

Early Connections

A Newsletter for the Addison Early Childhood Community
Professional Development Calendar 2011-2012

NEW Vermont Credential Launches!

Northern Lights Career Development Center is pleased to announce the launch of *Vermont's Early Childhood Family Mental Health (ECFMH) Credential*. It is based on the Intermediate level of *Vermont's Early Childhood Family Mental Health competencies* (2007), which are nationally recognized. The Credential was created to develop and recognize experienced professionals who have these competencies. The competencies and the credential are based on 6 competency areas: Philosophy and Professional Orientation, Family Systems, Child Development (0-8), Child Assessment, Addressing Challenges, and Systems Resources. Why this credential? Because every child birth to age eight and their family deserve to have knowledgeable and skilled professionals to support their social-emotional development in addition to their physical and intellectual development. *Cont'd on p. 13...*

Important Update from the Child Development Division

It is crucial that you open your re-registration packet as soon as you receive it, and make sure to return it with all necessary documentation to the Licensing Unit in Waterbury, *before* your renewal date. If Licensing does not receive your application before its due date, your child care program will be closed and you will need to complete the entire registration process again, including a Welcome to Child Care visit. You may want to mark your calendar a month before your registration is due, to make sure you receive your packet in a timely manner. If you do not, you should call Licensing @ 1-800-649-2642, and request one.

News from Addison County Child Care Services

Good news! Subsidy and Referral will remain here in our community agency for the foreseeable future. We did have to absorb a budgetary reduction which has impacted our hours. Jane will now be available Tuesday – Friday from 8:30 – 3:30. Ginny will be in the office Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday from 8:30 – 2:30. Doumina will be in the office for a portion of every day, but will also continue to be in the field visiting providers and supporting families in her CIS role. Amethyst's hours remain the same: 8:30—4:30, Monday through Friday; although like Doumina, she is often in the field. We all check our e-mail regularly and will try to return any phone messages within 24 hours.

News from Northern Lights Early Childhood Career Development Center

STAY TUNED to the Northern Lights website: www.northernlightscdc.org
Northern Lights Career Development is launching our *updated website on September 1* (or sooner!) Based on your feedback and new technology, we have made it easier to navigate the same information. Plus some pretty pictures too! Be sure to check it out and let us know what you think.

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:** Ginny SinclairEmail: referral@mjcvt.org**Food Program:** Susie Pidgeon388-2853 or cacfp@mjcvt.org**Schoolage Programs:** Anne Gleason388-2853 - schoolage@mjcvt.org**RESOURCES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:**

Need your Fire Extinguisher checked? Drop it off at **Auto Paints Plus** on Mondays, pick it up on Tuesday afternoon. Cost \$10—20 depending on what needs to be done. **388-9019**

D & M Fire & Safety Equipment will come to your program to inspect and tag your Fire Extinguishers for \$35.00 per visit. **434-5005**

Helpful Websites:

- ◆ <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/> (social/emotional dev.)
- ◆ <http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/> (literacy)
- ◆ **Northern Lights:** <http://northernlights.vsc.edu/>
- ◆ **The Child & Family WebGuide:** www.cfw.tufts.edu
- ◆ <http://www.safekids.org>
- ◆ www.Bornlearning.org
- ◆ www.familyeducation.com
- ◆ www.zerotothree.org
- ◆ www.commercialfreechildhood.org/
- ◆ **www.VermontFamily Network.org** is a statewide network of support and information for families who have a child with special needs or disabilities, and the professionals who work with them.
- ◆ **www.redleafinstitute.org:** information & resources for Family Child Care, including taxes and deductions

