

Early Connections

A Newsletter for the Addison Early Childhood Community
Winter 2006 - 07

Making Children's Thinking Visible

On November 16th, Mary Johnson Children's Center hosted a vibrant exhibit of early childhood educators' work. Through the fall, exciting learning adventures have taken place not only for children, but for their teachers as well! Teachers from College St. Children's Center, Mary Johnson Children's Center, Otter Creek Child Center, Discovery Hill Family Child Care Center and There's No Place Like Home Family Child Care have been meeting to explore the concept of "making children's thinking visible." Teachers investigated 'visible learning' through observations, photos and children's drawings, paintings, sculptures, etc. from ongoing explorations/investigations based on children's interests. Through a process of reflecting and questioning, teachers offered insights and feedback to each other. This collaboration provided a forum for professional development and peer support and fostered the creation of a rich community of learners. Participants commented on the shared excitement of celebrating children's abilities in this way. Through their documentation of children's work, teachers made visible to the children the respect and value they have for them.

A common thread was children's investigation of the natural world, and their relationships with their families and communities. Ann Duclos-Collier, family child care provider and Provider Network Co-coordinator, contributed a beautiful mobile which incorporated photos, children's artwork, natural materials and an explanation of the Vermont Early Learning Standards. It highlighted the learning standards that were met through the children's play and their explorations of their herb garden and other natural materials. For example, "children use play as a vehicle to build relationships and to develop an appreciation for their own abilities and accomplishments" and "Children engage in play as a means to develop early reading and writing skills".

A small pond provided the inspiration for an investigation of wetland creatures by the 4 & 5 year olds in MJCC teacher Jackie Deering's classroom. The



turtle pictured here was a collaborative effort by a group of 7 children, who worked off and on for a period of 3 months. After spotting a giant turtle on one of their forays to the pond, the children incorporated the creature into their dramatic play. Eventually, they wanted to make a turtle of their own. They researched online and at the library, gathering information about

Continued on p. 10...

Inside this issue....

- ◆ **Community Resources.....p. 2**
- ◆ **Provider Network News.....p. 3**
- ◆ **Early Care & Education Classes.....p. 4, 5, 8**
- ◆ **'What's Happening' for Young Children and Families.....p. 6**
- ◆ **Play Groups.....p. 7**
- ◆ **Lead Safety Trainings.....p. 9**
- ◆ **Helpful Websites.....p. 9**
- ◆ **Subsidy News.....p.11**
- ◆ **CPR/First Aid.....p.12**

Addison County Child Care Services

81 Water St., Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Phone: 802-388-4304

Fax: 802-388-3063

In addition to the display of local leading MTG work, we are fortunate to have an exhibit by R.L.V.E.T. the Reggio Inspired Vermont Early Educators Team. This exhibit presents findings from a two year action research project by the members of R.I.V.E.T. Prompted by an interest in children's engagement in and relationships to the natural world and their communities, and inspired by the Early Childhood Programs of Reggio Emilia and Pistoia, Italy, they joined together to create a collaboration providing a strong platform for the process of recording, organizing and analyzing observations of children's experiences and artifacts; these teachers came away with a deeper understanding of the nature of their children's relationships to the natural world and their children's network' (from the R.I.V.E.T. Exhibit).

Resource Specialist: Amethyst Peaslee

Email: resource@mjccvt.org

Subsidy Specialist: Jane Kelly

Email: subsidy@mjccvt.org

Referral Specialist: Ginny Sinclair

Email: referral@mjccvt.org

FS/PS Specialist: Doumina Noonan

Email: FS-PS@mjccvt.org

Success by Six: Ginny Sinclair

RESOURCES FOR EARLY EDUCATORS

to the Amazing Capabilities of Young Children

- ◆ **The Resource Room** has equipment, children's books and other resources that you can borrow for a month at a time. It is open local leading MTG work, we are fortunate to have an exhibit by R.L.V.E.T. the Reggio Inspired Vermont Early Educators Team. This exhibit presents findings from a two year action research project by the members of R.I.V.E.T. Prompted by an interest in children's engagement in and relationships to the natural world and their communities, and inspired by the Early Childhood Programs of Reggio Emilia and Pistoia, Italy, they joined together to create a collaboration providing a strong platform for the process of recording, organizing and analyzing observations of children's experiences and artifacts; these teachers came away with a deeper understanding of the nature of their children's relationships to the natural world and their children's network' (from the R.I.V.E.T. Exhibit).
- ◆ **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 have a child or are working with a child ages 0 - 6, with challenging social emotional behavioral issues & need support and/or information, please **call 388-3171 & speak with Anne or Linda.**

