



Vermont Child Care Provider's Association
 P.O. Box 1002
 Williston, Vermont 05495

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.

WINTER, 2017 **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**



President's Message...
Alisha Adams

*We are pleased to announce the details of our
 Fourth Annual Conference*

This year's theme is

Inspiring Wonder

Saturday, April 8, 2017
8:15 AM - 4 PM
The Steakhouse Restaurant
Barre, Vermont

TO REGISTER, GO TO OUR WEBSITE @ www.VCCPA.org
Workshop choices are first come-first served.
Conference registration limited to first 100 people
Sign up early and save with our *Early Bird Rates* thru **Feb. 18th**

See more details on page 8

President's Message:
Page 1

**Outreach and
Advocacy Report:**
Page 2

Provider Spotlight:
Page 3

**Eco-Friendly Child
Care Environments:**
Page 4

Kids Corner:
Pages 5 & 6

Announcements:
Page 7

Conference Details:
Pages 8 & 9

About Us:
Page 10

Outreach and Advocacy Report

By Cindy Daniels

Save the Date for the Rally at the State House!

Please save the date for the first Rally at ECDL,

happening in Montpelier the afternoon of Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care – *Transformative Social Change Proposal*

Vermont's Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care (BRC) released its report Friday with recommendations to the Administration and Legislature on how to make high-quality child care accessible and affordable for all Vermont families who need it.

FIND IT HERE: <http://buildingbrightfutures.org/blue-ribbon-commission/>

VCCPA will once again be a Lead Organization advocating for bringing Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) to current Market Rates

PROPOSAL: The lead organizations in conjunction with the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance will work throughout the year to educate legislators and other important stakeholders about the economic importance of CCFAP and the level of funding needed to ensure that eligible families can access quality child care, to minimize the benefits cliff, and to increase reimbursement rates to meet federal recommendations for support of high quality programs.

LEAD ORGANIZATIONS: VAEYC (*Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children*), VCCPA (*Vermont Childcare Providers Association*), VACCRRRA (*Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies*) and Let's Grow Kids (LGK)

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

By Patricia Blood

Michelle Scott
White River Junction

Apple of My Eye Child Care



Michelle Scott operates Apple of My Eye Child Care, an in-home childcare program in White River Junction, Vermont. She lives with her husband of 6.5 years, her 5 year old daughter, 2 year old son and a crazy 7 year old black lab.

When asked, how long have you worked with children and in what capacity, Michelle answered, “I have worked with children since I was in high school by caring for my high school science teacher’s children and my own nieces and nephews, then a couple centers, a co-operative preschool, an afterschool program and finally opening my own in home child care.

Michelle says the reason she became a child care provider was she started babysitting in high school for extra money, but learned by watching those children just how much she enjoyed playing with them and helping them learn. The sparkle in their eyes and enthusiasm when they master something makes her heart swell!

When Michelle was asked, “What do you feel is special about your program and what does program offer children and families?” she answered, “I currently offer the only Act 166 preschool home program in White River Junction. I can offer children and their families a preschool education that follows them to the public school but with a small home feel.”

Michelle’s favorite part of providing child care is getting to know the children and their families and welcoming them into her own. She enjoys the excitement children have about learning and how happy they are when they master or discover something new.

When Michelle is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading books, swimming, watching her own children in their activities, planning parties, and furthering her education.

Like many other child care providers, Michelle is very busy beyond her hours spent directing her child care program. She is a mother of 2, and wife and will be graduating in June with her Bachelor’s degree in Human Service and Early Childhood Development and plans to earn her Masters of Education along with peer review.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Child Care Environments

By Meri Saladino

As early morning and late afternoon temperatures dip, it is not unusual for parents to leave their vehicles running in the parking lot while dropping off or picking up children at child care. There is just one problem. Idling vehicles release pollutants which are inhaled as young children and parents walk past. These pollutants can be harmful to little lungs and stir up all sorts of respiratory issues. Every time the door is opened into your program a little bit of that exhaust creeps in unwelcomingly. Many times, the odor lingers, and to say it bluntly, stinks. If you notice this happening at your program perhaps a simple explanation and conversation with parents might get them to refrain from idling their vehicles. If you feel strongly about making a change a No-Idling policy might fit your program's style better. Remember, little lungs and the environment will thank you for helping keep the air cleaner.