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- ◆ **CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES (CIS):** If you have concerns about your child or a child in your care, birth—3 years old, or if you have concerns about the social emotional development of a child birth—5 years old, please contact the **CIS Team at 388-3171.**
- ◆ **YOUR EARLY EDUCATION OFFICE:** If you are concerned that your preschool age child or a child you care for has a developmental delay, contact your local **Early Education** 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**
- ◆ **VERMONT'S CHILD PROTECTION LINE:** Call 1-800-649-5285 — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to report suspected child abuse or neglect .
- ◆ **CHILD CARE CONSUMER LINE:** To report concerns about a child care provider, call 1-800-540-7942 or go to www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us; click on 'Contact' in the upper right corner.
- ◆ **PARENTS' STRESS LINE:** 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373) - for more information see p. 11
- ◆ **DIAL 2-1-1** for free and confidential information and referrals for help with food, housing, employment, health care, counseling and more. 211 is a service of the United Way.
- ◆ **HOSPICE VOLUNTEER SERVICES:** For help in supporting children and families with the loss or terminal illness of a loved one, please call Hospice Volunteers at 388-4111.
- ◆ For a copy of **ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCES** contact Addison County Child Care Services at: 388-4304
- ◆ **WIC/Health Dept.—388-4644**
- ◆ **WOMENSAFE HOTLINE:** 388-4205 or 1-800-388-4205; business office 388-9180; TTY: 388-4305

STARTING POINTS NETWORK NEWS

Bristol/Middlebury/Vergennes Network: 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM

Sept. 19: Planning meeting at Ann's

Oct. 17: Meet at Gerri's. Call for details.

Nov. 21: Meet at Gerri's. Call for details.

Provider Leaders: Ann Duclos-Collier 453-7324

Michelle Sherwin 623-6476

Gerri Barrows 453-3707

Addison County Directors Network: 2nd Wed. of the month - 3 PM

Sept. 14: Support and Discussion/Planning mtg

Oct. 12: Support and Discussion

Nov. 16: Jeff Heath, Public Health Nurse, will explain and answer questions regarding the new immunization rules for child care programs

Coordinators: Jenne Morton, College St. Children's Center 388-2401

SuWhite, Quarry Hill School 388-7297

Brandon: Last Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM @ the Brandon Fire Department

Provider Leaders: Tracy Bruce 247 - 5427 Call for details.

All Child Care Providers (Home and Center) are invited to Starting Points Network meetings. Network meetings offer time to share the challenges and joys of providing early care and education with others who truly understand. Each group is free to pursue its own definition of support. Newcomers are always welcome!



PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS—CONGRATULATIONS!

**Jenne Morton—Director College St Children's Center
Is now a Master Instructor in the Northern Lights Instructor Registry**

Happy Hands and Feet Child Care—Starksboro—2 STARS



Kaplan Early Learning Company now offers discounts for Vermont programs participating in Vermont's STARS Step Ahead Recognition System - You can receive discounts on purchases and shipping for the following STARS levels:

One Star – free shipping on a minimum order of \$100

Two Stars – 10% discount & free UPS w/ a minimum order of \$100

Three Stars – 15% discount & free UPS shipping w/ a minimum order of \$100

Four Stars – 15% discount & free UPS shipping with any order

Five Stars – 17% discount & free UPS shipping with any order

For information to set up a custom MY KAPLAN ACCOUNT and receive your discount with online orders, contact Paige Gorman at 1-800-334-2014 x5023 or pgorman@kaplanco.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Classes are open to both early care and education providers and parents, and take place at Mary Johnson Children's Center in Middlebury, unless indicated otherwise. Please pre-register by contacting Amethyst at: 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org

5 COMPONENT SNACK REQUIRMENT

Tuesday, September 6th 6:30—8:30 PM

Explore the 5 components and creative ways to use them only 2 times a week, according to the new CACFP guidelines. You will come away with a flexible calendar of food patterns you can use in your program. **Suzanna Young and Susie Pidgeon CACFP CDA # 1,5**

COMBINATION MEALS

Monday, September 12th 6:30—8:30 PM

Combination meals can meet more than one food requirement. Together we will make 2 sample combination meals, analyze their components and how to claim them for your CACFP meal pattern requirements.

FUNDAMENTALS FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Tuesdays September 13th—December 6th 6—9 PM

Instructor: Doumina Noonan

This course will provide you with a foundation in child development and developmentally appropriate practices, including child guidance, communicating with families, cultural sensitivity, health and safety, all vital components to quality care. Knowing what children are typically capable of at various stages of development will help you provide environments and experiences which are age appropriate, decreasing frustration levels for children. Developing your curriculum based on observations of children's strengths and interests will support children's social emotional well-being and promote more engagement - reducing challenging behaviors as well.

This course is **recommended for those who are new and not so new to the child care profession**. It fulfills the state licensing requirement for all new center staff without comparable education. The Fundamentals course is a great first step in pursuing a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential as well as a good bridge to prepare for college level work. It is best taken as a whole.

