

Early Childhood Bridge

Collaborative Newsletter of Umbrella Child Care Support Services, Success By Six and the Early Childhood Council of Southern Essex and Caledonia Counties

December/January 2005

A New Year, With New Changes

Welcome To Bright Futures

Beginning January 1st the Child Development Division will begin implementation of the Bright Futures Child Care Information System. The new data management system will replace all data management systems being used by the Child Development Division and local Child Care Support Services Programs. The new system will be internet based and will dramatically increase the ability of the Child Development Division to expand service to Vermont families and all those who provide care and services to children.

Child care providers will be able to apply or reapply for a license or registered home certificate online, enter continuing education and track their professional development, find out what courses and workshops are available locally and statewide, advertise their business and available openings, submit subsidy invoices and track payments online, and receive subsidy payments or grant as direct deposits into their checking account. Say goodbye to justification sheets! Providers will now submit invoices on a bi-weekly basis to receive subsidy payments for those families enrolled in the child care subsidy program.

Parents will be able to review information about child care providers in their area as well as search for openings, look at a provider's regulatory history, apply for child care subsidy online, and report concerns about child care programs.

Providers who wish to use the internet to communicate with the Child Development Division will become eProviders. eProviders don't need a computer of their own, just access to a computer with internet access and your own e-mail account. Many communities offer internet access to members of the public at libraries, schools, or other public sites. eProviders will be served faster and more efficiently than the old paper system currently being used due to the assistance of technology. Postage expenses and the delays and handling associated with the regular mail will be avoided. Electronic participation ensures faster, more timely responses to your needs as a provider.

Want to learn more? You will soon receive detailed information in the mail from the Child Development Division and Bright Futures informational meetings and hands-on trainings will be held around the state beginning in December. You can also call Jennifer Grant at 748-8645.

Julie Waters will be at Umbrella on January 20 at 6:00 for a Bright Futures Informational Meeting. Please call Cynthia at 748-8645 to register. We have not scheduled the hands on training yet.

(Continued on page 3)



Fostering communities of strong women,
supported families, and safe homes.

970 Memorial Drive
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Phone: (802) 748-8645
(800) 916-8645
Subsidy Direct Line: (802) 748-1992
Fax: (802) 748-1405
Website: www.umbrellavt.org

Child Care Support Services

Providing access to affordable, quality
child care.

Staff:

Michelle Fay, *Executive Director* (ext. 314)
e-mail: michelle@umbrellavt.org

Jennifer Grant, *Program Coordinator* (ext. 313)
e-mail: jennifer@umbrellavt.org

Amy Bacon, *Referral Specialist* (ext. 319)
e-mail: referral@umbrellavt.org

Cynthia Lafoe, *Resource Development* (ext. 316)
e-mail: Cynthia@umbrellavt.org

Terri Maloney, *Subsidy Specialist M-Z* (ext. 317)
e-mail: subsidy@umbrellavt.org

Nancy Ruggles, *Subsidy Specialist A-L* (ext. 321)
e-mail: nancy@umbrellavt.org

Early Childhood Council News and Updates

The Early Childhood Council Meeting Times: Since there has been lower attendance at the Wednesday meetings, the Council has decided to return to meeting on the second Thursday of every month for the duration of 04-05.

Meeting Dates will be:

December 9 – CCSS review/ FITP Update

January 13

February 10

March 10

April 14 – CCSS review/ SX6/ECC review

May 12 – EEI Review

June 9

The Early Childhood Spring Conference will be held on Saturday March 19th at LSC. The keynote speaker will be Betsy Evans. Her topic will be Conflict Resolution with Young Children. Information will be sent by November 30th with further details.

Changes To Umbrella's Child Care Referral Program

In accordance with the Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Referral Policies and Procedures Umbrella will be changing the way we refer parents to providers based on a child care providers regulatory standing. These changes are part of an effort to ensure the quality of programs parents receive information on through our referral program. As parents become more educated around the benchmarks of a quality child care program parents have expressed concern about being referred to a program where there may be a pending investigation or substantiated violations. In response to these concerns Umbrella will be joining other Resource and Referral Agencies by implementing the following procedures. These changes will be in effect beginning December 1, 2004.

