



Parent Child Center

Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

Early Childhood News

Spring 2014

Please join us for our
21st Celebrate Young Children Family Festival
on April 19th!



Our Family Festival is a Springfield Tradition going back 21 years now! Thanks to all the families that have joined us over the years to Celebrate Young Children! If you are not familiar with the festival, it is held annually in conjunction with the National "Week of the Young Child". The purpose of our Festival and the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of

young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

This year as in years past we will have a wide variety of children's activities and information stations relevant to young families. The Scholastic Book Fair 2 for 1 Book sale will be held once again during the festival, with visits from a favorite children's book character.

We're also pleased to announce some new attractions for this year's festival! We will be featuring performances by Lindsay and her Puppet Pals at 9:45 and 11:15 am, as well as sing-a-long with local children's musician Paul Ippolito at 10:30am. We're also really excited about the Giant Chutes and Ladders Game that will be on site for the children to play on!

All in All, it's sure to be a fun family event!

Please do join us Saturday, April 19th from 9:30-Noon

At Riverside School



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Serving families and children in the communities of Andover, Ascutney, Baltimore, Bellows Falls, Brownsville, Cavendish, Chester, Grafton, Londonderry, Ludlow, Perkinsville, Plymouth, Proctorsville, Reading, Rockingham, Saxtons River, Springfield, Weathersfield, Weston, West Windsor, Windham, and



Incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit agency in 1992, SAPCC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of voluntary members plus an Executive Director.

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Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

A Note from Sherry..... our new Executive Director

It's been a little over three months since taking over the position of executive director of the SAPCC and it has been busy!! Along with the day to day responsibilities, I've spent time with our leadership team and staff gathering information to develop a "priority plan" for the coming months. Much of our focus will be on enhancing the programs that we already do as well as continuing our strong collaboration with other agencies in our region. We'll continue to pay attention to state and federal issues that could impact our work while at the same time working locally to serve families and children in the best ways possible. I'm excited for this new opportunity and proud to have been chosen to lead such a dynamic organization.

Please feel free to call me and come by for a visit,

Sherry

Scenes from The Taste of Winter Market

Our 2nd Annual event showcased a wide variety of offerings from our 18 vendors, many thanks to each and everyone of them! Add to that the lively tunes of the Springfield Stringers, the fun, free children's activities topped off with our delectable Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest, and you have a great, family friendly way to spend a few hours on a Sunday Afternoon. Thanks for a great turnout, everyone!



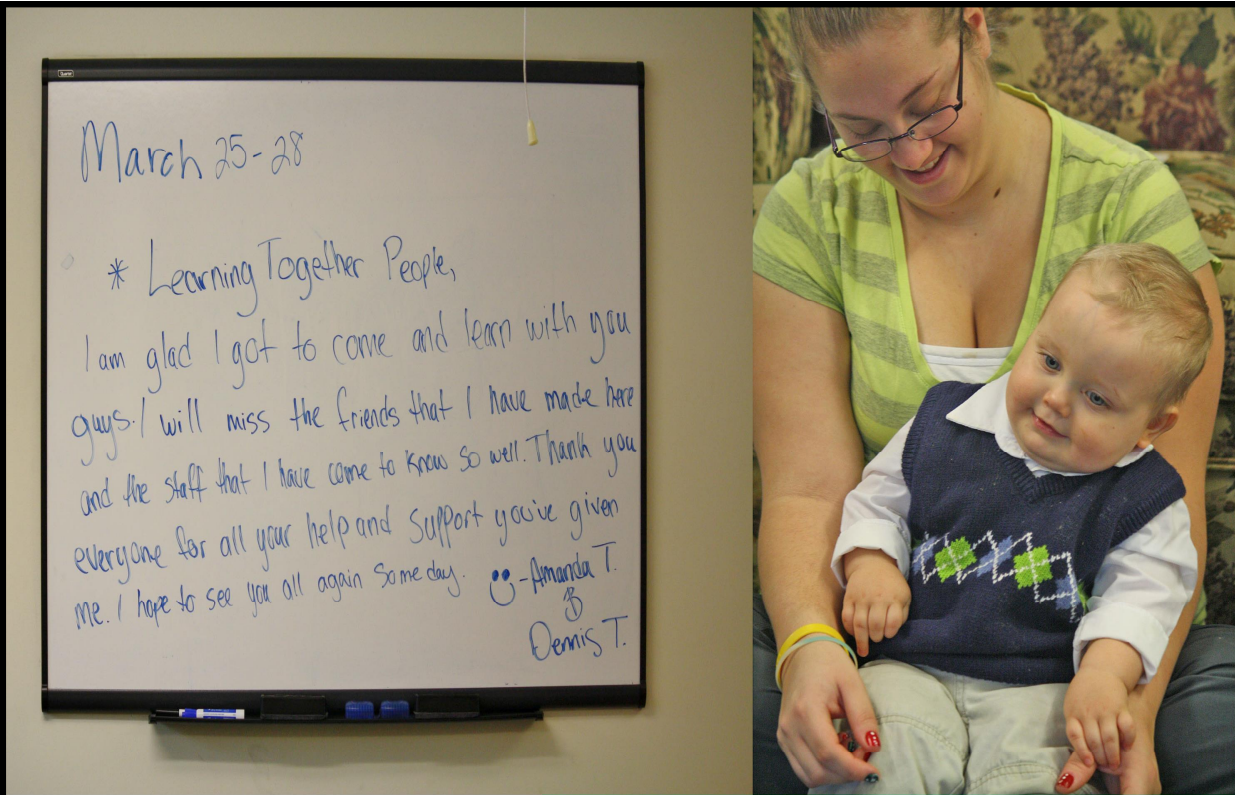
Strong Communities, One Family at a Time

