



The VCCPA is a statewide, not for profit, professional organization offering peer support as well as access to information and resources. We advocate on the state and national levels to assure that the needs of child care professionals are met. We believe that meeting provider’s needs leads to a more stable child care system and higher quality care for children.

Summer, 2016



President’s Message....

Alisha Adams

Dear VCCPA Members,

Effective leadership in any organization is built upon relationships with our members, fellow advocates, and state and local organizational leaders. As the president of VCCPA, I realize that effective leadership is also providing support to the board in order to foster innovative thinkers, who problem solve, share opinions and collaborate to meet our goals and uphold our mission. The culmination of these factors allows Vermont Child Care Providers Association to meet our mission “Representing Providers and Promoting Professional Connections” and as a result reach our vision to help “Vermont’s Children Thrive”.

A positive approach to leadership is taking the time to reflect on our accomplishments as we reach the half year point of 2016 and develop a strategic plan to effectively represent our membership for the remaining portion of the year.

The first half of the year has been a very busy time for our board. We held our 3rd Annual Conference in April.

We really knocked it out of the park with keynote speaker Charlie Applestein’s “No Such Thing as a Bad Kid.” The entire conference was very successful as evidenced by the positive feedback we received on all of the presenters and workshops. Thank you for helping us make it successful. Please **SAVE THE DATE** for our 4th Annual Conference on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

Our Annual Meeting was also held in April.

Please check out their bios on our website at

www.VCCPA.org.

In May, we held our Annual Retreat to brainstorm how to best uphold our mission by brainstorming activities that will meet the needs of our members. VCCPA has 6 committees that each tackle the Association goals by planning tasks/projects for the upcoming year.

I am very thankful to work with such a dynamic group of individuals on our board. Our Association could not do what we do without the dedication of our board members. They work very diligently behind the scenes to advocate and support our membership. VCCPA is an all-volunteer organization and the board members spend much of their free time to accomplish the goals of our association.

That being said, we would not exist without our membership. Thank you so much for your continued support. Members are encouraged to participate in person or via conference call any of our monthly board meetings. We also welcome members that would like to help work on a committee. Please visit VCCPA.org for meeting information.

Sincerely,

Alisha

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Outreach and Advocacy Report

By Cindy Daniels

Legislative Report

“The Vermont Senate approved a \$5.76 billion total budget package for the next fiscal year in a lengthy, but largely debate-free, Monday afternoon session that crept into the evening.”

The good news is that through VCCPA, VAEYC and VACCRRRA efforts there is a one-million-dollar increase for subsidy payments in that budget. Admittedly, not a home run, but we made substantial progress in moving forward CCFAP issues with our Senators and Representatives in the Vermont Legislature this year. We also kept our message that an additional 9-10 million is needed to bring those subsidized payments up to current market rates. Congratulations VCCPA members, we could not have accomplished this without your efforts.

A special Thank You to the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance and Let's Grow Kids for all their help and guidance through this process.

V E R M O N T
EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLIANCE

LET'S GROW KIDS
FOCUS ON THE FIRST YEARS

Get involved with the Blue Ribbon Commission

Vermont has established a Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care to shine a light on the challenges and opportunities facing Vermont's youngest children, their families and early childhood professionals.

This is the single biggest policy effort on behalf of children, families and providers in Vermont, with a very real opportunity for increased investments in child care!

The Blue Ribbon Commission encourages and values public input. Email the Commission with questions, comments or to submit written testimony. **Charlotte Ancel, Chair** Charlotte.Ancel@greenmountainpower.com **Jessica Gingras, Agency of Administration Representative** Jessica.Gingras@vermont.gov Phone : 802-828-3333



Did you hear?

Vermont has a
Blue Ribbon Commission
looking at financing options for
high-quality, affordable child care!

Find out why this matters to YOU!

Flip over for details ►

Vermont
Birth to Five

LET'S GROW KIDS
FOCUS ON THE FIRST YEARS

Congratulations to the following family child care providers who achieved NAFCC Accreditation:

Therese M. Robinson

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

By Patricia Blood

Maureen Blanchard **Beecher Falls, Vermont**

Our spotlighted provider is Maureen Blanchard from Beecher Falls, Vermont. She runs Maureen's Family Home Child Care which is currently a 4 STAR program.

She lives with her husband, Tal Blanchard (wonderful supporter of her life devoted to children and much loved by all kiddos). They have four children of their own (their oldest daughter, Brittany, now lives in Burlington) and they still have three at home: Justin, Seth and Courtney. And of course, a much-spoiled Maine Coon cat, Rascal. When asked what Maureen's hobbies and interests were, she said: "My family is my full time interest. Having four children of my own (my last two being twins) is a full time adventure. But for those times of "needing to get out", I love to go shopping and go to yard sales."

