

Early Connections

A Newsletter for the Addison Early Childhood Community
Fall 2007

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RESPOND TO STARS SURVEY

When Pam Pickett, a registered home provider in Barre for over 20 years, decided to participate in Vermont's STEP Ahead Recognition System (STARS) by completing the application form and providing the documentation necessary, she was a bit apprehensive. She had attended an informational meeting last year and put the materials on the shelf for a later date.

She was uncomfortable with participating because she knew she did good work and didn't like the idea of yet another thing to do to prove herself – not to mention the time it would take. But as someone who considered herself a professional, she wanted to demonstrate her commitment to the young children in her care and the families that she served.

"I didn't expect much when I started this process but now I am so glad I did it," said Pam. "It has shown me where I have drifted away from some good things I used to do and really refocused and reenergized me. I have reconnected with why I love my work. I received 3 STARS and, in addition, I got an incentive grant of \$1000 to help me keep improving. I am also eligible for a Young Explorers computer. It wasn't that hard in the end, once I realized you use what you are already doing."

A recent survey of providers participating in STARS shows that Pam is not alone in her feelings about STARS. A large majority of providers said that they chose to enroll in STARS "to gain recognition as a program committed to continuous improvement."

Others commented:

"It is a step up from just being one of the hundreds of providers."

"STARS helps providers assess their sites in ways that they may have overlooked. It engages staff to assess their own qualifications and encourages personal growth not only for their own advantage, but also for the site. All providers should want to improve the quality of care."

"Providers and parents, as well as children, have to continue to learn, work toward new goals, stay focused and look toward the overall picture. STARS helped to motivate that."

Now in its fourth year, STARS has been in place long enough that a number of providers have done one, two, and for a handful, three annual updates. Nearly all providers are opting to renew and statistics recently released indicate 53 percent increased their point level when they renewed. In addition, a significant number of providers have increased their star rating level and qualified for an additional bonus.

Continued on page 11...

Addison County Child Care Services

81 Water St., Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Phone: 802-388-4304

Fax: 802-388-3063

Protective Services/Family Support:

Doumina Noonan

Email: FS-PS@mjcvt.org**Resource Specialist:** Amethyst PeasleeEmail: resource@mjcvt.org**Subsidy Specialist:** Jane ReillyEmail: subsidy@mjcvt.org**Referral Specialist/Building Bright****Futures:** Ginny SinclairEmail: referral@mjcvt.org**Food Program:** Susie Pigeon388-2853 or cacfp@mjcvt.org**Schoolage Programs:** Anne Gleason388-2853 - schoolage@mjcvt.org**At the ADDISON COUNTY RESOURCE ROOM we have
Resources for EarlyCare and Education Providers ...**

- **Books, equipment, materials:** Assorted books, magazine videos, theme sets, gross motor structures, dress ups, craft consumables, and more. Call **Amethyst at 388-4304** for a complete listing. Resources are available for one month. Materials can be brought to your home or program, or can be picked up at Mary Johnson Children's Center. **The Resource Room is open whenever there is a class at MJCC or you can call Amethyst and make an appointment at a time that is convenient for you.**
- **Teacher Resources:** Many books and articles are available on child development, activities, challenging behavior, etc. If there are any subjects you wish to have more information on for yourself or a parent, **call Amethyst at 388-4304.** I will make copies and send them to you.
- **Child Care Provider Network Resources:** Photocopier, laminator, theme sets, books. **Call: Ann 453-7324 or Gerri 453-3707**
- **The Director's Network:** has a large laminator. **Call Amethyst** if you have books, posters or other creations you would like to laminate. **The cost is \$1.25 per yard.**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