project: is available to answer questions and provide support and

consultations. If you have or are working with a child 3 years or under whom you have concerns about, contact **Michael Ogden at 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 - ACSU Referral Line: 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 Samantha @ 545-2009**
- ◆ **MOPS: nondenominational non-profit org for mothers of preschoolers. Call Melanie @ 877-6823.**
- ◆ **Natural Beginnings Breastfeeding Support Group: 3rd Tues. @10AM : Vt. Dept. of Health, 700 Exchange St.; Suite 101; 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.**
- ◆ **For a complete listing of Community Resources, call 388-4304.**

Funding for this newsletter is provided by the Child Development Division of the Department of Children and Families, Addison County Success by Six and Addison County Child Care Services.

City Hall	Thursday, December 7, 2006	5-9 PM
ital Conference Rm 4	Thursday, December 7, 2006	5-9 PM

Addison County Child Care Providers Networks³

December 4: Holiday Celebration for all Networks @ Bristol Family Ctr. 6:30 PM

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

Jan. 10: Working on a book connecting play and the VELs

Feb. 14: See above -Play and the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELs)

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

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

Jan. 15: Call for details.

Feb. 19: Call for details.

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

Brandon: 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month @ 6:30 PM

Friday Dec. 8: Network Holiday Dinner - Maple Grove Restaurant @ 6:30 PM

Jan 4: Support and Discussion

Jan. 18: TBA. Call for details.

Feb. 1: Support and Discussion

Feb. 15: TBA. Call for details.

Meet at the Brandon Fire Department. Please RSVP.

Provider Leader: Jennifer Popp: 483-9420

From The Addison County Starting Points Network Coordinators

We know how busy everyone is. We often have trouble finding enough time in the day to just meet the needs of our families and businesses! However, we also find that we become more energized and feel more confident in ourselves as business owners after our meetings. The Carnegie Foundation has done studies proving that getting providers together improves the quality of care. We believe this to be true!

Network meetings are held once a month; they are a great way to stay connected. Whether you are working at a center or in a family child care these meetings provide opportunities to not only show your own knowledge and expertise, but to gain new skills from others as well. If you are feeling isolated and need someone to talk to or you are seeking professional development or leadership opportunities, please consider attending network meetings and events. See our schedule of upcoming network meetings or contact a leader near you for more information. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Ann Duclos-Collier and Gerri Barrows, Starting Points Coordinators for Addison County

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.

★
★
★ **Congratulations to Bethany Hallock for her participation in the STARS program!** ★
★

Positive Discipline - That Works! with Scott Noyes

Three Part Series for Parents and Providers

Tuesdays - February 6th, 13th & 27th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Teaching children how to behave rather than reinforcing inappropriate choices is the focus of this entertaining series. Topics include: Why not use punishment? Humorous vignettes illustrate eight management techniques and a discussion of the challenges in implementing the philosophy. An energetic workshop on helping children learn appropriate behavior. **Advanced Specialized Care**

Successfully Working with Challenging Behaviors with Scott Noyes

Three Part Series for Parents and Providers

Tuesdays - March 6th, 13th, 20th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Are challenging children spoiled? manipulative? stubborn? obstinate? pushy? The problem with these labels is that they imply that the children's behaviors are contemplated and intentional. We quickly find that usual reward-and-punishment strategies do not work with these children. Working with these kids often makes people feel frustrated, overwhelmed, guilt-ridden, and exhausted. Sometimes we reach the point where we feel the situation is hopeless. So what do we do? This session looks closely at these children and works to develop systems that help them, support you, assist their classmates, and empower their parents. **Advanced Specialized Care**

NEW! Caring for Infants and Toddlers in a Multiage Home Care Environment

Thursday March 15 & 22 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Ann Duclos-Collier and Gerri Barrows

This will be a Make It and Take It Workshop which focuses on the developmental needs of infants and toddlers underlying their unique behaviors. Create inexpensive toys and props to meet these needs in appropriate ways. The workshop sessions will take place onsite in the programs of **Network coordinators Ann Duclos-Collier and Gerri Barrows. CDA #1, 2, 3, 8**
Register early, participants limited to 12.