There are three types of complaints: Non-reportable complaints, recurring reportable complaints and recurring complaints not reportable. Non-reportable complaints involve issues not mandated to be reported to SRS, and which do not involve licensing violations. They may include complaints about child care practices, philosophical issues, nutrition, curriculum, or may be related to business practices of a provider such as payment policies, vacation time, hours of operation, etc. In this scenario, the Staff will document all complaints from parents, providers and other sources. The complainant will be informed about complaint procedure regardless of whether the complaint is required to be reported by law or not. The staff person will urge the complainant to discuss the issue with the provider and also discuss ways in which the problem may be resolved.

Recurring reportable complaints involve the alleged abuse or neglect of children, which must be reported to SRS or involve alleged clear licensing or registration violations and the complaints are from more than one source or on more than one occasion are received by a staff member within a twelve month period. If two reportable complaints have been confirmed by the Child Development Division or Child Welfare and Youth Justice Division within a twelve month period, the provider's name may be removed from the referral program. At the time of removal a letter shall be sent to the provider describing the appeals process and conditions for reinstatement. The provider shall obtain a letter from CDD or CW&YJ stating that the provider is currently in compliance, that there have been no additional reportable complaints, that the provider's license or registration has not been revoked or suspended before the provider can be reinstated in the referral file.

Recurring complaints non-reportable are non-reportable complaints from more than one source or on more than one occasion within a twelve month period. When three complaints have been made about a provider the Resource Development Specialist may offer an on-site visit. The Child Care Support Services Program Coordinator with input from the staff will determine whether or not to remove the provider from the referral list. A letter shall be sent to the provider notifying him/her of removal and corrections necessary for reinstatement. Any provider suspended from the referral list may appeal the decision in writing to the Child Care Support Services Program involved. The CCSS Program shall form a committee on a case by case basis to hear appeals.

The committee may include a parent, Advisory Board member and other Vermont Resource and Referral personnel. The committee shall hold a hearing to consider the appeal no fewer than twenty working days from the date the appeal is received, at a time and place convenient for all parties. The provider, the complainant (when appropriate) and the committee shall be notified of the hearing at least five working days in advance. All people notified shall have the right to attend the hearing, to present evidence including witnesses, and to submit a written statement in addition to or instead of attending the hearing. The committee shall issue a written decision no later than thirty working days from the hearing date which shall be copied to the provider, the complainant (when appropriate) and the agency staff. The decision of the committee is final.

If you have questions or comments regarding the policy please call Jennifer Grant or Amy Bacon at 748-8645.

A Letter From Marsha Cherington...

December 2004

Dear parents, grandparents and childcare providers,

We are now entering the season where things appear to us in their most essential forms. There are no fall flowers left in our gardens, there are no vibrant leaves decorating our trees. The endless green fields and the wooded hillsides are turning quietly brown. There is a new restfulness for my eyes that had become so accustomed to the competing colors of the fall. There is a sense that the earth is preparing itself for a time of rest.

Last weekend I bought a beautiful scarf that held the colors that have disappeared from the landscape. My heart was immediately drawn to it and I wear it around my neck often as a way of keeping color in my life as I accept the inevitable change the season brings.

When the leaves were still golden my daughter came to stay with me for a few days. Before coming to my house she spent some time with her father whose wife had just been hospitalized. She spent hours cooking and cleaning and trying to make her father's life more wonderful. By the time she arrived at my house, she was exhausted and spent countless hours on the sofa. I cooked for her and waited on her just as she had done for her father. The passing on of love has never been so obvious to me. It moved through us like a song.

Even though we are no longer a "family" in the technical sense, we are a family of the heart. Each one wants to make life more wonderful for the other. And, as it happens, when we try to make someone's life more wonderful, we end up enriching our own. Though my daughter was tired from her days with her father, I believe she was happy that she was able to help him at a time when he needed it. It helped her to feel close to him in a way that has not always been part of their relationship. When he brought her to my house, he hugged her and spoke to her in a deeper and more loving way than I had ever seen. In this time of dwindling colors and a landscape that is drawing itself in, there is new growth between them.