Winter Wonderland

Infants

Engage:

When it is time to dress for outdoor play, describe what you are doing. "I'm going to pull your mitten onto your hand." "I'm going to zip up your snowsuit from your stomach to your chin!" Not only does this develop language skills but it also helps them to anticipate the actions.



Book List:

Winter Babies Wear Layers,
by Michelle Sinclair Colman

Baby Loves Winter!
by Karen Kratz

Millions of Snowflakes,
by Mary McKenna Siddals

Outdoor Play Tip:

Do you have more than one infant? Purchase two of these sleds! You can "train" them together by slipping the rope of the back sled underneath the rope of the front one and then running the rope of the front sled through the loop of the other rope! Place the heavier infant in the front sled. Pull the one rope and both sleds will follow!



Explore:

Snow "Maze": Walking in the snow can be very challenging for toddlers. You can snow blow (when children aren't present) or shovel a twisty path throughout your yard. They will enjoy following the paths and it gives them easier access to the yard.

Color the Snow: Fill shaker containers (recycled plastic spice bottles work well) with colored sand. Sprinkle, sprinkle, sprinkle!

Snow Sensory: Bring in a dishpan of snow. Supply shovels, cups, and mittens. Allow children to explore the snow with bare hands, if they wish. Describe what they are feeling (warm vs. cold; solid vs. liquid) and discuss their observations (melting of the snow, warmer when wearing mittens, etc.).

Book List:

No Two Alike, by Keith Baker

Snowballs, by Lois Ehlert

The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats

Toddlers

Weather Tip:

Not sure if it's too cold to go outside? Don't rely on just the thermometer! The sun and wind make a big difference when it comes to comfort and safety in winter weather.

Check out this great weather chart for child care at: www.c-uphd.org/documents/wellness/weatherwatch.pdf.

You can also download an app that combines wind, humidity and temperature for a "feels like" temperature.



Preschoolers

Play & Explore:

Paint the Snow: Fill spray bottles with washable liquid watercolor and water. Spray the snow! (This isn't as messy as it sounds!)

Who's Been Here? Look for animals tracks in the snow!

Winter Dress-Up: Ask families (or raid your closet) for winter gear that the children can wear. They love to be silly in too-big boots, scarves, and flowing jackets! Goggles are fun too!

Explore & Create:

Tiny Works of Art: Provide magnifying glasses and black paper to take outside on a day when the snow is falling in individual flakes.

Growing Crystals: Grow crystals on snowflake pipe cleaners. Find directions here:

Moving Across the Snow: Provide snowshoes. Simple, inexpensive children's snowshoes can be purchased. Your local resource & referral may also have some!

Salt Dough Snowflakes: Find a salt dough recipe online. Add silver glitter if you wish. Children can smooch circles of dough and then paint on snowflakes when dry or provide simple snowflake cookie cutters. Experiment with various recipes with the children for a bit of science!



Book List:

The Jacket I Wear in the Snow,
by Shirley Neitzel

Over & Under the Snow,
by Kate Messner

Sadie & the Snowman,
by Allen Morgan

Dressing Tip:

Do you know the "jacket-flip?" Children often find putting their jacket on in the manner that we adults do, to be very challenging. Rather than chasing sleeves, teach them the jacket flip! Place the jacket on the floor, inside up in front of the child, with the hood/collar closest the child. The child slips their hands into the sleeves and then flips it up over their head! It sounds complicated but some children find this easier!

School-Age

Multi-Age Group Tips:

Working with school-age children and infants/toddlers at the same time can be challenging. Try these tips:

- Provide opportunities to explore that allow each child to engage at their own level. Open ended materials, rather than scripted crafts, work best.

- Plan crafts, etc. to be conducted during the nap times of younger friends.

Book List:

Snowflake Bentley, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Snowshoe Thompson, by Nancy Smiler Levinson

Owl Moon, by Jane Yolen



Kids' Corner

Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS FOR ACHIEVING NAFCC ACCREDITATION

Trish Blood and Sheila Quenneville in September, and Elsa Bosma and Lorrie Ploof in November, 2016!!!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

Vermont Child Care Providers Association (VCCPA) is looking for a President and 4 Board Members-at-Large to join our statewide board in April of 2017.

As a VCCPA board member you can help better the world in which children learn, play, and live, and support providers to reach their own goals.

The VCCPA Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm via both conference call and in person options. Board members also engage in some committee work between meetings, commitment dependent on the time of the year and what committee/work you agree to be a part of.