NEW! Identifying and Supporting Children with Special Needs

Tuesday April 3rd 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Presented by the Addison Northeast Early Education Program

This class focuses on a better understanding of developmental milestones and their importance, the difference between a delay and a deficit, and methods of discussing behaviors with parents and caregivers. Participants will learn when to seek the help of others in understanding and addressing children's atypical development and to identify resources for acquiring information about atypical development. Making appropriate referrals and assisting families in making their own referrals and requests for services will also be covered. **Level II, CDA # 2, 3, 8**
Advanced Specialized Care

NEW! Sensory Integration Series with The Philo Center

Tuesday April 10 & 17 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Philo Center staff will offer information and practical advice on Sensory Processing Disorder, a common but frequently misdiagnosed problem in which the central nervous system misinterprets messages from the senses. Often children who are regarded as having 'behavior problems' in reality suffer from Sensory Processing Disorder. Learn about red flags as well as equipment you can make and activities to help children integrate their senses. **CDA #1, 2, 3, 8**
Advanced Specialized Care

Exhibit Pays Tribute to WHAT IS THE PARENTING of Young Children

COLORFUL CROCKERY COOKING—at PLAYGROUPS

In addition to the display of local teachers' work, we want to invite you to see an exhibit by **RIDDLE TR, the Reggio, Inspired Vermont Early Education Center** on Friday, February 10, 2006. This exhibit presents **Bridings**—fronday, January 23, 2006. This research project **Bridings of Early Childhood** by **Leanne Hest** in child and caregiver relationships in the natural world and the for-
 communities, and inspired by Parent Child Center programs of Reggio Emilia in the Emilia, Italy, they joined together to create a collaborative research community. Through a process of recording, organizing and analyzing observations of children's experiences and artifacts, these teachers came away with **NIDE DE WAVE** understanding of the nature of their child-
 What is relationship is the natural world and their communities? (from the RIDDLE TR Exhibit). needs and difficult times. Please call. We're here to help.

Vermont 2-1-1, a program of the United Ways of Vermont, is a health and human services information and referral program available for everyone in Vermont.

Dial 2-1-1—Vermont 2-1-1 Call Specialists provide the human touch, help solve problems, and link individuals and families with local, statewide, regional and nationwide resources.

Connect with your Community—Learn about government benefits and services, non-profit organizations, support groups, volunteer opportunities, donation programs, and other local re-

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Online Screening Tool—To find out about possible eligibility for Vermont Agency of Human Services programs for you and your family, visit www.screendoor.vermont.gov

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUPS

Natural Beginnings Breastfeeding Support Group 3rd Tuesday every month 10:00 am to noon, Dept of Health, Middlebury. For information, Vicki Kirby at 236-4136 or 948-2172

Working Moms Breastfeeding Support Group 2nd Tuesday every month 5:30-6:30 College St Children's Center For info call Lori Dotolo 388-5741

LeLeche League 1st Friday 9:30-11:00 am (starting Jan 5th) For info call Samantha 545-2009

PARENTING 101 METV Channel 16

Check out the new program on Channel 16, another source of parenting information for busy parents. The Parent Child Center has developed the series and the first 3 programs cover child development birth through 2 years of age. The series will air on TV on Monday 10:00 am, Wednesday 1:00 pm and Thursday 8:30 pm. If you have suggestions for speakers or topics for programs call Jenne Morton or Sue Bloomer at 388-3171

Free Workshops for Parents

Positive Discipline - That Works! with Scott Noyes
 66 Tuesdays - February 6th, 13th & 27th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Successfully Working with Challenging Behaviors with Scott Noyes
 Tuesdays - March 6th, 13th, 20th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Sensory Intetgration with the Philo Center
 Tuesday April 10th & 17th 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Classes are from **6:30 - 8:30 pm @ Mary Johnson Children's Center**. For a complete description, see pages 4 & 5. To register, call 388-4304.

