June in the Maple Room we explored a nature and animal theme. We read stories about animals and plants as well as created animal and nature inspired art. While walking outside, friends have been excited to look at the fairy gardens on property as well as tend to our gardens. Our bean and pea plants are growing beautifully in their garden bed, and we love the big tub of water made available so that we can water them daily.

One of our highlights this month was our fizzy rock experiment. We used a dropper to place vinegar onto colored (yellow and blue) baking soda "rocks" to create a bubbly reaction. Maple room friends noticed the bubbles and commented that they heard "a sizzle" and "a fizz" right after we poured vinegar onto the rocks for the first time. One friend even commented that it looked like we were making "seltzer"! Friends noticed the colors of the rocks blending with each other and turning green. Eventually, we added lots of vinegar to the baking soda rocks to create an exciting, larger explosion. Friends squealed and laughed as they watched the bubbles overflow and spill over onto the tray.



On July 2nd some of our Maples moved to the preschool classrooms. We will say "Goodbye" to: Autumnrose, Piper, Ali, and Jordan. We will be welcoming three new friends from the Elm room, Payton, Rue, and Cortland. All of our Maple friends are excited about visiting their new classrooms and even though it is hard for us to see them go, we are happy that we can see them in the hallway, classroom, big room or playground. We are always available for hugs and hellos!



## New smiles at Prouty!



**Amy Mulherin** - Amy joins Prouty as a Floating Assistant Teacher. She brings 10 years of experience working with children, at the Brattleboro Rec Department, as a nanny, and most recently in a classroom setting working with toddlers. Amy is currently earning her Associates in Early Childhood Education.



**Abby Chapman** - Abby is a junior at Castleton University studying Elementary Education with a concentration in Special Education. She works primarily in the Oak room. She loves to hike and swim. This is her third summer with us at Prouty and we are so grateful she is spending this July and August with us.



**Tia Neilson** - Tia is a junior at Keene State College. She's been spending her days with our youngest Prouty children in the Acorn room. She loves animals and enjoys hiking. She'll earn her Early Childhood Education degree in the fall of 2019 and plans to work in early intervention. We're so glad she is here for the summer!

## Oak Room

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

The month of June has been filled with new friends and new experiences. A highlight of the month for us was our field trip to the Cheshire Children's Museum. We loved exploring all the different areas to play. Some of our favorites were the airplane, boat, farm, vets office, school bus, pizza shop, construction zone, stage, and the bank! Thanks to all the families that joined us on this adventure. We appreciate you spending the morning with us!

We have been enjoying beautiful summer weather outside and love to water our garden boxes each day. We can't wait to harvest our veggies and have a delicious snack one day. We are also enjoying our daily stop at the fairy homes. It is so fun to see what new additions the fairy's will add to their homes all around campus.

We have also been talking about upcoming changes to our classroom community. We have enjoyed visiting with Autumn Rose, Jordan, and Parker and look forward to them joining our classroom in July. Many of our friends have been working hard preparing for Kindergarten this fall. This month we say goodbye to Tyler F, Gemma, Aliyah, and Caelen. We will miss you and wish you all the best in your new schools!

## CONGRATS PROUTY GRADUATES!



### OAK ROOM

Marcus Cartner  
Ava Cote  
Mason Eastman  
Tyler Fairbrother  
Aliyah Johnson  
Caelen Martinez  
Gemma Meima  
Tyler Shippee  
Jacob Short

### BIRCH ROOM

Jack Bennett  
Sienna Borek  
Charlotte Bristol  
Jeremiah Cimaszewski  
Jeffrey Graves  
Shawndra Jones  
Kali Noyes-Urffer  
Layla Wheeler

## Birch Room

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

Happy summer from the Birch Room! This month we say congratulations to our kindergarten graduates-Kali, Layla, Charlotte, Shawndra, Jeremiah, Sienna, Jeffrey, and Jack. We also said goodbye to Parker who is excited to join the Oak room in July. In July we are looking forward to welcoming Ali and Piper to the Birch room. July starts the summer program and we can't wait for the return of "sprinkler days," and learning about camping, fishing, the beach, and spending lots of time outside!



# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy Birthday Colleen!	2 Happy Birthday Liz & Sally!	3	4 Center Closed for Holiday	5 Oliver is 5!	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Colton is 2!	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Andrew is 2!	23 Adrian is 4! Sterling is 1!	24	25	26	27 Skye is 3! Happy Birthday Tonya & Kristy!	28
29	30 Caelen is 5!	31				

## UPCOMING DATES:

**Thursday, August 16** - ELC Family Summer BBQ

**Sunday, August 19** - Celebration of Susan Heimer's Retirement

**Monday, August 20 - Wednesday, August 22** - ELC Closed for in-service & prep

**Thursday, August 23 - Friday, August 24** - Center closed for in-service

**Monday, August 27** - 2018-2019 Program Year begins