All providers who successfully complete the course and have worked in the field for one year can apply for a Northern Lights Level I certificate and receive a \$100 bonus.

In addition, **all Family Child Care Providers in Addison County who successfully complete the Fundamentals will receive a \$100 gift certificate to purchase materials/equipment for their program as well as \$100 cash**, made possible by the Addison County Early Childhood Council through funds from the VT Bright Futures State Council.

The fee for the course is \$40.00 See next page for details.

Sept. 13: Intro to Fundamentals: Addresses course expectations, ethics, confidentiality; giving & receiving constructive feedback as well as portfolios/professional development documentation and CDA connections. **CDA # 5,6**

Sept. 20: Healthy and Safe Environments: Members from VT's Licensing Team will answer your questions regarding licensing regulations and discuss ways to provide safe and healthy environments for children. **CDA # 1, 3, 5**

Sept. 27: 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. 4: Developing Relationships with Families: Valuing all families and working in partnership with them creates long lasting benefits for children. Being aware of what you bring to the relationship is key to building trust and offering supportive communication. **CDA # 4**

Oct. 11: 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**

Th. Oct. 13 and 20: Basic Specialized Care see p. 8 for details

Oct. 18: Introduction to Child Development Theories: Quality care is based on knowledge of child development as well as what is known about individual children. This session covers developmental milestones, temperament, learning styles & an introduction to theories of child development. **CDA # 8**

Oct. 25 and Nov. 1: Infant/Toddler Interactions, parts 1 & 2: covers brain development, attachment theory, the importance of exploration/open-ended materials, relationships with families, positive guidance, roles of the teacher, supportive interactions, transitions & foundations of literacy. **CDA # 2, 3, 8**

Nov. 8 & 15: 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**

Sat. Nov. 12: Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development: see page 9 for a description

Nov. 22: Creating Engaging Environments to welcome and include all children. Room arrangement, learning centers, accommodations for children with differing needs, and selection of materials and equipment, both indoors and out will be covered. **CDA #1, 2, 3**

Nov. 29: 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 # 5, 6**

Dec. 6: Sharing Final Projects/Wrap up: (for Fundamentals course participants) **CDA # 6**

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES (CIS)

3 Thursdays September 15th, 22nd and October 6th 6:30—8:30

This three session course is for both center and home-based childcare providers who are interested in what "CIS" services are. What does "CIS" mean? What work do we do? What does "early childhood mental health" actually look like, and how can caregivers take advantage of a supportive relationship to help in the work they do every day? The team will talk about how we consult with programs, how we engage in reflection on the behaviors and events that we observe, and how we might be most supportive to caregivers in their work.

CIS Team members Advanced Specialized Care CDA # 3, 6, 7

SIGN LANGUAGE

6 Wednesdays Beginning September 14th 6:30—8 PM

Cost : \$50.00

This six-week sign language class is open to anyone who works with young children, including parents. You will learn basic sign vocabulary that can be used with children at home, in childcare and with students in educational settings. Class content can be used for signing and talking at the same time (sign supported speech). Beginning information will also be provided about American Sign Language. Topics will include: daily routines, health and safety, school and playtime. Please register in advance. Contact Amethyst.

**Diane Parker CDA #2, 3 Advanced Specialized Care
Maximum of 20 participants \$50.00 Fee for materials**



PROJECT LEARNING TREE

Saturday September 17th 8:30—11:30 AM

Exploring nature is a complete sensory experience, and early experiences with the natural world have been positively linked with the development of children's imaginations and their senses of wonder and curiosity—important motivators for lifelong learning. PLT's *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* encourages children to explore, discover, and communicate in expressive ways, and provides an introduction to environmental education at a key developmental period in children's lives.

Developed with preschool educators and early childhood specialists, the guide is designed for educators who work with children ages 3 to 6. It offers over 130 experiences that engage children in outdoor play and exploration. Topics include exploring nature with five senses, meeting neighborhood trees, and experiencing trees through the seasons. An accompanying CD features music from children's musician Billy B. Brennan that encourages children to sing, dance, and move. Discussion will include ways for Family Child Care providers to include younger children in the activities. The activities include group experiences, such as music and movement, and neighborhood walks; learning centers, such as math and manipulatives and art; reading connections; and family and friends. **The workshop is free; participants will receive the Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Guide and accompanying CD. Space is limited so sign up early. Some activities will take place outside, so dress accordingly. CDA # 2**

ORANGE VEGGIES

Tuesday, Sept 20th 6:30—8:30 pm

We will explore squashes, pumpkins and carrots and make some snacks which incorporate these vitamin A-rich veggies. CACFP is requiring providers to increase and use more of these powerhouse orange vegetables to increase the nutritional choices in children's diets.