ONGOING EVENTS

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 for information call 388-3177 or visit www.froghollow.org

PLAYGROUPS---The Addison County Parent/Child Center will be sponsoring **free** play-groups 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 10-11:30
Baptist Church

Middlebury

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

Vergennes

Wednesdays & Fridays 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

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

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) 3rd Thursday of each month from 9 - 11 AM. Call 877-6823

Great Resources: www.bornlearning.org
www.truceteachers.org/Toy_Guide_.06.pdf

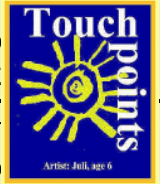
www.zerotothree.org

**Cont'd from Exhibit Pays Tribute to the Amazing Capabilities of Young Children
MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Assessment of Prior Learning – Middlebury CCV Spring 07

In addition to the display of local teachers' work, we are fortunate to have an exhibit by **Rolle E. Toth, the Region Inspired a Vermont Early Educators Team**. This exhibit presents findings from a two-year period of research project by members of the Vermont Early Learning (VEL) is prompted by an interest in children's engagement to identify relationships and the natural world in their outside the cities and inspired by the early childhood program of Reggio Emilia and that, Italy they joined together to create a dual language research community. Through a process of recording, organizing and analyzing observations of children's experiences and artifacts, these teachers came away with a deeper understanding of the nature of their children's relationships to the natural world and their communities. (from *What's In It For Me?* by E. Toth) in Spring 07 at the Middlebury CCV site on Monday evenings, 6-9 p.m., Jan 22-April 30.

To find out more or to sign up for an information session on December 4, 5-6 p.m., please call the CCV Middlebury site 388-3032.

cy Hall		5-9 PM
ital ference Rm 4		5-9 PM

**3 Day Touchpoints Course
Mar 24 Fri April 6 Sat April 14
At The Life Center in Brandon, VT**

This seminar is designed for early care and education providers who want to integrate elements of the Touchpoints Approach into their practice.

The Touchpoints Approach helps professionals engage around key points in the development of young children. By helping parents identify and expect bursts and regressions in child behavior (the "touchpoints") professionals can reduce parental frustration and self-doubt while fostering parenting skills and the parents enjoyment of their child. In the process, the bond between the provider and the family is strengthened.

This seminar gives participants a solid understanding of all Touchpoints elements through seminars with regional site faculty. Participants will:

- Understand the theories and concepts of the Touchpoints Approach, with emphasis on the developmental and relational elements of parent-child-provider relationships, and their applications;
- Enhance their delivery of care to families by using relationship-building strategies and communication tools based on the Touchpoints Approach;
- Observe and participate in encounters that demonstrate the Touchpoints Approach of anticipatory guidance.

Taught by Touchpoints Faculty Laura Lawson Tucker, Family Child Care Provider from Windham County and Susan Kenendy, Rutland Dept. of Health.

Cost is \$40.00 per person. Scholarships are available.

Counts for: Level II; CDA areas # 4 and 8; Advanced Specialized Care.

Space is limited; please contact Amethyst to register at 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org

Coming in May - Touchpoints Refresher/Reflective Supervision and Mentoring class

Basic Specialized Care⁹

March 29: Basic Specialized Care, part 1: Brenda Gooley, district director of the Dept. of Children and Families (DCF) will discuss definitions of abuse and neglect, the role of the mandated reporter, indicators of abuse and neglect and working with the system.

6:30 - 8:30 PM CDA # 5, 6

March 31: Basic Specialized Care, Parts 2 & 3: will look at typical growth & development, the effects of abuse and/or neglect, red flags, the intergenerational nature of abuse and working with families. **8:30 am - 12:30 PM CDA # 3, 4, 8**

REMINDER SPECIALIZED CARE PROVIDERS: Your Advanced Specialized Care training requirement is calculated by the calendar year, not by a year from when you took your basic training. Please note the many Advanced trainings available this spring... there will **NOT** be any new ones in the fall.