- **The CUPS Team:** If you need support and/or information a child's challenging social emotional behavioral issues, please **call 388-3171 and speak with Linda or Anne.**
- **The Family Infant Toddler Project :** If you are working with a child 3 years or under whom you have concerns about, call **388-3171.**
- **Your local Early Essential Education office (EEE):** If you are concerned that a child you care for has a developmental delay, contact your local EEE office. They can answer questions and provide support/resources and guidance for talking with parents:
 - * **Addison Central/ Middlebury: 382-1760**
 - * **Addison Northeast: Bristol: Carol Birdsall/Cindy Kuhns: 453-3674**
 - * **Addison Northwest: Vergennes: Deb Angier: 877-2867**
- **POISON HELPLINE: 1-800-222-1222**
- **Expectant Parents Classes: Community Health Outreach Program, Porter Hospital - 382-3413**
- **LaLeche League: For information for nursing mothers call 453-6655.**
- **MOPS: nondenominational non-profit org for mothers of preschoolers. Call Patricia-453-5740.**
- **Natural Beginnings Breastfeeding Support Group: 3rd Tues. @10AM : 204 College St. Middlebury - for information call Vicki @ 236-4136.**
- **Community Health Service:** Evening clinics - physical exams, immunizations, prescriptions, well child visits. No one is turned away regardless of ability to pay. For information call **388-0137.**
- **Vermont Dept. of Health:** Information on WIC, Healthy Babies, Kids & Families, Dr Dynosaur etc. For information call **388-4644.**
- **Womensafe:** Ongoing services include support groups, 24 hour hotline, confidential safe homes, counseling, legal advocacy For information call **388-4205 or 1-800-288-4205.**
- ♦ **Feeling Stressed? Afraid you'll loose your cool with you kids? Call 1-800-CHILDREN for support.**
- ♦ **Department of Children and Families: 388-4660**
- ♦ **Child Care Consumer Concern Line: 1-800-540-7942**

Addison County Child Care Providers Networks

Bristol/Vergennes: 3rd Monday of the month @ 6:30 PM

September 17: Potluck /Getting Acquainted

Provider Leaders: *Ann Duclos-Collier - 453-7324 & Gerri Barrows - 453-3707*

Middlebury/Orwell: 2nd Monday of the month @ 7 PM

Provider Leaders: *Lorie Mulcahy - 948-2599 & Tammy Dorr - 352-9848*

Brandon: @ 6:30 PM: Support/Discussion on the 1st Monday of the month

Sept. 26: CPR Recertification, 6-9 PM; pre registration required

Oct. 18: Plugged In - Protecting Children from Online Predators; Karen Holz, PCAVT

Meet at the Brandon Fire Department. Please RSVP.

Provider Leader: *Jennifer Popp: 483-9420*

Directors' Network: Call Amie Whitcomb for details - 453-5659

All Child Care Providers (Home and Center) are invited to Network meetings. The Network meetings offer time to share the challenges and joys of providing early care and education with others who truly understand. The Networks are sponsored by a Starting Points grant from Child Care Services Division in Waterbury. Each group is free to pursue its own definition of support. **Newcomers are always welcome!**

Women Taking Charge of Credit

A four session class in Middlebury starting in September. Women who have taken these classes:

- **Feel less stressed about money**
- **Gain more control over spending**
- **Learn how to manage debt.**

Contact Gillian Franks @ 860-1417 x 103

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

Vermont has begun the work to create a unified, sustainable system of early care, health and education for young children and their families. The Vision of the work is: All Vermont children will be healthy and successful.

The transition from Success by Six to Building Bright Futures took place on July 1, 2007. Full time BBF Regional Directors have been hired in 11 of the 12 regions of the state, with Ginny Sinclair acting as Interim Director in Addison County, until a full time person is hired. Work has begun on comprehensive regional plans for each region.

BBF Mission Statement: *Through the coordination and restructuring of the existing system of early care, health, education and related family support services in Vermont, all Vermont families and young children will have access to a continuum of comprehensive, high quality early childhood programs that meet established standards, promote school readiness, and address the needs of the child and family.*

Professional Development Opportunities

We are pleased to announce this year's offerings which include some new Level II classes as well as some old favorites. All workshops take place at **Mary Johnson Children's Center**, 81 Water St. in Middlebury, **unless indicated otherwise.**

Please pre-register by contacting Amethyst at: 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org

Bright Futures Information System Technical Support

Tuesday September 11th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Hannaford Career Development Center

Still confused by BFIS? Would you like to know more about being an e-provider? Join **Julie Waters, BFIS Technical Support**, at the **Hannaford Career Development Center**. This will be a hands-on workshop in one of the Center's Computer Labs **CDA area #5; Core Knowledge Area M**

Never Too Early/Early Birds and Bookworms

Thursdays September 13, 20 & 27 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Childhood literacy and related developmental issues are introduced through exploration of eight children's books. Attendees participate in animated readings; learn songs, rhymes, and movement exercises; and take home ideas for book extension activities. **Each participant receives a free set of eight books.** Open to all early care and education providers who may attend one training per year.