Suzanna Young and Susie Pidgeon CACFP hours CDA #1

MOTHER GOOSE CARES ABOUT THE EARLY YEARS

Saturday October 1 8:30 am—3 pm

Location: CSAC Conference Rm Cost: \$25.00

This one-day workshop, adapted from the *Mother Goose Cares About the Early Years* course, uses books and early learning materials to give childcare providers a framework in which to better understand the cognitive development, language development, social and emotional development, and motor development of children from birth to 36 months. In addition to an Educator Resource Manual, books and materials, participants will receive guidance in the concepts and skills needed to introduce language and early literacy to infants and toddlers. **Heidi Smith CDA # 1,2,3,4,6,7, 8 Space is limited.**

L IS FOR LEGUMES

Monday October 3rd 6:30—8:30 PM

Beans and legumes provide a great source of proteins, carbohydrates, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals while being inexpensive. Come find out more about these “pods with a seam” and make some simple kid-friendly foods. **Suzanna Young CACFP CDA #1**

WHOLE GRAINS: BROWN RICE TO WILD RICE AND QUINOA IN BETWEEN

Saturday October 15th 6:30—8:30 PM

Explore a variety of whole grains and learn more about their nutritional values and ways to prepare them for breakfasts, snacks and lunches.

Suzanna Young CACFP CDA # 1

BASIC SPECIALIZED CARE

2 Thursdays October 13th and 20th 6—9 PM

Basic Specialized Care offers all early care and education providers important 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. You will gain an understanding of Social Services and your role as a mandated reporter, review normal growth and development, and focus on the effects of abuse and/or neglect, red flags and the intergenerational nature of abuse. This class is essential for serving children who have been victims of abuse or neglect and required for all programs wishing to attain the “Basic Specialized Child Care Provider” status. Working with children with special needs is also touched upon.

Doumina Noonan, CIS Child Care Specialist; Brenda Gooley, DCF CDA # 3, 4, 6

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Series

3 Thursdays Oct. 27th, Nov. 3rd and 10th 6:30—8:30 PM

This 3 part series will cover the effects of domestic violence on children's development and how to counteract them, how to support someone in a domestic violence situation, and will explore the roots of domestic violence and how providers can help create a cultural change.

Willow Wheelock, WomenSafe Advanced Specialized Care CDA # 3, 4, 5

NEVER TOO EARLY

Wednesday November 2nd and 9th 6:30—8:30 PM

This two-part training offers an introduction to reading and sharing books and conversation with children. Take a journey into the world of children's literature: in this lively, interactive workshop, learn the importance and joy of sharing picture books and stories with even the youngest children. Through hands-on exploration of children's books, receive an introduction to early literacy and related developmental issues. Learn ways to create a literacy-rich environment, and have an opportunity to share practical ideas with others. Discover ways for making books come alive through animated readings, rhymes, and extension activities that encourage language development and communication. Take home ideas you can put to use immediately in your program, along with a free set of gift books.

Sue Rakowski CDA # 2, 4, 8 Fifteen participants maximum



In Collaboration With
**The Addison County Child Care Networks
and Addison County Child Care Services**
Invite you to participate



INTRODUCTION TO MENTORING

Saturday, October 29, 2011

9-4 (lunch provided)

Addison County Counseling Services, Catamount Park, Middlebury

Are you already (or do you want to begin) mentoring:

- ◆ **An Assistant Teacher in your classroom**
- ◆ **A Family Child Care Provider**
- ◆ **A Child Development Associate (CDA) candidate**
- ◆ **A Technical Center student placed in your setting**
- ◆ **Other providers in your network and community**
- ◆ **A Registered Apprentice**
- ◆ **An On the Job Trainee**

PLEASE Join US for an interactive day of learning!