A Learning Together Mom moves on....

Learning Together Community Service

The young women of the Learning Together Program volunteered invaluable help to make the first two Springfield Community Free Lunches a big success. Fifty people enjoyed soup and sandwiches on Feb. 19 and 45 folks came for the March 19 lunch. The meals are being held at the First Congregational Church at 77 Main St. on the third Wednesday of each month.

The L.T. volunteers are not only helping the community, but are also earning Community Service hours which are part of most area High Schools' graduation requirements. As a result of their first volunteer experience on Feb. 19, the young women were inspired to also hold a food and supply drive for the new winter warming shelter at the North Springfield Baptist Church. This drive was organized and carried out with leadership from Rhiannon Houghton. This is Community Service at its best! Way to go Rhiannon and all the Learning Together young women!



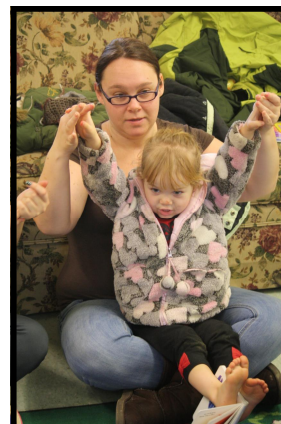
Best Wishes Amanda and Dennis
We're going to miss you both too!

We're Proud of You!

Many thanks to Laura Lawson Tucker
and the VT Council on Humanities



Laura conducted a 2 part class on reading and singing to children with our Learning Together parents and their children.



Visitors to PlayWorks

Our teachers always find ways to engage the children of PlayWorks in fun ways to learn. This past winter we were lucky enough to have two members of the community come in and talk about their professions. Thanks go out to Matt Downing for coming to visit the PlayWorks Post Office and talking about what it's like to work in for the Springfield Post Office and what a day on his route is like. We were also lucky enough to have Dr. Chris Fauver come in and talk about his role as a dentist, and share information about good dental health habits.



Many Thanks to Matt the Mailman and Dr. Chris!



Congratulations and Kudos to Melisa

Melisa Beaulieu has been with us at Springfield Area Parent Child Center as teacher at PlayWorks for 8 years now. She still remembers her early days here, and the words she spoke to her Rose, her Supervisor at the time. "Coming here to work every day is like getting a hug." Eight years later Melisa still feels the same way about her job.