Following my daughter's days on the sofa, we took disposable cameras outside and took many silly pictures of one another in the golden trees. She had given me the gift of letting me care for her and it lifted us both to a place of deep appreciation that we are in each other's lives. And, her father and his wife were included in our joy. It is as if I suddenly discovered the "true meaning of love." Love is giving to others and allowing others to give to you. It is a living and moving force that does not follow the rules that we set up for ourselves. It travels by heart.

As you gather around family tables in the next weeks, you might give a thought to how the love moves around. Is there something you can joyfully do to make someone's life more wonderful? The love that returns to you, in a perhaps unexpected way, will expand your heart. This requires a simple leap of faith; similar to the belief we hold that the colors will return to the earth.

In these very basic days of late fall, I suggest that we think of how we hold the colors we need for the months ahead. It may be as important to our "survival" as our woodpile or our snow removal systems. Because our children may be just as color-hungry as we are, we may want to gather in supplies of finger paints, colored tissue paper, colorful music and richly illustrated storybooks. A new colorful pair of fun socks makes anyone's day!

Let us treat ourselves with compassion during these holidays when it is so easy to slip into the belief that our worth is measured by the material gifts we give and receive. Trust, instead, in the love and kindness you give and receive. It is like breathing, more fully.

Breathe, rest and enjoy the children in your lives.

Sincerely,
Marsha Cherington

Training Scheduled for December 2004 and January 2005

December

12/02 6:30-8:30pm **Domestic Violence 101 and the Effects
Effects of Battering on Children**

Presenters: Sandy Hart & Christine Morrison



Skill Level: B/I

Basic Protective Service

This training defines domestic violence, identifies possible symptoms in children who witness domestic violence, provides in-dept descriptions of the effects on children including physical, behavioral, emotional, cognitive and social at various ages and stages of development. Participants will provided with strategies for implementing techniques for supporting and safety planning with kids who witness

12/08 6:30-8:30pm **The Mystery of the Referral Process**

Presenter: Amy Bacon

Skill Level: B/I

CDA 4, 5, 6

Have you ever wondered how Umbrella helps families match up with providers? Why you might get a call when a fellow Child Care Provider doesn't when a placement is needed? Or Vice Versa? This is your opportunity to discover the usefulness of the Provider Questionnaire, and its product the Provider Profile Discover why it is important to update your vacancies on a regular basis with the referral staff. Find out what an intake process with a family looks like, and how we choose the providers to refer based on that information taken in from the family and from the Provider.

2/09 6:30-8:30pm **Professionalism : Part 2**

Presenter: Jackie Sprague

Skill Level: B

CDA 6

Professionalism Part 2 is the last instructional class of the Fundamentals in Early Care and Education course. This session will focus on "What happens now, and Where do I go from here?" The class will learn how to write a meaningful Individual Professional Development Plan and how this can direct their professional growth. A discussion will take place about what is happening in the state of Vermont with CDA, Apprenticeship, Northern Lights and the Career Development Center.

12/12 6:30-8:30pm **Early Birds and Bookworms**

Presenter: Carrie Askren

Skill Level: I

CDA 2, 3

This class builds upon the skills and ideas presented about early literacy in Never Too Early. Participants will have the opportunity to share the result of their trying some of the activities previously presented in Never Too Early. Early Birds and Bookworms has an added component to strengthen the bond between child care providers and the parents of children in their care. More free books and activity ideas to use with children. Bring a parent to class.

12/16 6:30-8:30pm **Final Project Presentations in the Fundamentals in Early Care and Education Course**

We will celebrate the completion of the course by presenting final Projects and turning in all assignments that are due.



Happy Holidays !



January

1/04 6:30-8:30

Shaken Baby Syndrome

Presenter: Mary Strole



Skill Level: I/A

Advanced Protective Service or CDA 1,

8

This training presented by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, will address the reality of children who suffer from the results of being shaken. The impact of damage to the brain of children will be shown in a realistic demonstration, and a video program will enlighten child care providers of what abuse can result in.