Presenters: Sue Ryan & Carolyn Riley

To register, contact Amethyst: 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org

TAXES AND RECORD KEEPING
Saturday November 5th 8:30—11:30 AM

Join Provider Mentor **Gerri Barrows** for this hands-on, practical workshop. Learn cost-saving techniques to create a simple and effective record-keeping system which will prepare you for tax season. **Gerri Barrows, Discovery Hill Child Care CDA # 5**

ADVANCED NEVER TOO EARLY
Wednesday November 16th and 30th 6:30—8:30 PM

This early literacy training is open to providers who have previously completed a two-part Never Too Early/Early Birds and Bookworms series; priority is given to participants from prior program years. It offers an opportunity to deepen knowledge of early literacy gained from previous trainings as well as from experience. **Peaceable Stories will once again be the focus of Advanced NTE. Providers will learn how to use children’s literature to nurture empathy, compassion, cooperative play, and effective communication – emotional literacy – as they nurture early literacy. Participants will receive a “Peaceable Stories” resource manual** (developed by the Maine Humanities Council) and gift books for their program.

Sue Rakowski CDA # 2,3,4, 8

UNDERSTANDING VERMONT’S NEW IMMUNIZATION RULES
Thursday November 17 6:30—8:30 PM

Vermont law requires that children are up-to-date on their immunizations. Licensed and registered child care providers are now part of a broad-scale effort to protect the health of VT's children by making sure that young children are vaccinated against serious diseases. Beginning in the fall of 2011, new vaccine requirements will be in effect and child care providers will be required to submit a brief annual report on the overall immunization status of children in their care. New reporting will differ from child care reports requested years ago. Just a brief online survey with aggregate counts will be required; no reports will be requested on individual children. All VT providers are invited to this training to learn about the new vaccine requirements and how to collect information, document immunization status and file an annual report. Bring your questions! **Jeff Heath, Public Health Nurse CDA # 5**

NURTURING HEALTHY SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT
Saturday November 12th 8:30—11:30 AM

Gain a better understanding of the sexual development of children, and how to respond to children’s sexual behaviors and questions in ways that promote healthy development, as well as 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
- ◆ Respond to young children’s questions about sexuality
- ◆ Identify and report suspected child abuse.

Willow Wheelock, WomanSafe CDA # 1,3, 8 Advanced Specialized Care

MOVING AND LEARNING
THURSDAYS JANUARY 5, 12, 19 6:30—8:30

Music and movement are essential for optimal brain development and help provide a foundation for literacy as well as healthy physical and social emotional development. This series provides strategies and resources for infusing intentional physical movement throughout the day to help ease transitions, promote body awareness and develop healthy lifelong habits. Wear comfortable clothes and be prepared to move and learn!

Amethyst Peaslee, Resource Specialist CDA # 1,2,3

THE 3 R'S OF INFANT/TODDLER CARE:
RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIVE, REFLECTIVE
Saturday January 7th 8:30 AM—3:30 PM
Lunch Provided Snowdate: Feb. 4th

What is attunement? How do we provide responsive care that meets the needs of individual children? This 6 hour session will consider the various factors that influence responsive care, including an understanding of child development, sensitivity to the family and culture of each child, self-reflection, and observation and careful reading of children's cues.

Sharon Adams, Early Head Start Advanced Specialized Care CDA # 3, 8

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO THE
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OF CHILDREN (URSBC)
Saturday January 21 8:30—11:30 AM Snowdate: Jan. 28th

URSBC is a 3 hour training designed to help adults understand children's sexual behavior. It describes the continuum of behaviors ranging from normal to yellow, red, and black flag behaviors. Ways of responding to prevent habituation and to teach children healthy boundaries and empathy for others are addressed. Since URSBC encompasses adolescent behavior, as well as that of young children, it is flexible and relevant for educators, professionals, and parents/care givers of children who are at risk of sexual behavior problems.

Karen Holz, Prevent Child Abuse VT CDA #1 & 3 Advanced Specialized Care

BOOKMAKING
Thursday February 2nd 6:30—8:30 PM

Join artist Aurora Davidson in this bookmaking session designed for those who work with schoolage children. Participants will learn several styles of books to make with children. Methods can be adapted for working with younger children.

