



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

June 18, 2020 – Issue 33

Welcome to summer! The Agency of Education Early Learning Team's **UPK Café** will continue through the summer with 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.

This week we will be sharing some fun summer activities that you can share with families in newsletters, home visits, playgroups...the list goes on! We would also like to put out an invitation for you to share some of your favorite warm weather activities that can be added to the next few issues summer UPK Café. We love to see what you are doing!

Once again, THANK YOU for the work you do with Vermont's children! Enjoy your summer playing outside and running through sprinklers!

- **[Water Play!](#)**

Everyone's favorite place to be on a hot summer day – the water! This resource comes straight from our **[Vermont Early Learning Standards \(VELS\)](#)**. The VELS is a resource tool that provides opportunities and experiences that allow all children to make progress toward or achieve common goals. This also includes making adaptations and accommodations for children's unique circumstances.

- **[Exploring Outside!](#)**

Walks in the shade, a hike on a favorite mountain and even exploring your own neighborhood is a nice way to discover more about where we live! This is another great resource from the VELS website that can be shared with families or used in your program this summer.

- **[Everyone can Journal!](#)**

Journaling doesn't have to be writing words. It can be pictures cut from a magazine, photos from a day around town and even personal drawings. Find a notebook, glue sticks, stickers, colored pencils – anything really! Set aside some quiet time for children to journal about their summer days. Take the time to ask about the picture, ask if you can write a few words about what they have drawn

or a picture they have chosen in their journal for. At the end of the summer you'll find a full journal of memories!

- **Vermont PBS: Scheduling Information Week of 6/22 and Educator Survey**

The Vermont AOE and PBS want to know how to improve programming and supplemental resources for the summer and fall. Please fill out a [short survey](#) and share your thoughts. Those who respond will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate from Kiss the Cook! The results will be used to inform next steps. Additionally, this is the [Vermont PBS Week-Ahead Program Schedule](#) for the week of June 22, 2020. You will notice that for the summer months the schedule is focused on two channels. Please pass the information along to families.

- **But Why Live: Schedule Change**

On Friday, June 19 at 1 p.m., *But Why Live* will host a timely discussion about race and racism with the authors of the [ABC's of Diversity](#), Y. Joy Harris-Smith and Carolyn Helsel. The following week, on Friday, June 26 at 1 p.m., enjoy music with [Mister Chris](#). Children can explore music and write a song with Chris Dorman and other musicians. Get your instruments ready to play or sing along and send VPR your music! Kids can send their questions ahead of time to questions@vpr.org, or call in at 1-800-639-2211 while the program is live. Listen to VPR [on-air in Vermont](#) or listen to our [live stream](#) from anywhere in the world. Supplemental resources are also available on the [AOE VPR webpage](#).

- **Summer Reading**

And Then Comes Summer Written by Tom Brenner, Illustrated by Jaime Kim

Jabari Jumps Written and Illustrated by Gaia Cornwall

The Summer Visitors Written and Illustrated by Karel Hayes

My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis Written and Illustrated by Paul Meisel

Again, thank you for all the work that you do and for your continued work supporting Vermont's young children and families.

If you have received this issue from a coworker and would like to be placed on the UPK Café listserv, please email Leslie at leslie.freedman@vermont.gov.

Be well and stay healthy!

Leslie