Recently, Melisa completed the Apprenticeship Program sponsored by VCCICC (Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council.) This program is a certification program that promotes high levels of professional development. The courses needed to complete the program are equivalent to 6 full credit college courses, and will allow apprentices to transfer credits towards their Child Development Associates degree. In addition to the classroom instruction, which for Melisa was available locally at CCV, she also needed to work a minimum of 2000 hours a year with a mentor and be assessed for her advancement in the process. At the end of the 2-year program, an apprentice receives their Certificate of Completion. A 2 year apprentice will become exceptionally competent in child care skills understanding how theory turns into good practice. They will also understand issues of program management and relationships with parents, and coworkers and the community. This certificate and their CDA is acknowledged in Vermont and on a national level as meeting quality standards for early childhood professionals. This has been a big commitment for Melisa and we congratulate her for desire to seek and to achieve professional levels in early childhood education.



As Melisa sits with a child in her lap on the floor in her classroom and another child cuddled next to her while telling me about the process of obtaining her certificate, you can see her passion for the work she's chosen to do. In fact, she'll tell you that working with all of the different staff members here that share her passion is one of the reasons she loves being here at SAPCC. She's proud to be a part of a group of dedicated and passionate people that not only provide childcare, but offer a wide variety of services and support to young families of all types to help build **Strong Communities, One Family at a Time.**

Snowy Smiles



from the



PlayWorks



Playground



For more info on Home Visits...

If you have questions or need help with your child reaching their development milestones, perhaps we can help.

To find out more about the evaluation process and what resources might be available to children from birth to 3 years old contact us at 802-886-5242 and ask for Jill.

Some of the special services for eligible children can include:

- ◆ Audiology Services
- ◆ Home Visits
- ◆ Nursing/Health Visits
- ◆ Nutritional Services
- ◆ Occupational Therapy
- ◆ Physical Therapy
- ◆ Speech-Language Therapy
- ◆ Vision Services
- ◆ Service Coordination

I remember when the home visitor would come...



I so looked forward to the visit that I would sometimes sit out on the porch waiting for her. My youngest was 18 months old at the time when he was first evaluated and found eligible for early intervention services through *Children's Integrated Services* (CIS). He had a speech delay, and behavioral issues that we were struggling with.

As a parent of 3 young children, I felt so alone and unsure of myself. I was unsure about my child's behaviors, unsure about what was normal.

It was his aggression that worried me most. The standard behavior techniques didn't seem to work at all. I was feeling desperate, and although the home visitor was initially referred because of his speech delay, she quickly began to support me with both his speech and behavior concerns, even helping me to understand how the two were very much intertwined. My

son was becoming extremely frustrated both with not understanding all that was being said to him, and not being understood in a way that he could get his immediate needs met.

The home visitor had a calming energy that made me feel like everything was going to be all right. It was helpful to learn that I could be both firm and loving, and it gave me permission to be that way with my son.

Some of the things she suggested were totally new; they were things I had not thought of, even though I'd read through a gazillion parenting books.

And it was so personalized, that it made sense. The visitor respected my feelings and philosophy of parenting, and added to that, as opposed to trying to change it. She gave my son direct support in the form of caring play and interactions, and she gave me access to information in a one on one way that was so personal and caring, it settled in to me.

The program really worked, also. When my son turned three and transitioned into the next program (Essential Early Education), he tested out at age level in his skills shortly after. The whole home visiting experience from the Parent Child Center offered me such relief, understanding, and companionship in parenting my child that was a resource I would not have otherwise had access to.



Visit us at www.sapcc-vt.org

May 9, 2014 is Provider Appreciation Day

This is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents. Momentum and support for this event has grown each year and recognition presently includes individuals and government organizations throughout the United States.