1/05 6:30-8:30pm

The Basics of the Subsidy Program

Presenter: Nancy Ruggles

Skill Level: B

CDA 6

This workshop is designed to answer questions that a child care provider may have while filling out justification sheets and other paperwork necessary when caring for children whose family is subsidy eligible. Bring questions and concerns. (Newer provider focus).

1/08 10:00-12:00

Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development

Presenter: Melanie Mitchell



Skill Level B/I

Advanced Protective Service or CDA 1, 2,3, 8

The Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development training helps participants better understand the sexual development of children and how to respond to children's sexuality in ways that promote healthy development. This training also recognizes that a crucial component of nurturing healthy sexual development is protecting children from sexual abuse. Participants will gain an understanding of the scope of child sexual abuse and the relationship between healthy sexuality and child sexual abuse prevention. 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, and report suspected child abuse.

1/11 6:30-8:30pm

Planning Your Professional Development; IPDP

Presenter: Cynthia Lafoe

Skill Level: B/I/A

CDA 6

During this two hour training session, we will cover the Individualized Professional Development Process (IPDP) and how you can make it meaningful for your goals as a child care provider. The State asks that all providers have a plan in file that identifies personal strengths and areas in which a provider would like to build upon their knowledge base. We will explore tools that will assist in building a plan as well as when and how to review one's personal progress. Follow-up visits will be offered as support for this process.



1/13 6:30-8:30pm

Peaceful Solutions

Presenter: Sandy Hart

Skill Level: I/A

Advanced Protective Service or CDA 1, 4, 8

This training focuses on anger and anger management, and is designed to help caregivers working with children that have difficulty managing their anger. Participants will be provided with an overview of anger and anger management. Participants will also gain ideas and activities drawn from "Peaceful Solutions Curriculum" to assist them in helping children to find the tools to manage their anger. This is an opportunity to learn about anger and strategies to use when working with children (grades 1-5) on anger management techniques.

1/18 6:30-8:30pm

Writing Child Care Mini-Grants

Presenter: Cynthia Lafoe

Skill Level: B/I

CDA 1

This workshop is designed to help child care providers write effective mini-grant proposals to purchase developmentally appropriate educational materials or other necessary equipment that will enhance their ability in caring for and educating children.

1/20 6:00pm

Understanding Bright Futures

Presenter: Julie Waters

This will be an informational meeting about Bright Futures and how it will affect you whether you are a parent or a provider. This meeting will be held at Umbrella. Please contact Cynthia at 748-8645 to register.

1/25 6:30-8:30

Step Ahead with Your STARS

Presenters: Learning Partners

The STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS) for child care, early education and school age care programs is the Vermont Child Development Division's graduated system of program recognition. This system allows registered and licensed child care programs to be recognized for the things they do above and beyond regulations. STARS is a voluntary program and is designed to improve the quality of care in Vermont by recognizing the efforts of registered and licensed programs.

An informational meeting on STARS will be held on Tuesday, January 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 at Springfield College. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to review the program, learn about the incentive bonuses available, ask questions and discuss STARS. Applications will be available (or bring yours along) and time will be spent on answering specific questions about the application and what is sent in with it. We will provide professional development documentation so that this session can be used for Child Development Division training hours.

1/29 9:00-1:00pm **Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors**

Presenter: Judy Pransky

Skill Level: I/A

Advanced Protective Service or CDA 1, 2, 3, 4

My work with school age children over the last 35 years in child care and previously as a public and private school teacher and administrator led me to seek a new and different approach to the prevention of problem behaviors such as violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse, delinquency, school failure, truancy, teen pregnancy, disruptive behaviors and more. This curriculum rarely tackles these issues head on, but instead attempts to intervene at the underlying common root "cause" of all of the above. The intent is to draw forth the opposite of insecurity ...that is security, which is only possible with secure healthy thinking. This needs to happen before the youngster is on the brink of making a poor choice. My experience tells me that young people acting out of insecurity is at the root of the problem behaviors. The combined approach of Relapse Prevention and Health Realization models in this experiential curriculum seek to help young people come to understand, recognize, and experience healthy thinking. When this happens they are much less likely to follow their insecure thinking down the path that leads to problem behaviors. It's a fun approach and works best with 8-13 year old!

