



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

April 23, 2019 – Issue 3

Welcome to Issue 3 of the Agency of Education Early Learning Team’s **UPK Café!** In each issue we hope to share a variety of research and evidence-based resources, hot topics, news items and professional articles relevant to your daily work and practice as an Early Childhood Educator and Early Childhood Special Educator. Some weeks will be short with a few tidbits and some weeks will offer longer strands that are connected to a certain subject. We hope you will use **UPK Café** as a regular resource to support and inform your practice.

1) Website Resource: Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University

[The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University](#) was established in 2006 with the idea to improve the lives of children facing adversity.

“Initially, we used existing knowledge about early childhood development to educate policymakers and build support for early investment. Over time, we increasingly turned to science as a source of new ideas for dramatically improving child outcomes. We now view existing best practices as a starting point, not a destination.”

This website provides resources and activity guides that implements science based innovation, best practice and learning communities to support lifelong learning, behavior, and both physical and mental health for each and every child.

2) Did you know? Vermont Early Learning Standards Website is LIVE!

Early Experiences Matter--whether at home with family, childcare, preschool, kindergarten, primary grades, neighborhood community. The importance of early childhood experiences that are is the foundation for school success and lifelong learning. The [Vermont Early Learning Standards \(VELS\) Website](#) is a tool for PreK-Grade 3 educators, early childhood professionals, related service staff and administrators to understand the common goals for each and every child’s learning and development from birth through grade 3. The VELS website provides information and resources to support opportunities and experiences for each and every child to make progress toward or achieve these goals.

3) VT AOE definition of High Quality Effective PreK Education!

What defines Vermont Universal Prekindergarten Education is the implementation of high-quality, effective instruction by licensed educators who use evidence-based practices within intentionally designed early learning environments. Early educators align curriculum with the Vermont Early Learning Standards while adapting experiences to support the full participation of each and every child to realize their full potential and promote successful outcomes.

If you have a resource, you'd like to share on UPK Café or have been forwarded this issue and would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Leslie at leslie.freedman@vermont.gov.

Thank you!