Aurora Davidson CDA # 2, 3

PRINCIPLES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING
3 Saturdays - Feb. 11th, March 3rd, April 7th 8:30 AM—12:30 PM
Snowdates: Feb. 18, March 10, April 14

This Northern Lights Level II module focuses on the relationship between child development and the learning environment. Creating an inclusive environment is also addressed.

Heather Duhamel Northern Lights Level II CDA # 2, 3, 7, 8

ECO HEALTHY CHILDCARE

Thursday February 16th 6:30—8:30 PM

Eco Healthy Child Care is a national program that partners with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care programs. EHCC supports child care providers as they make simple choices that benefit the health and well-being of all children in their care. Participants will gain an overview of the program and information on how to participate and begin taking low and no cost steps to create healthier environments for children in their care.

Amethyst Peaslee CDA # 1 For more information visit: www.cehn.org/chcc

USING OBSERVATIONS TO DEVELOP CURRICULUM

Thursdays March 1, 8 and 15 6:30—8:30 PM

In the STARS Program Practices Arena, points can be achieved by providing documentation that children are regularly observed to plan program activities/curriculum. Join STARS coordinator and former MJCC Lead Teacher, Johanna Vaczy, for this series on how to develop and extend curriculum based on children's interests and strengths.

Johanna Vaczy CDA # 2,3,5,7

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

Saturday March 10th 8:30—11:30 AM

This **new 3-hour interactive training** is designed to help child care providers overcome difficulties when making reports to the Vermont Department for Children and Families about suspected child sexual abuse, and to help adults recognize boundary violations and pre-offending behaviors before they result in child sexual abuse. Teaching methods used include video, role-playing, brain storming, scenarios to practice responding to children and adults, and discussion. This training includes:

- ◆ examples of common boundary violations, grooming and other pre-offending behaviors;
- ◆ myths and facts about those who sexually abuse children;
- ◆ bystander roles and issues;
- ◆ skills development via role-playing on when and how to confront boundary violations and pre-offending behavior;
- ◆ children's normal sexual behavior and signs of abuse.
- ◆ barriers to reporting suspected child abuse;
- ◆ mandated reporting and ways of coping with community fall-out after reports are made;

Karen Holz Prevent Child Abuse VT CDA #1,5,8 Advanced Specialized Care

GARDENING WITH CHILDREN

Tuesday March 27th 6:30—8:30

Get ready to garden with Suzanne Young, Addison County's NOFA-VT (National Organic Farmers' Association) Farm to Community Mentor. You will learn practical tips for pre-garden planning, soil preparation, developmentally appropriate expectations for children in the garden as well as ideas for extending your gardening experience with children and meeting early learning standards through gardening activities. **CDA # 1, 2**



DANCING WITH THE STARS

Are you interested in participating in the STARS program but not finding the time to work on your application? Do you need some extra support in understanding the process and completing your application? Join Family Child Care Providers Gerri Barrows and Michelle Sherwin along with Resource Specialist, Amethyst Peaslee, for a series of STARS work sessions. STARS coordinator LouAnn Beninati will also lend support and clarification. We will work on one arena per session. Come to all or just the arena with which you need help.

- ◆ **Monday April 2: Arena 2– Staff Qualifications and Professional Development**—Learn how to write you IPDP online on the Bright Futures Information website.
- ◆ **Monday April 9: Arena 3 - Families and Communities Demystified**...brainstorm and receive support and resources for creating and hosting Family Evenings in your program.
- ◆ **Monday April 30: Arena 4 - Program Practices** - review self-assessment tools, including the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale, learn about the self-assessment process, having a STARS assessment and how to receive support and mentoring throughout the process.
- ◆ **Monday May 7: Arena 5 - Administration** - Learn about an independently authorized operations budget and how to create one.

In addition to these work sessions, you may want to participate in STARS coordinator Johanna Vaczy’s series on how to develop curriculum based on observations. See page 11.