Skills and ideas presented in "Never Too Early" are extended as providers learn ways to share a second set of books. By inviting parents to attend, "Early Birds and Bookworms" facilitates stronger bonds between providers and parents of children in their care. Providers learn strategies for hosting an "Open House." **Each participant receives a free set of eight books. Open to all early care and education providers who have previously attended a "Never Too Early" in the same calendar year. Each provider/teacher has the option of inviting two parents or parent teams. CDA 1, 2, 5; T**

BUILDING BLOCKS for Literacy

FREE Two-Day Workshop With Follow-up On-site Mentorship available

Saturday, September 29, 2007 and Saturday, December 1, 2007

Hampton Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Colchester Vermont

- Enjoy learning with other early care and education providers from across Vermont
- Learn more about providing young children with the building blocks for literacy
- Receive children's books and teaching materials, including the *BUILDING BLOCKS* for Literacy® curriculum, to use with your children

Contact Kathleen Tellez at ktellez@sterncenter.org or 800/544-4863 ext 320.

Observing and Recording, Level II Series

Wednesdays October 3rd, 10th, 17th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Join **Laura Brines** in exploring why observing young children is so important; how to record, interpret, and share observations; and how to use observations to support emergent curriculum. In classes two and three, participants will bring in observations, photographs and/or artifacts to share. **Laura Brines, M.Ed** is an early education consultant, aspiring children's book author, and Director/ Teacher of Spring Hill School 1986-2005. **CDA area # 7; Core Knowledge Areas C, T Counts for Advanced Specialized Care**

Teaching Toddlers

Thursdays November 1, 8, 15

6:30-8:30

Join **Laurie Shelton** for this three part series which looks at toddlers in the context of infant/toddler classrooms and multi-age home child care settings. Hands-on activities combine with discussion as we look at the developmental stages of children ages birth through three and the joys and challenges they bring with them. We will focus on setting up environments and providing safe, engaging, open-ended materials; learn the craft of hand papermaking and discuss ways that this delightful activity can be implemented with toddlers as well as older children; and discuss emergent curriculum and ways that this teaching style can be developed within various settings and age groups. Throughout the series, we'll look at the Vermont Early Learning Standards and brainstorm ways that environments and curriculum can support best practice for children, teachers and families. Participants will be asked to try a new concept each week and will have opportunities to share their questions and ideas with the group. **Laurie Shelton, M.Ed.**, has 30 years of experience working with young children, families and teachers. She has taught elementary school, founded and directed Spring Hill School in Waitsfield and worked in the Early Childhood Program at the University of Vermont. She currently teaches workshops on hand papermaking and provides home child care for infants and toddlers. **CDA areas 1, 2, 3, 4; Core Knowledge T,C,F Can be counted for Advanced Specialized Care**

Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development

Saturday October 13th

8:30 - 11:30 AM

This training helps participants better understand the sexual development of children and how to respond to children's sexual behaviors and questions in ways that promote healthy development. Participants will gain an understanding of the scope of child sexual abuse and the relationship between healthy sexuality and child sexual abuse prevention. Participants will learn to identify normal sexual behaviors of young children; respond to young children's sexual interactions and questions about sexuality; identify and report suspected child abuse.

CDA Area # 3,4,8; Core Knowledge Areas T, F, E, C; Advanced Specialized Care

Advanced Specialized Care Series

We are pleased to be working in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families to enable child care providers to participate in the Pride workshop series. These classes offer support to foster and kinship caregivers and adoptive parents. Topics will include the importance of permanency, understanding identity, attachment, trauma and sexual abuse, coping with grief and loss, discipline. The series will meet 2 nights a week from mid-Oct.—Mid Nov. from 6-9 pm. Sessions may be taken individually.

More information will be available in September, call Amethyst or Doumina @388-4304.

Step Ahead with Your STARS

Thursday October 25th

6:30 - 8:30 PM

In this session, participants will review the program, learn about the incentive bonuses available, ask questions and discuss how STARS fits into program growth plans, including accreditation. Applications will be available and specific questions about the application and what is sent in with it will be addressed. **See article on front page for more info.**

CDA Area # 5, 6; Core Knowledge Area M

More Professional Development Opportunities on page 8...

WHAT'S HAPPENING

LIBRARY STORY TIMES---check with your library for days and times of story hours and special events.