Maureen has been working with children for over 30 years. She has her B.S. in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. She started out teaching Kindergarten, but her ultimate goal was to operate a child care program from her home. When she accepts a new family into her program, she gets to know them as a whole. The care she provides needs to incorporate their home life situations. She wants the parents to feel comfortable with establishing a strong relationship with her.

Maureen said, "Teaching children is my passion. I connect well with them and I love to nurture and promote a positive self-esteem for them to feel confident to learn." Her favorite part about providing child care is knowing that she's providing a loving, nurturing, and healthy environment.

When asked what Maureen felt was the most important about working with children she said: "Helping them to realize their value; and to be considerate of others around them. I realize that the example I set impacts on how they will treat others. I try to set an environment where we look out for each other."

When asked what else she could share with us about her work with children, she mentioned: "I was once affectionately referred to as "Reenie" by a foster child that I had in my program. He had an attachment disorder, due to his life circumstances. I knew that he truly felt comfortable with me when he came up with a nickname for me. That name has stuck....I'm Reenie to all now; but will always remember how I earned that little nickname."



ECO-FRIENDLY

Child Care Environments

By Meri Saladino

Happy Spring Fellow Child Care Providers

With the coming warmer temps I am one of those anxious providers to get out and dig in the soil. The earth begins to awaken and thoughts of a fall garden bounty begin to take shape. If you have never done a garden with your children or are a seasoned veteran the experience of watching mother nature produce food over the season is a great science experiment.

Whether you have space for a large garden plot or only room for a container you can make the experience happen. One of the easiest, kid friendly, plants to grow is beans. Not only are they nutritious and delicious and many kids love them right off the vine, they give back to the earth rich nutrients. You can find beans in a variety of heights and colors. They will happily grow up a fence or trellis or you can train them to wrap around. I am going to try training my beans to wrap up and over an old cloth tunnel. Once they're set I can remove the tunnel and have a magical space to crawl through. Use your imagination, perhaps you have an item or structure just waiting for beans.

Lastly, if you are thinking of using fertilizer, generally the least toxic varieties are organic.

BUBBLE PLAY!



Bubble play provides an amazing sensory experience for all ages! It is a must-have in your summer-activity kit!



Bubble play involves many science concepts! Gravity, cause and effect, chemistry, air flow, tension and more. There is something for all ages to learn!

Bubble play involves many math concepts! Size, shape, comparison, and more!

Provide bubble tumblers or dispense solution from a summer drink container with a spout to prevent spills.

Provide wands of many sizes and shapes! Add bubbles to your water table!

Have children experiment with various bubble recipes! Science in action!



Stay Even-Longer Bubbles Recipe

1 cup warm water
2 tablespoons liquid dish or laundry detergent
1 tablespoon glycerin
1 teaspoon white sugar

Stay-Long Bubbles Recipe

1 quart (4 cups) warm water
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup dishwashing liquid

Tear-Free Bubbles

1/4 cup tear-free baby shampoo
3/4 cup water
3 Tablespoons light corn syrup

Basic Homemade Bubbles Recipe:

1 Cup water
1 Tablespoon dishwashing liquid.

2016 VCCPA MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS*

DATES: SECOND THURSDAY (NO MEETINGS JULY AND AUGUST)

TIME: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

IN PERSON: 600 BLAIR PARK, SUITE 306, WILLISTON

CALL IN: TELEPHONE # 1 (712) 432-1212

MEETING ID #121-132-070 (FOLLOWED BY #)

**MEETING CHANGES WILL BE REFLECTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT VCCPA.ORG*

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

SAVE the DATE

VCCPA 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN: Saturday, April 8, 2017, 8:15 am – 4:00 pm

WHERE: The Steakhouse, 1239 US-302, Barre, Vermont



Follow Us/Contact Us

Via U.S. Mail

VCCPA

P.O. Box 1002

Williston, Vermont 05495

Via Email

vtchildcareprovassoc@gmail.com

Via Website

www.vccpa.org

facebook

www.facebook.com/VermontChildCareProvidersAssociation

Pinterest

Vermont Child Care Provider's Association

VCCPA BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Board

PRESIDENT: Alisha Adams alisharadams@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT: April Christenson aprilchristenson@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Sheila Quenneville sheila3640@aol.com

SECRETARY: Patricia Blood trishb17@aol.com

Board Members-At-Large

Cindy Daniels cdaniels@vclf.org

Alyson Grzyb alyruby@gmail.com

Meri Saladino petermerisal@gmail.com

Lynn Roberts thefarkle5@hotmail.com

Emily Creighton-Pryer rtdc@myfairpoint.net

Vicki Palmer vpalmer@comcast.net

Cathy Stech cathyllie@comcast.net

Chelsea Chase perkensvillepc@gmail.com

Jenny Trembley jtrem35@hotmail.com

Lisa Gratton lgratton@icloud.com



Become a member or renew your membership today! You can now renew NAFCC and VCCPA memberships at the same time!