Lead Safety

Approximately 70% of the housing in Vermont was built before 1978, the year when lead paint was banned. Because of this, a child care provider living in a house built before 1978 is required by law to take a lead safety training called the Essential Maintenance Practices (EMP). In addition, Vermont's Lead Law, Act 165, requires that landlords or their property managers follow the EMPs to maintain painted surfaces in rental properties built before 1978. To address this need, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board sponsors EMP trainings throughout the state. An EMP course not only covers what you need to know but also provides additional protection from prosecution. Information covered in the classes includes:

- The requirements of Vermont's lead paint law and related federal regulations
- The health effects of lead in children and adults
- Lead-safe work practices and maintenance procedures
- Specialized cleaning techniques and equipment for removing lead-contaminated dust

The next free EMP classes will be held in the following locations:

Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington Th. Dec. 7, 06 5 - 9 PM

Rutland Regional Hospital, 160 Allen Ave. Th. Dec. 7, 06 5 - 9 PM

Conference Rm. 4

To reserve a seat, call 1-800-290-0527 or 802-828-5064

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

<http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/>: Don't Buy It: Get Media Smart

Don't Buy It: Get Media Smart is a media literacy Web site for young people that encourages users to think critically about media and become smart consumers. Activities on the site are designed to provide users with some of the skills and knowledge needed to question, analyze, interpret and evaluate media messages.

<http://www.newdream.org/holiday/simplify.pdf> - download a free copy of the booklet 'Simplify the Holidays'. It has wonderful ideas for simple and meaningful gifts and gift alternatives. This is part of the New American Dream website - a great source of information for ways to simplify our lives in many ways, from conserving energy to educating our children about consumerism. Check it out!

www.healthychild.net: *Healthy Childcare*® is a bimonthly publication for childcare programs devoted to health and safety issues. Published six times a year, each issue includes information on health, safety, medicines, staff health, health education activities, illnesses, and more; including reproducible parent information sheets and mini-posters

Continued Exhibit Pays Tribute to the Amazing Capabilities of Young Children

the turtle's habits, what it eats, etc. As part of the planning process they made many drawings of addition to the display for local teachers' work. It is fortunate that they were able to create the VELS, the Reggio inspired Vermont Early Educators' team. This exhibit presents findings from past year action research projects by members of Bell Valley Preschool, the interest in children's engagement and relationships to the natural world and their communities, and is inspired by the early childhood programs of Reggio Emilia and Pistoia. Italy, they joined together to discuss and collaborate in research and inquiry. Through a process of recording, organizing and analyzing observations of children's experiences and artifacts, these teachers came away with a deeper understanding of the meaning of their children's relationships to the natural world and their own "Artiles" (from the Reggio Emilia Exhibit) the importance of what was happening was not about the creation of a life sized snapping turtle, rather what was at the core of the experience was the development of relationships." Through cooperation, discussion, negotiation and compromise, the children developed valuable social and problem solving skills, as well as the pride of accomplishment.

Many of the teachers commented on how different the children's behavior and interactions were when exploring the natural world - there were less conflicts and more cooperation.

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Otter Creek Center for Early Childhood Education shared their documentation entitled "The Three Year Olds in their Classroom Engaged in many cooperations in the woods adjacent to the center. They built a shelter, a 'campfire', and seemed to invite or encourage different relationships. Children who discovered common interests in this new setting. A quote from Raising Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder by Joseph Wood Krutch offered a powerful comment: "We have not merely escaped from something but also into something...we have joined the greatest of all communities which is not that of man alone but of everything which shares with us the great adventure of being alive."

Gerri Barrows, of Discovery Hill Family Child Care Center, and Network co-coordinator, also submitted documentation aligned with the VELS. Her display of photos portrays the many opportunities that play provides for children in all aspects of their development - physical, social, emotional, and cognitive.