Bixby Library, Vergennes 877-2211
Brandon Library 247-8230
Ilsley Library, Middlebury 388-4097
Lawrence Library, Bristol 453-2366
Lincoln Library 453-BOOK 2665
Neshobe School Library 247-3721

New Haven Library 453-4015
Orwell Library 948-2041
Platt Library, Shoreham 897-2647
Russell Library, Monkton 453-4471
Salisbury Library 352- 1047
Starksboro Library 453-3732

RECREATION

Bristol for information 453-5885 or visit www.bristolrec.org

Middlebury for information 388-8104 or 388-4041

Vergennes contact Tara Brooks @877-1159 T&W, 8 am -12 pm or visit recreation@vergenne.org

ARTS and CRAFTS - Frog Hollow Craft Center - call 388-3177 or visit www.froghollow.org

PLAYGROUPS---The Addison County Parent/Child Center will be sponsoring **free** playgroups for children birth to 6 and accompanying adult. The Play Group calendar follows the school calendar and snow day closings. For info call 388-3171

Bristol

Tuesdays 9:30-11:00
Baptist Church

Middlebury

Tuesdays 9:30-11:00
St. Stephen's Church

Vergennes

Wednesdays 9:30-11:00
Congregational Church

Parents of Special Kids (POSK) Are you looking for someone who understands, are you frustrated, do you want to talk?? Together we will listen, find ways to cope, and create solutions to make our families lives better. 2nd Monday each month at 7:00 pm at the Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd, New Haven For info call Ann 453-7324

Autism Support Daily is a parent-led support group open to parents, families and friends of those on the spectrum. New members are always welcome. 1st Monday of each month 7:00 pm at the Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd, New Haven for info 802-660-7240 or lynnmgeorge@adelphia.net or www.autismsupportdaily.com

For the Love of Children

If you have ever considered the field of child care as your home business we can help assess whether family child care is right for you.

- ◆ Learn about training opportunities & community resources available to child care providers.
- ◆ Save money on food with the Child Care Food Program
- ◆ Develop supportive relationships with current family child care providers.

For more information call Amethyst @ 388-4304 - Addison County Child Care Services.

Vergennes Area Rescue Squad has 3 technicians for fitting car seats—Beth Bannister, Chuck Welch and Becca Webb. They are holding “fitting station” hours on the first Thursday of each month from 3:00-6:00 pm and on the third Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Phone 877-3683

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The Community Supplemental Food Program, a federal program managed and distributed by the Vermont Foodbank offers free monthly nutritious foods for qualified individuals.

There are 162 locations throughout the state where participants or a proxy can pick up a **30 pound box of food each month that includes canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juices, cereals and cheese. The program is easily accessible and can fill critical nutritional gaps experienced by low-income Vermonters.**

Each individual qualified person receives his or her own food box each month and can participate in other commodity programs at the same time. Individuals who qualify must be 60 years of age or older, **under 6 years of age and not in the WIC program or a woman who is pregnant or post-partem for less than a year and not in the WIC program. These individuals must also be income eligible; for more information call 1-800-214-4648 for a simple pre-screening. An application will be mailed to those who qualify.**

The Child & Family WebGuide

Due to the expanding volume of information on the Web, parents and professionals often have difficulty locating the information they want. Even when they find information that seems relevant, they have difficulty determining if it is credible. The goal of the WebGuide is to give the public easy access to the best child development information on the Web. All the sites listed on the WebGuide have been systematically evaluated by graduate students and faculty in child development. These sites have been selected from thousands that are available on the Web, based primarily on the quality of the information they provide. There are five main categories of information: family/parenting, education/learning, typical child development, health/mental health, and resources/recreation. The address of the webguide is: **www.cfw.tufts.edu**

Block Play: Building a Child’s Mind

Unit blocks may not be as sophisticated as some toys we find in stores, but they are ideal for learning because they involve the child as a whole—the way s/he moves her muscles, the way s/he discovers how different objects feel in her hands, the way s/he thinks about spaces and shapes and the way s/he develops thought and interests of her own.

Unit blocks are a good investment because children may continue to use them as they grow. Infants and toddlers enjoy simply touching and gripping larger, textured blocks. As toddlers, they develop more muscle control and are able to combine blocks, stack or line them up. Two-year-olds may demonstrate their first attempts at building structures and show the beginnings of fantasy play. Around the age of three, children learn how to balance and fit pieces together to build sturdier towers, then bridges and enclosures. Threes and fours begin to recognize designs and patterns, their towers and buildings becoming works of art.