News and Views From the Early Child Care and Education Network Groups

If you are in the field of Early Child Care and Education, we have networks of professionals meeting once a month in your area. The Center-Based Network is officially a part of The Caledonia/ So. Essex organization. All are welcome to attend.

Concord Network

Stephanie Simpson – Leader 695-2521

Meetings are held at the Concord High School Library

Time – 6:30 – 8:30

December

No Meeting

January 11

Never Too Early

February 8

Early birds and Bookworms

South Ryegate Network

Cindy Boyce – Leader 429-2219

For Meeting Location contact Cindy Boyce

Time- 6:30 – 8:30

December

No Meeting

January 19

Never Too early

January 26

Early birds and Bookworms

Lyndonville Network

Terri Hunter - Co-leader –626-8794

Kathy Lanctot – Co-leader – 626-9510

Meetings held at Cobleigh Library

Time – 6:30 – 8:30

December 1st - Susan Ashworth presenting “Effects of Food allergies on Children’s Behavior.”

December 10th – network Christmas Party at Black Bear Tavern

St. Johnsbury Network

Theresa Stevens – Leader – 748-8675

Meetings held at PCC (former Lincoln Street School)

Time- 6:30-8:30

December 14

Finish Mother Goose Training

Finish 2004 Starting Points Grant

Discuss next year's grant and election of new officers

Danville / Walden Network

Heather Copp- Leader-748-3919

Meetings are held at the home of Heather Copp

Time - 6:30 – 8:30

Please RSVP if you plan to attend a meeting or a training.

Scheduled meetings from January through June are not available at this time. Please call heather Copp for information regarding January's meeting.

Center-Based Network

Contact Cynthia Lafoe @ Umbrella –748-8645 for information

Meetings are held at Umbrella

6:30-8:30

December 14

Completion of theme boxes

We are developing curriculum-based theme boxes that will be shared among members of the network.



A Message from Peter Danless, Director of Standards and Licensing

Greeting from the Child Development Division's Child Care Licensing Unit. As a means of becoming more visible, this past October we began a new field contact initiative that will hopefully allow licensers to have more contact with child care providers. Licensers will now be assigned to specific types of providers and regulatory actions, instead of regulating all child care providers within a geographic area as they have in the past. Since we began this initiative, I have received tremendous feedback from both the provider community and licensers. I speak for all of us at the Licensing Unit when I say that we are excited about this field strategy that will enhance our service to both child care providers and consumers.

FYI

Just to give you a "heads up," here is a list of "common" violations that have been identified during UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS in Registered Family Child Care Homes:

¶ Section II - #1. Numbers of children (not to exceed six full-time /four part-time; not more than 2 under age 2)

¶ Section V-#7. First aid kit. Materials must be complete (list is in regulation booklet - NO LONGER NEEDS SYRUP OF IPECAC) Must be in portable container. Must include basic reference manual for administering first aid.

¶ Section V-#16. Emergency phone numbers must be listed/posted near working phone. Poison Center new number 1-800-222-1222 (list of required numbers is in registration booklet)

¶ Section V-#21. Emergency evacuation plan (fire escape routes) must be posted. Monthly fire drills must be practiced. Written record of the dates of monthly fire drills must be kept and must be available.

¶ Section V-#22. Smoke detectors must be functioning properly (whether battery or electric). Must be mounted either on the ceiling or within 6-12 inches from the ceiling. Must have at least one on each level of home where children are present for care.

¶ Section V-#23. Fire Extinguisher. Must have classification of AT LEAST 2:A10:BC Must have a current inspection tag, or must have evidence Must be located & easily accessible to kitchen. Caregiver must be familiar with use and handling.

