



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

July 2, 2020 – Issue 35

The Agency of Education Early Education Team is hoping your summer is off to a wonderful start! The **UPK Café** is continuing 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.

We are continuing our theme of fun summertime activities that you can share with families in newsletters, home visits, playgroups...the list goes on! And as always, we welcome 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! Please take a moment or two for yourself and enjoy the wonderful summer – swing in a hammock with a good book or a well-deserved nap!

Create your own Fireworks!

For a fun afternoon project, create [fireworks in a jar](#) using oil, water and food coloring! Help your child jot down and record possible “predictions” of what might happen and “observations” of what actually occurred. What does your child think will happen when the oil is added to the water? When you add the food coloring? Swish the mixture around gently – what do they see? Were your predictions correct? Take pictures of your experiment and add them to your summer journal!

Ice Excavations!

It looks like we have hit summer in full force! Time for some ice excavation! Gather plastic water bottles, milk jugs (spout end cut off), baking pans and muffin tins, even beach buckets if you're feeling adventurous. Fill your containers with water and then have your child drop/sink in small toys such as dinosaurs, animals, fish or cars, beaded necklaces, buttons, pom poms, letters, foam shapes, fake gems and sparkles, and the list goes on! Just be aware of choking hazards please! Place full containers in your freezer. Once frozen, pop ice out of containers and the fun begins! Use squeeze and spray bottles filled with warm and cold water– which melts the ice faster? Use eye droppers or paint brushes dipped in water. Then add salt to see what happens! What other tools do you think would be helpful and safe to chip away the ice? So many ways to excavate the treasures out of the ice! Jot down your predictions and observations with this experiment too and don't forget your pictures for your journal!

Sink or Float?

This sink or float experiment is another fun experiment that your child can put their “prediction” and “observation” skills to good use! Through their observations, they’ll learn that objects float (buoyant) and some objects sink (dense). You can use many different objects for this experiment including: metal utensils, coins, stones, legos, keys, sticks, corks, marbles, toy cars, foam shapes, etc. Make a chart with predictions and see if they match up when you make your observations!

Vermont PBS Scheduling Information Week of 7/6

The [Vermont PBS Week-Ahead Program Schedule](#) for the week of July 6, 2020, is now available. For the summer months, the schedule is focused on two channels. Please pass the information along to families.

Summer Reading

- *How Do You Wokka-Wokka?* Written by Elizabeth Bluemle and illustrated by Randy Cecil
- *Cece Loves Science*, written by Kimberly Derting and Shelli R. Johannes, illustrated by Vashti Harrison
- *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?* Written by Steve Jenkins and illustrated Robin Page
- *The Explosive Story of Fireworks!* Written by Kama Einhorn and illustrated by Daniel Guidera
- *How Do You Know It’s Summer?* Written by Lisa M. Herrington
- *A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee*, written by Chris Van Dusen
- *Come On, Rain!* Written by Karen Hesse and illustrated by Jon J Muth
- *Tar Beach*, written by Faith Ringgold
- *Who Sank the Boat*, written by Pamela Allen

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!

The Early Education Team