PAPERMAKING

Wednesday April 18 6:30—8:30 PM

Aurora Davidson will share a variety of papermaking techniques as well as ideas for using pressed plant materials in collage. Appropriate for those who work with toddlers—schoolagers **CDA # 2**

NURTURING EARLY LITERACY

CCV Spring Semester

Hybrid Class

The foundations of early literacy are embedded in children’s earliest experiences in their world, via social and emotional engagement and language. In this course we will develop a common understanding of the theory and practice of emergent literacy, from birth through age 5. How do sensory exploration, music, movement, and the visual arts provide the means for children to communicate and make meaning of the world around them? How can we as teachers use the interests and strengths of children to develop individualized, meaningful literacy opportunities? Using the *Cycle of Inquiry*, we will practice developing curriculum to enhance children's language development, and their ability understand and express their thoughts and feelings through a variety of forms such as paint, clay, music, movement and social interaction. We will discuss ways to embed and infuse literacy in a child-centered, play-based environment. **Susan Torncello, UVM** **Amethyst Peaslee, Resource Specialist**

This class will be offered as a hybrid. Weekly online participation is expected with an additional 3 face to face sessions in Middlebury on Saturday Jan. 21, March 17 and May 5th from 8:30 am—12:30 pm. If you are interested in taking this class, you should apply for funding through VSAC and/or CDD as soon as possible.. For providers in Addison County, additional funding may be available through the Addison County Early Childhood Council.

Contact Amethyst for more information at 388-4304 or resource@mjcvt.org

EC Mental Health Credential cont'd from p. 1...

Why get this credential?

You will gain additional skills and knowledge in working with all young children birth to 8 and their families. You will be recognized for your specialty knowledge and skills in early childhood mental health. You can earn the credential while you work. The education, skills, knowledge and experience you already have can count toward meeting the credential requirements. The credential process is a clear and flexible pathway individualized to you. Employers and the Child Development Division (CDD) value professionals with this credential. CDD is prepared to pay a Recognition bonus to those who achieve it. It will enable you to be an even more effective partner with licensed mental health clinicians who work with you.

Who is it for?

The credential is targeted to professionals currently working with young children (ages birth to 8) and their families in the classroom or group setting, as a home visitor, or as a consultant. Candidates may have experience and/or education in a wide range of disciplines- education, health, child care, social services, or mental health. To begin the credential process you need to be a) working with children and families; b) have completed education (minimum 21 credits in related fields), c) have 3 years or more of work experience with young children and their families, and d) have completed training in the last five years in the competency areas.

What is required and how do I apply?

There are five requirements to achieve the credential.

- ◆ Completed education
- ◆ Current professional development in the 5 ECFMH Competency Domains
- ◆ 3 years or more of experience
- ◆ 24 hours or more of consultation from a Reflective Practice Consultant in the past year (such as a member of the CIS Team).
- ◆ Completed Professional Portfolio

Interested candidates usually have met the education, experience and many of the training requirements when they decide to apply. Then, over a year they develop their competencies with their Reflective Practice Consultant, complete any needed training and create their portfolio.

Contact Northern Lights Career Development Center if you are interested in applying. Call 802-828-2876 or email nancy.sugarman@ccv.edu

SAVE THE DATES!

**The 2011 VAEYC Early Childhood Conference and Retreat
Thursday and Friday October 20th & 21st
Killington Grand Hotel and Conference Center**

Featuring:

- ◆ **Rusty Keeler—Natural Playscapes**
- ◆ **Jeanine Fitzgerald**
- ◆ **Scott Noyes**

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS—ALL ARE WELCOME!

Every Friday night at 5 PM at the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall.

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCHES—ALL ARE WELCOME!

11:30 am—1 pm Mondays at St. Stephen's
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Charter House Dining Hall

WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN Supplemental Food Program (WIC)

Woman and children who meet income and health or nutrition guidelines are eligible for WIC. Fathers and foster parents may apply for children who are in their care. If your family income is below 185 % of the federal poverty income guidelines, or if you are enrolled in Medicaid/Dr Dynosaur or VHA, you are considered Income-eligible for WIC. In addition to providing healthy foods, WIC provides nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, health education, and connections to other community resources. Call **388-4644**.

THE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP) is a federal nutrition program administered by the Vermont Foodbank. Every month, approximately 4,000 boxes of food, each worth about \$50, are distributed to income eligible senior citizens and families with young children. More boxes are now available to eligible Vermonters. Call the Foodbank toll free at 1-800-214-4648 for more details, outreach materials, or a free pre-screening. Please spread the word in your community about this important nutrition resource!

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY—FREE BOOK!