For a copy of the Regulation you can go on the Child Development Division (CDD) web page at www.state.vt.us/srs/childcare

(As published in the December/January newsletter in Rutland County. Written by Rosie Piontek)

More FYI...

Greetings,

I wanted to let you all know that the 2004-05 TRUCE Toy Action Guide is now available on-line in time for the holiday season. For 10 years, Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment (TRUCE) has been preparing the guide. It is designed for practitioners to distribute to parents to help them promote creative, non-violent play and choose high quality toys and play materials for their children. The Toy Action Guide contains information on how to select toys that promote positive play and reduce the influence of harmful toys on children. There is a list of TRUCE's 2004-2005 recommendations for "Toys for Healthy & Creative Play" as well as "Toys and Toy Trends to Avoid." The Guide again provides suggestions for "Shoe Box Gifts," an alternative gift idea that promote play around themes with common objects often found around the house. There are also suggestions for how parents and schools can work together to counteract the harmful effects of the commercialization of play. We time the release of the new guide each year with the start of the holiday season because that is such a big toy buying time

To download the guide, go to: www.truceteachers.org. Please download and distribute it widely.

Thanks, Diane Levin
Professor of Education
Wheelock College
Boston, MA 02215

Toys, Toys, Toys... In Time for the Holidays!

Umbrella is hosting

Play and Learning Toys

On December 7 at 6:30.

At Umbrella in St. Johnsbury, VT

Toys for children ages birth - 10

Many wooded toys available

infant toys

Games and puzzles

blocks

Brio trains

Melissa and Doug toys

Doll houses

Check out the website at www.playandlearning.com and place a pre-sale order and save 5%. Use the discount code "umbrella" and select local delivery.

If you would like to see a specific toy from the website selection at Umbrella on the evening of the 7th, e-mail Heather at hburt@playandlearning.com and let her know what you would like to see.

All toys presented can be purchased that evening.

10% of the sales will go to Umbrella to help us purchase door prizes for the Spring Conference.

General Mills Champions Youth Nutrition and Fitness Grants

Everyone can be a champion! Youth who take personal responsibility for their nutrition and fitness, and caring adults who help youth in their community develop good nutrition and fitness behaviors are champions. This belief sparked the development of the General Mills Champions Youth Nutrition and Fitness Grants, a partnership of the General Mills Foundation, the American Dietetic Association Foundation and the President's Challenge. Now in its third year, the champion Program has provided over 100 grants and \$1,000,000. for schools or nonprofit community groups with programs that equip children and their families with skills they need to eat a balanced diet and exercise on a regular basis. More grants will be available in February 2005, For more information and a grant application visit www.generalmills.com/foundation. For a list and description of all previous grant winners visit www.adaf.org.

Quit smoking for better health in the New Year!

NVRH is accepting registrations for their 6-week smoking cessation class to be held Thursday evenings, 6-8 pm beginning January 13, in conference room C at the hospital. Learn how to handle stress without smoking, keep your weight under control, handle social smoking situations, and fight cravings. Participants will receive some neat incentives, plus they are eligible for free or reduced cost nicotine replacement patches and gum/or lozenges. Cost? Just \$10. Call Carrie or Mary at 748-7304 to register or get more information.

Teaching Assistants Needed

The NEKCA Parent Child Center is looking for 2 Temporary Teaching Assistants for the child care program. These individuals will be responsible to teach the curriculum developed by the Child Care Coordinator. Teaching Assistants must be at least 18 years of age or older, with a high school diploma or equivalent. Experience with early childhood development is preferred.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please send a cover letter, resume and at least 3 references to: Human Resources Director, NEKCA, P.O. Box 346, Newport, VT 05855..

Calendar-Keepers at a discount!

NEKCA's Micro Business Program has purchased the 2005 Redleaf Calendar-Keeper. This practical calendar includes an attendance and payment log, expenses page, recipes and activities for every month. Also, a household expenses worksheet, meal tally pages, emergency phone numbers, waiting list and an envelope for receipts!