From the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Basic Specialized Care

The Basic Specialized Care training offers all early care and education providers important basic information for understanding the needs of children experiencing high degrees of stress. In today's world, this could be most children, not just those under Protective Services Care or Family Support. This series will be offered again on March 24th and 29th.

Monday Nov. 5th, part 1; 6:30 – 8:30 PM will focus on understanding Social Services and your role as a mandated reporter. **SRS Director Brenda Gooley; CDA area # 4, 6; C,F,P**

Saturday Nov. 10th, parts 2 & 3; 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM will review normal growth & development & focus on the effects of abuse and/or neglect, red flags and the intergenerational nature of abuse. Taught by Doumina Noonan, Protective Services/Family Support Specialist
CDA area # 3, 8; C,F,P

Essential Maintenance Practice

Saturday November 3rd 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Mary Johnson Children's Center

If you are a home child care provider and your home was built before 1978, you are required to perform the Essential Maintenance Practice to safeguard children from exposure to harmful lead paint. Information covered includes the health effects of lead in children and adults, the requirements of Vermont's lead paint law and related federal regulations, lead-safe work practices and maintenance procedures, and specialized cleaning techniques and equipment for removing lead-contaminated dust.

CDA # 1 Core Knowledge E

SAVE THIS DATE!

SENSORY STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND BEHAVIOR

Workshop with Carol Stock Kranowitz author of *The Out of Sync Child*

October 12, 2007 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 pm Burlington, Vermont

The highly regarded author of *The Out-of-Sync Child* and many other books offers insightful strategies and practical techniques for helping children learn and grow in this increasingly challenging world. Carol gives you the tools to recognize, understand, and help children whose learning and behavior are challenged by their inability to appropriately interpret and react to everyday sensations at home and school. She shares her extensive knowledge of childhood development gained through education and experience of 25 years as a preschool teacher in an interactive presentation for parents, educators, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals.

For more information go to www.SensoryResources.com or call 1-888-357-5867.

ANNUAL VERMONT AFTERSCHOOL CONFERENCE

Thursday, October. 18, 2007

Hampton Inn, Colchester, VT

Keynote Speaker, Tracey Ballas, CEO, "School Age Notes

Contact: Tami Stagner: 802-885-2531 or tstagner@springfield.k12.vt.us

35th ANNUAL VAEYC CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

Friday & Saturday October 19th & 20th

Killington Grand, Killington VT

For more information go to: www.vaeyc.org

Fundamentals in Early Care and Education

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Mary Johnson Children's Center, 81 Water St., Middlebury

This course will provide you with a foundation in child development and developmentally appropriate practices, including child guidance, communicating with families, cultural sensitivity and health and safety. It is recommended for all new providers and anyone considering pursuing a CDA. The course also fulfills the state licensing requirement for all new center staff without comparable education. It is best taken as a whole and priority will be given to those taking the entire course. However, many of the sessions do work as stand alone workshops. Classes will be held on **Tuesdays** and will be taught by **Doumina Noonan, Protective Services and Family Support Specialist**. In addition, there will be **two Saturday morning classes from 8:30 - 12:30. There is a charge of \$25.00** to cover the cost of the text, The Power of Observation. **Pre-registration is required**. Please contact Amethyst at 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Sept. 18: Intro to Fundamentals: Addresses course expectations, ethics, confidentiality; giving & receiving constructive feedback as well as portfolios/professional development documentation. **CDA # 6**

Sept. 25: Healthy and Safe Environments: Covers injury & illness prevention, safe environments & the importance of nutrition beginning in infancy as it relates to cognitive function, behavior & overall development. **CDA # 1**

Oct. 2: Observing and Recording: Introduces various ways of observing & recording children's behavior. Observation is a foundation of developmentally appropriate practice & is a key concept of this course. **CDA # 7**

Oct. 9: Developing Relationships with Families: Valuing all families and working in partnership with them creates long lasting benefits for children. **CDA # 4**

Saturday Oct. 13 (8:30 – 11:30 AM): Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development: The Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development training helps participants better understand the sexual development of children, and how to respond to children's sexual behaviors and questions in ways that promote healthy development. This training also recognizes that a crucial component of nurturing healthy sexual development is protecting children from sexual abuse. Participants will gain an understanding of the scope of child sexual abuse and the relationship between healthy sexuality and child sexual abuse prevention.