Teachers participating in the Documentation Series came into it at different stages of familiarity in using documentation. For some, such as MJCC teachers Ann Rubright, Laura Charron and Amy Rubright, it was an opportunity to create a final presentation of a project stemming from children's interests that spanned several years.



Their exhibit of 'Not Really Puppets' portrayed children's drawings, paintings, and sculptures representing families and others near and dear to their hearts. The looks of pride and joy on children's faces as they viewed their work on display made it all worthwhile.

Other teachers used their time together to further their understanding of how to use observation/documentation to develop their curriculum. The power of building on children's interests in supporting their overall development was very evident. Otter Creek teachers Suzanne Palmer and Marilyn Napoleon shared a lovely interaction between a mobile baby and a colorful ball. The child's compelling interest in the object led to his getting over to the ball which was

hanging and up onto his knees. The look of joy¹¹ on his face said it all. A little book describing, with photos and words, the interaction between 2 one year olds and a drum beautifully illustrated this as well. College St. Children's Center teacher Missy Smith shared this, in addition to "Pumpkin Guts", which offered children a new sensory experience as well as a window into children's varying approaches to learning, some tentative and some "digging right in!"

The underlying philosophy regarding this way of working with children is based on educational research which shows that children learn through hands on exploration of materials and by co-constructing their knowledge through interactions with materials, peers and adults. Brain research indicates when children have an emotional connection to curriculum, they are more engaged and learning is enhanced. By basing curriculum on children's strengths and interests, children feel valued and respected, which in turn promotes confidence, self-esteem and overall social/emotional wellbeing. By allowing time and support for exploration of materials, children learn the properties and possibilities of each, eventually being able to use them as 'symbolic languages'. Inviting children to express their thoughts and feelings about their interests in these symbolic languages, teachers promote the development of creative thinking and problem solving skills. These skills are deepened through the process of 'revisiting' children's thinking by reflecting on documentation of what they have already done; children are then encouraged and supported to express their thinking in another medium. In the



process of a project or investigation, children may express their theories about a topic of interest first through drawing, then perhaps painting, clay and/or other materials. Displays of documentation, which may include photos of children working, samples of their work, and conversations/comments made in the process, reinforce validation of children thoughts and feelings and provide insight and information to parents and community members.

I wish there were time to describe and pay tribute to all the wonderful projects and documentation represented at the exhibit. They all speak volumes to the power of observation in supporting children's development. We look forward to another exhibit next year and we hope that more of you can join us, both in creating it and in celebrating children's amazing capabilities. For more resources and

information on using observation and documentation to develop your curriculum, please contact Amethyst @ 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org

A Reminder from Subsidy

Now that holidays and vacations are upon us just a reminder of how to receive payments for any additional hours that you are caring for school age children. Most school age certificates were made for 25 hours this year to cover those situations when children are there for just a few extra hours during the week. The amount of money from subsidy will not change if the total time is still 25 hours or less. When a school age child is in your care more than 25 hours, please call our office so we can create a variable (open) schedule so you will be able to enter more than 25 hours. If you have any questions, please call our office at 388-4304.

Exhibit Pays Tribute to the Amazing¹² Capabilities of Young Children

In addition to the display of local teachers' work, we are fortunate to have an exhibit by R.I.V.E.T., the Reggio Inspired Vermont Early Educators Team. "This exhibit presents findings from a two year action research project by members of R.I.V.E.T.. Prompted by an interest in children's engagement in and relationships to the natural world and their communities, and inspired by the early childhood programs of Reggio Emilia and Pistoia, Italy, they joined together to create a collaborative research community. Through a process of recording, organizing and analyzing observations of children's experiences and artifacts, these teachers came away with a deeper understanding of the nature of their children's relationships to the natural world and their communities" (from the R.I.V.E.T. Exhibit).

* Early Connections is now available online @www.mjccvt.org

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INFANT/CHILD/ADULT CPR AND FIRST AID

Saturdays: January 27 April 14 June 23

* 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: ___

Classes take place at Mary Johnson Children's Center
 Please make check payable to MJCC and send to: 81 Water St. Middlebury, VT 05753
 * Center staff may register by phone; I will bill your program.