The Calendar-Keeper has everything you need to keep track of in one easy place! And the cost is discounted at \$8.00, about half of what you'd pay if ordered directly. Get your Calendar-Keeper at Umbrella, or call MBDP at 748-2597.

Assistant Bookmobile Librarian/Driver Needed at the Cobleigh Public Library

This is an Americorps position

The Cobleigh public library in Lyndonville is seeking an assistant librarian for its bookmobile. This is a full time Americorps position including a living allowance stipend, health insurance and an educational award.

We are looking for a positive, friendly, person who works well with children and can drive a large vehicle.

Library experience is a plus but not necessary.

Call or stop by the Cobleigh Library for more information. 802-6-26-5475

Proactive Approaches:

The Second Annual Seminar Series with Jeanine Fitzgerald

Presented by Child Care Resource

Each day-long seminar will serve to enhance the relationship between service providers, child care providers, children and their families. The goal is to strengthen the well-being, development, and education of children.

Jeanine Fitzgerald is a renowned Certified Human Behavior Consultant. She travels throughout the country providing expertise in the areas of program assessment, program development, supervision, family-focused interventions, child development services, parent support groups and training, as well as professional development seminars.

Schedule: (all seminars are from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

<i>Thursday</i>	February 17	<i>Monday</i>	April 25
<i>Saturday</i>	February 19	<i>Saturday</i>	May 14
<i>Monday</i>	March 21	<i>Monday</i>	May 23

Location for all classes: Child Care Resource, Williston

Registration: 8:30-9:00 am (snack & coffee provided) **Cost:** \$55.00 per seminar. No refunds.

Seminar attendance is limited. This series sold out in 2004, so please plan accordingly.

Continuing Education Credits: For information call 863-3367, ext. 40.

Training Hours for Child Care Providers: 6 hours

Seminar A (Thursday, February 17)

Freeing Children From Fear

Bullying behaviors are at epidemic proportions. Over 160,000 children miss attending school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by a peer. This pattern of teasing, name-calling, harassment, hurt and violence begins in the preschool years. You can do something about it. In this seminar you will recognize the many forms this abuse can take, discover how to identify and empower children who are victims, combat common myths, and know when and how to step in to protect children from each other.

Seminar B (Saturday, February 19)

Exploring Positive Guidance

Positive guidance focuses on helping children learn to solve their problems and manage their behaviors instead of punishing them for behaviors that are symptoms of the problems they have that they cannot solve. This approach to discipline leads a child to develop the personal strength and understanding necessary to make wise choices and decisions, to get along with others, to express emotions in constructive ways, to solve conflicts peaceably, and to overcome obstacles and bounce back from adversity.

Seminar C (Monday, March 21)

Act Your Age!

This seminar focuses on the developmental behaviors of children within a specific stage of growth and development; infants, toddlers, preschool, school age, tweens/middlers, or adolescence. The developmental behaviors of infancy will include attachment and stranger anxiety; for toddlers, biting, toilet training, separation anxiety; for preschoolers, tantrums, power struggles, not listening, as examples.

Seminar D (Monday, April 25)

What's Your Problem Anyway?

Much of children's aggressive or hurtful behaviors derive not from an excess of meanness or hostility but from a lack of skills in solving problems effectively and nonviolently. These skills can be learned by young children so they are better equipped to achieve their goals, negotiate beneficial solutions, while avoiding a win-lose posture or becoming an aggressor or victim. This seminar will explore proven approaches to problems and conflicts; approaches that lead to win-win.

Seminar E (Saturday, May 14)

The Challenging Child (back by popular demand!)

This seminar will help us to understand, work with and enjoy five types of children: the defiant, the highly active, the highly sensitive, the self absorbed and the inattentive. We will explore the characteristics and strengths to be respected and supported and offer an overview of effective techniques for each type.

Seminar F (Monday, May 23)

The Defiance Spectrum and ADHD

Morning Session: As children explore the world around them, nearly all will occasionally test boundaries and challenge authority. And some of these children will continually defy any attempts to correct their behavior and seemingly reject authority all together. Whether the child is going through a rebellious stage or has been identified with Oppositional Defiant Disorder, this seminar will provide insight into the spectrum of defiance and offer proven methods to help children learn the skills they will need to succeed in life.