Oct. 16: Issues in Diversity: Between the ages of 2 and 5, children become aware of gender, culture, ethnicity, family differences and disabilities. The environment we provide and our interactions have a positive influence on children's appreciation of diversity. **CDA area # 3, 8**

Oct. 23: Introduction to Child Development Theories: Quality care is based on knowledge of child development as well as what is known about individual children in care. This session will cover developmental milestones, temperament, learning styles & an introduction to theories of child development. **CDA # 8**

Oct. 30: Infant/Toddler Interactions, part 1: Covers brain development, attachment theory, the importance of exploration/open-ended materials; relationships with families. **CDA # 2, 3, 8**

Monday Nov. 5: Basic Specialized Care, Part 1; 6:30 – 8:30 PM will focus on understanding Social Services and your role as a mandated reporter. **SRS Director Brenda Gooley ; CDA area # 4, 6; 6:30 - 8:30 PM.**

Nov. 6: Infant/Toddler Interactions, part 2: Addresses positive guidance, roles of the teacher, supportive interactions, transitions & foundations of literacy. **CDA # 2, 3, 8**

Continued on p. 10...

Fundamentals continued...

Saturday Nov. 10: Basic Specialized Care, Parts 2 & 3: (description on p. 5) **8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Nov. 13 & 20: Interactions with Preschoolers, parts 1 & 2 will address the development of 3 & 4 year olds and ways in which to best support their growth; emergent literacy, transitions, positive guidance & conflict resolution will be covered. **CDA # 2, 3, 8**

Nov. 27: Creating Engaging Environments that welcome and include all children is the focus of this session; room arrangement, learning centers, evaluation and assessment of the environment, accommodations for children with differing needs, and selecting materials and equipment, both indoors and out will be covered. **CDA area #1, 2, 3**

Dec. 4: Creating Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum: What is curriculum? How can we best prepare children for school? How can we use the Vermont Early Learning Standards to help us provide curriculum based on children's interests and strengths? **CDA area # 5, 6**

Dec. 11: Sharing Final Projects/Wrap up: (for Fundamentals course participants)

Looking Forward into 2008...

Professionalism and Program Organization Series, Level II

Thursday January 10, 17 and 24 6:30 - 8:30 PM

This course covers topics in the core knowledge area of Professionalism and Program Organization in Level II of the Vermont Northern Lights core competencies for early childhood professionals. Topics include professionalism, working with staff and colleagues, and program organization and administration. Sessions will be tailored to the needs of the participants. **CDA areas 5,6; Core Knowledge M**
Instructor **Muffy Kashkin-Grollier** has been a family child care provider for nearly twenty five years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Human services, a CDA credential and is NAFCC accredited. Muffy is a professional development mentor and CDA advisor and teaches a variety of workshops on child care. She is an artist and specializes in integrating art into all aspects of early childhood education.

Partnering with Parents: Temperament and Attachment, Level II

Tuesdays February 5, 12 and 19 6:30 - 8:30 PM

A child's temperament influences not only his or her style of interaction but the very way in which s/he understands and experiences the world and the people in it. Although no temperament can be labeled "good" or "bad", temperament characteristics may either increase or decrease a child's risk of having a poor fit with his or her environment and caregivers. This series looks at the three primary temperament types—flexible, fearless, and feisty—the "goodness of fit" between child and adults, and strategies child care professionals can use in individualizing their approach with children of each temperament type. In addition we'll look at how to best assist parents in understanding their own and their children's temperament. By strengthening relationships with families, providers help to strengthen the parent-child relationship and reduce the risk for child abuse or neglect. **Brenda Gooley, DCF Director**
CDA Areas 2,3,4,8 Core Knowledge Areas C, F, T Advanced Specialized Care

Understanding and Responding to Sexual Behavior of Children (URSBC)

Saturday March 1 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Presented by Prevent Child Abuse VT (PCAVT)

Designed to promote adult understanding of children's sexual behavior, as well as teach appropriate adult responses in order to intervene earlier in the development of sexually abusive patterns, this training is particularly relevant for professionals who interact directly with children, those who advise parents in regards to their children, and caregivers of children known to be at risk of sexual behavior problems. **CDA areas 1,2,3,8 Core Knowledge Areas T,F,E,C Advanced Specialized Care**

Communication/Interactions with Children

A series of 7 workshops being presented in March, April and May at 6:30 PM

Funded by an Addison County United Way Area of Impact Grant.