Would you like to have more books in your home that your child loves to look at and hear you read? A local organization, Addison County Readers, Inc., sponsors a program that mails a **free book each month** to the homes of registered children. There is no cost to the family and the books are theirs to keep. The program is called Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and is for children from birth to 5 years of age who live Addison County. If you have more than one preschooler, each child can be registered for the Imagination Library and receive a different, age-appropriate book each month. For more information or to register online go to: www.addisoncountyreaders.org

THE PARENTS' STRESS LINE is available in Vermont to parents, professionals, and community members for parenting support, resources and referrals. **What types of issues do people call about?** People call for a variety of different reasons—some are having a particularly difficult day with a child and just need a listening ear, for some it's an ongoing problem and they are wondering where to turn next for more professional assistance. Often, calls have come because of the many stresses of being a single parent or difficulties dealing with a former partner. Sometimes people call because they want to find out where the nearest parent education programs are located. Or they call because they don't want to abuse their children anymore and are looking for help. **Is this a counseling service?** The support team is available to provide a listening ear, resources and referrals, but they are not trained counselors. **The Stress Line is open Monday - Friday from 9AM - 5PM.** The phone number is **1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)** you can also e-mail us at: pcavt@pcavt.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING

STORY TIMES--check w/ your library for days & times of story hours & special events.

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 recreation@vergennes.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
Memorial Baptist Church

Vergennes

Wednesdays 9:30-11:00
Congregational Church

MIDDLEBURY—AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP (usually) meets the last Tuesday of the month from 7—8:30 PM at the Ilsley Library Community Room in Middlebury. This low-key support group for parents and caregivers of children on the autism spectrum offers support and sharing of resources. For more information call 989-3081.

AUTISM SUPPORT DAILY is an online parent-led support group open to parents, families and friends of those on the spectrum. New members are always welcome.

www.autismsupportdaily.com

VERGENNES AREA RESCUE SQUAD holds “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. 877-3683**

The VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK (VFN) is the merged organization of **Parent to Parent of VT and the VT Parent Information Center (VPIC)** Vermont Family Network provides information, support, and advocacy for children and adults with special needs and promotes family-centered policies and practices. **1-800-800-4005** or www.VermontFamilyNetwork.org

Great resource for parents and practitioners!! The **VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK (VFN)** provides families of individuals with Autism and the people who support them with family centered, accessible information, appropriate referrals and assistance. We can assist families and individuals with:

- ◆ phone support
- ◆ information and help navigating complex systems of care
- ◆ answering questions, and connecting them with resources

www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/i-need-help-with/developmental-disabilities/autism

CHILDREN'S INTEGRATED SERVICES: If you have concerns about your child or a child in your care, birth—3 years old, or if you have concerns about the social emotional development of a child birth—5 years old, please contact the **CIS Team at 388-3171**.

Addison County Child Care Services
81 Water Street
Middlebury, VT 05753



If you are involved or interested in STARS, LouAnn Beninati and Johanna Vaczy, the STARS coordinators would like you to know that we are eager to provide assistance to you. Wherever you are in the process; haven't begun yet, have 1 or 2 stars and would like to go up, or thinking about going for accreditation, we can work with you. We can provide technical assistance to help you in filling out the application and supplying the documents needed to support it. We can help you in planning for the future to put in place program practices that will bring up your STARS level. We offer workshops all over the state for whoever invites us to come. We go to provider network meetings to assist providers with the application. We will even go to individual programs. We also offer support over the phone and through e-mail, and welcome your questions, suggestions, and comments. We can be reached at stars@mjcvt.org or 802-398-2037.



INFANT/CHILD/ADULT CPR AND FIRST AID
Saturdays: September 10 January 14 March 24 May 19

CPR ONLY (including recert)	8:30 - 10 am	\$30.00
First Aid ONLY	10:00 - 12:30	\$30.00
CPR and First Aid	8:30 - 12:30	\$50.00

- **Registration forms and payment need to be received a week before the class is scheduled; Please note change in fee and times. Make checks payable to MJCC and send to:
MJCC, 81 Water St. Middlebury, VT 05753 Attn: Amethyst**

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

DATE OF TRAINING: _____ PLEASE CHECK TRAINING NEEDED: _____

Funding for this newsletter is provided by the Child Development Division of the Department of Children and Families, Addison County Child Care Services & the Addison County Early Childhood Council