Afternoon Session: The success of children with ADD or ADHD may lie in our ability to develop a relationship which supports their efforts in developing organizational skills, attention to task, impulse control and the management of resources, including time and materials. This seminar will lay a framework for what ADHD is and isn't, as well as offer effective, proven educational and behavioral strategies for managing this neurological and developmental difference.

Proactive Approaches: A Seminar Series with Jeanine Fitzgerald

2005 Registration Form

Name: _____

Home Address: _____ **Work Address:** _____

Daytime Phone: _____ **Evening Phone:** _____

Email Address _____

Please check the seminar(s) in which you would like to enroll: *Payment Amount Enclosed:* \$ _____

____ Seminar A ____ Seminar B ____ Seminar C
____ Seminar D ____ Seminar E ____ Seminar F

Payment Method: ____ Check ____ Visa/Mastercard
_____ Exp. date _____

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TUITION FREE COLLEGE COURSE!

Development of the Young Child: Ages 3-8

(Vermont State Colleges' Course # PSY 2025)

This course explores processes of human development from 3 to 5 years-of-age. Emphasis is on the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth of the child. Topics include: developmental theories and research, assessment tools, design of and inclusive integrated curriculum, and the concept of transition.

CCV, St. Johnsbury Wednesday nights 6 - 9pm, January 26-May 4, 2005 Linda Rhodes, Instructor

This is the **THIRD (3rd)** course in the series of six for the Registered Child Care Apprenticeship Program. Great for first time students as well as those with previous experience.

Formal enrollment paperwork will be mailed to all regulated child care programs in mid-December.



VECEL Update Fact Sheet

The Vermont Early Childhood Educator Licensing Project (VECEL) is a course of study, advisement and professional development leading toward Vermont Department of Education teacher licensure in the early childhood endorsement—birth to grade three. High quality early childhood services are dependent on an educated and qualified workforce. In Vermont, early childhood centers can be in partnership with supervisory unions and receive education funding if they employ a licensed teacher in the classroom with children, and meet other quality standards.

Eligibility: If you are currently working with young children in a licensed or registered early childhood program and have a BA or BS degree, you are eligible to participate in VECEL.

Licensure: VECEL participants seek licensure through approved alternative routes to licensure through the Department of Education. These routes are Peer Review, or Transcript Review.

- Peer Review is for individuals who have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to meet the requirements of the Department of Education, including the general competencies for all educators, and the early childhood endorsement competencies through coursework and life experiences. By documenting your experiences and developing a portfolio of evidence, you prepare for the Peer Review that will assess your competency as a licensed early childhood educator of children birth to grade three.
- Transcript Review is for individuals who are already licensed and wish to add the early childhood endorsement to their license.

Program: VECEL includes a menu of courses that most early childhood professionals who are seeking licensure need to demonstrate the endorsement competencies. Past coursework was provided in Child Development; Curriculum Development; Language and Communication Disorders; Children with Special Rights and Needs; Early Literacy and Numeracy.

Advisement and Support: VECEL hosts four regional advisory groups in the Southeast, Southwest, Northeast and Northwest regions of the state. These groups meet monthly to learn about the licensure process, the endorsement competencies and how to document your competence and experience as an educator, and to provide peer and advisor support throughout the process.

A new cohort is being formed now. If you are interested in applying to participate in the VECEL project contact a coordinator or download the application from www.ecelicensing.org

Contacts: For more information, contact statewide Co-Coordination, Jackie Sprague jackie@sprague.org (482-2885) and Janice Stockman jjstock@sover.net (257-8015).

Regional Advisors:

Southeast—Janice Stockman jjstock@sover.net 257-8015

Southwest—Cheryl Mitchell Cheryl.Mitchell@uvm.edu 656-8559

Northeast—Jackie Sprague jackie@sprague.org 482-2885

Northwest—Adam Deyo adam.deyo@uvm.edu 865-4885