VCCPA's Current Goals are as follows:

- The Association has a Professional and Diverse Leadership Team
 - Child Care Providers Have a Reduced Sense of Isolation
 - Providers are Informed and Engaged
- Providers' are Supported to Improve the Quality of Child Care
 - VCCPA is a Strong and Effective Statewide Association
 - Providers Receive Increased CCFAP Funding

To find out more about the VCCPA Board you can read our handbook on our website, www.vccpa.org, or contact us with additional inquiries.

So, let your journey begin by becoming a VCCPA board member today!

Please fill out a nomination form to join our board (located on our website) or you may contact us at vtchildcareprovassoc@gmail.com or 802-598-6006 to receive a nomination form via email or snail mail.

2017 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
INSPIRING WONDER - APRIL 8, 2017
8:15 AM - 4 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER 9 – 10 AM



Beth Peloquin - Laying out the Welcome Mat

This interactive presentation will focus on considerations for structuring environments and activities to allow each and every child have meaningful participation in early care and education. We'll use the new Vermont Early Learning Standards, as well as the Guidelines document being developed for Vermont on the full participation of each and every child in early care and education. We'll discuss how to apply these documents in our work with young children.

MORNING WORKSHOPS 10-12 PM



Alison Thomas, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

Growing up Wild

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, *Growing Up WILD* provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.

Susan Koch, 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year, K-1 Teacher, Union School, Montpelier, VT

Jillian Zeilenga, K-1 Teacher, East Montpelier Elementary School, East Montpelier, VT

Wonder Is the Beginning of Wisdom: Incorporating the Outdoor World Using an Inquiry Based Approach

Are you eager to encourage a sense of wonder in the learners you work with? Would you like to explore options for outdoor learning, and make connections to your curriculum? Is an inquiry based approach appealing to you? If so, this workshop is for you! Let us show you how Union Elementary and East Montpelier Elementary Schools have incorporated outdoor learning into their curriculum We will connect the Vermont Early Learning Standards to inquiry and outdoor learning. Participants will have a chance to explore some inquiry based outdoor learning stations, and consider ways to incorporate **these activities into their programs.**

Beth Peloquin

Counting and Cardinality Everywhere

Come explore new activities and ideas to discover the world of counting and cardinality with kids. We'll play with toys and come up with ways to include math skills in a variety of activities – not just in the math center, but in all areas of your program.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 1 – 3 PM



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Beth Peloquin

Sparking Inquiry in Young Children

Let's explore together how to engage young children's natural inquisitiveness in order to help shape their interests in science and discovery. We'll try some exciting "experiments" and talk about how to use science vocabulary and concepts with kids.

Jennifer Debedout

Musical Inspirations for Little Minds

This session will provide resources and activity ideas for inspiring little minds with music. Songs, fingerplays, chants and more will be shared in this session. The use of music to promote and enhance social skills, pre-academic learning and communication skills will be explored. A brief review of the role music can play in brain development and developmental stages will also covered in this interactive and musical session.

WRAP UP SESSION 3 – 4 PM

Jennifer Debedout

Movement Inspirations for Little Movers

This session will provide resources and activities ideas for inspiring movement in your setting. Moving to music can be really fun while also building a variety of skills! Movement to music can support development of gross and fine motor skills as well as assist little movers in increasing their motor planning, spatial awareness and coordination. This session will get everybody up and moving and it will provide hands on interaction with movement props such as scarves, parachutes and bean bags.

TO REGISTER, GO TO OUR WEBSITE @ www.VCCPA.org

Workshop choices are first come-first served.

Conference registration limited to first 100 people – sign up early!

SPONSORED BY:



Early Bird Pricing (through Feb 18, 2017)

\$35 Member

\$65 Attend Conference & join VCCPA

\$75 Non-member pricing

Pricing (Feb. 19, 2017 – March 25, 2017)

\$45 Member

\$75 Attend Conference & join VCCPA

\$75 Non-Member pricing

Cost includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon cookie break and six (6) hours professional development.

NO REFUNDS!

Follow Us/Contact Us

Via U.S. Mail

VCCPA

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Via Email

vtchildcareprovassoc@gmail.com

Via Website

www.vccpa.org

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Vermont Child Care Providers Association

www.pinterest.com/VermontChildCareProvidersAssociation

VCCPA BOARD MEMBERS

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