Our local registered providers include:

Chester/Andover:

Angela Cummings
Deborah Lowe
Sarah Rushford
Chester Community Preschool

Londonderry/Weston:

Little School
West River Montessori School
Mountain Communities Supporting Education

Windsor/Weathersfield/Reading:

Sherry Boudro
Kelsey Beattie
Shelley Wilcox
Windsor Early Childhood Education Center
Children's Place Preschool
Bridging the Gap
Apryl Blake
Elizabeth Roberts
Deborah Green
Gail Corliss
Michelle Smith
Jami Waters

Ludlow/Proctorsville/Cavendish:

Julie Nicoll
Kathleen Bixby
Ludlow Elementary School
OKEMO MTN
Bonita Wright
Sheila Roby
Stepping Stones Preschool
Cavendish Elementary School



Rockingham:

Squeaky Sneakers
Hill House
Donna Aiken
Jackie Kissell
Amy Tuttle
Saxtons River Montessori School
Village Early Learning Center
Y ASPIRE
WNESU

Springfield:

Meeting Waters YMCA
Jennifer Berquist
All 4 One (Springfield Schools)
Katie Jackson
PlayWorks
World of Discovery
Holly Cole
Judy Lariviere
Jean Merritt
Shirley Masure
Suzy's Little Peanuts
Patti Kemp
Nora Hunter
Stacy Stillson
Springfield Learning Garden
Joey Claflin
Pine Street Preschool
Squeaky Sneakers
Donita Benner
Rachel Hunter
Rachel Stock
Staci Otis
JoAnn Jarvis
Carrie LaBelle

Consider A Donation

As a non-profit, we are always looking for way to raise funds. We do have a few events that we run each year, but your kind donation can go a long way to help us continue to reach our goals and fulfill our mission statement:

Strong Communities, One Family at a Time!

If you would like to donate, you may do so by sending us a check or by donating online, via a secure server with your credit card.

Please visit us at www.sapcc-vt.org and click on the donate button on our home page.

Thanks for considering a tax deductible donation to SAPCC!

A big THANK YOU for all the hard work and professionalism of our local child care providers!



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Technically Speaking...

Funding for the SAPCC programs, including this newsletter is provided in part by Vermont's [Agency of Human Services](#), [Department of Children and Families](#) [Child Development Division](#) and private sources.

Submissions and announcements related to early childhood and intended for the general public and those who care about young children are always welcome.

Send submissions to:

Early Childhood News @ SAPCC

6 Main St.
N. Springfield, VT 05150
sapcc2@vermontel.net

We reserve the right to deny or edit any submission. All submissions must have names of the person or agency submitting the info. Please call or e-mail with any questions.

News from Myrtle's Closet

On Tuesday, April 1st, Myrtle's Closet held a party to show appreciation for the many customers who shop regularly and their friends. There were discounts on everything in the store, door prizes and refreshments.

When asked why they shop at Myrtle's Closets (MC), comments from customers included:

- ◆ *"MC is fabulous - it's fresh and always changing and the prices are low"; "Employees are open, friendly and kind"*
- ◆ *"We appreciate that MC makes donations of materials to our business"*
- ◆ *"I love it when I donate clothes and I come back a week later and some are hung up as displays. That makes me feel good"*
- ◆ *"I love Alfred Dunner clothes and I find them here"*
- ◆ *"I am impressed with the jeans racks that are folded so precisely"*



A teen who attended commented that she loves the brand name clothing she finds and that they are in "new" condition. A young man who attended loved that he can use his debit card, something he didn't realize when he came before.

Myrtle's Closet is one of the best thrift stores around with high quality clothing, shoes, and accessories. There are low prices, ever changing inventory for all sizes and it is open to the public 3 days a week (Wed 9-12;

Thurs and Fri 10-4) and the first Sat. of each month 9-12 (July is an exception - due to the holiday, the store will be open the 2nd Sat. of the month, July 12th).

If you have a group of friends or co-workers who would like to shop but can't make it during regular hours, Myrtle's Closet is happy to host a special sales evening or weekend. If you can get a group of 10 or more friends together, contact Tienna Howe at tienna@vermontel.net to arrange an event.

Spring clothes are out and summer clothing is coming soon. Now that the weather is improving, come in and check it out. *Going to the Prom? We've got a great selection of quality Prom dresses at fabulous prices!*

MC is a program of the Springfield Area Parent Child Center, operated as a job-training program for young parents.

The parents work hard under the direction of SAPCC staff, learning work skills such as how to take direction, greet the public, organizational skills, appropriate language and dress for the workplace. Their self-confidence grows as they become comfortable working and some go on to get employment after they finish their high school diploma in the Learning Together Program of SAPCC.