Tues. March 4: Intentional Language –By evaluating the phrases children are being told daily, adults understand the impact of their words. This workshop looks at 10 common expressions adults use with children Finding ways to better express ourselves supports healthy relationships with children.

Scott Noyes, Child Development Specialist CDA # 3,4 Core Knowledge T, F

Tues. March 11: Active Listening - As parents and providers, Active Listening may be the most powerful interaction we have with children. Through reflection and acceptance, children begin to feel understood.

Then true problem solving can begin. **Scott Noyes CDA # 3,4 Core Knowledge T, F**

Tues. March 18: Parent/Child Interactions and Self Esteem - This lively workshop addresses many hot topics, such as: How we talk with children; the difference between praise and encouragement; how to avoid self-defeating patterns; discipline approaches. Humor and fast paced stories make this a workshop you'll be talking about.

Scott Noyes CDA # 3,4 Core Knowledge T, F

Tues. April 1: Girls and Boys and Talking - We'll consider how boys and girls learn and use language differently, and how they may misunderstand each other. Then we'll look at how parents and teachers can help children communicate better. We'll have time for discussion about how adults can communicate more effectively with girls and with boys. **Larry Shelton, UVM, Human Development and Family Studies**

CDA # 3, 8 Core Knowledge T,C

Tues. April 8: Turning Bullies into Buddies - We'll examine how bullying starts, and how to stop it. Who discovers that bullying is fun? Who becomes a victim? Who enables bullying? How can we respond to the early signs of bullying? What can adults do to help all children learn social skills that will prevent bullying? Along the way, we'll look at bullying in the preschool and school age years, girl bullies, and how parents contribute to bullying. There'll be time for discussion, and practical tips for parents and teachers.

Larry Shelton. UVM CDA # 1,3,4 Core Knowledge E,T,C

Tues. April 29: What Does Play Mean for Children? - This workshop will address the importance of play for each and every child. Play is a child's work. Come experience this concept further and learn a natural way to encourage a child's healthy emotional development.

Naomi Shapiro, Clinical Social Worker CDA # 3,8 Core Knowledge T,C T.

Tues. May 6: How to Interpret What a Child Is Trying to Communicate - A child has a variety of ways to tell us what s/he is feeling. More awareness on the part of adults leads to more appropriate responses to a child's emotional needs. Please come and learn what a child is truly trying to say.

Naomi Shapiro, Clinical Social Worker CDA # 3,8 Core Knowledge T,C



Cont'd from page 1 ... Technical assistance is available for all who are either applying for or continuing their participation in STARS. The provider surveys indicated that the majority of participants found the assistance helpful. Noted one respondent,

“During the initial application process we had several questions concerning the staff qualifications and training, and all the questions were answered both promptly and satisfactorily and were of considerable help in completing the application.”

STARS is a project of the Child Development Division of the Department of Children and Families with support from the Child Care Fund of Vermont. It is designed to improve the quality of care in Vermont by recognizing the efforts of child care programs that go beyond the minimum regulatory standards. Providers choose to apply as a one, two, three, four or five star provider based on their experience, program, administration and community involvement. **A STARS Informational will take place on Th. Oct. 25th at MJCC at 6:30 PM - 388-4304.** Information is also available on the website, www.STARSstepahead.org. You can also contact Learning Partners at (802) 479-5261 or by email, learningpartners@aol.com

INFANT/CHILD/ADULT CPR AND FIRST AID

Saturdays: September 15 January 19 April 12 June 14

* One Hour Recertification:	8:30 - 9:30 AM	\$20.00
First Aid:	9:30 - NOON	\$20.00
Lunch Break:	12:00 - NOON	
Full CPR Certification:	12:30 - 5:30 PM	\$25.00 (does not include First Aid)

- **If you were CPR certified 1 year ago, you may take the one hour recertification; otherwise you need to take the Full CPR certification; (there is flexibility within a month or so).**
- **If you take a CPR course and the First Aid course together, the cost is \$30.00.**
- **Registration forms need to be received a week before the class is scheduled.**

NAME: _____ **PHONE #:** _____

DATE OF TRAINING: _____ **PLEASE CHECK TRAINING NEEDED:**

ONE HOUR RECERTIFICATION ____ **FIRST AID:** ____ **FULL CERTIFICATION:** ____

