



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

July 16, 2019 – Issue 8

We are in full summer mode! The Early Learning Team and the **UPK Café** continues to provide you 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 looking at the Agency of Education’s Early Learning Team’s webpage and where specific topics are located that will be helpful to you in your daily practice and when supporting families.

1) [Act 166 Universal Prekindergarten Education \(UPK\)](#)

The Agency of Education’s UPK webpage is for prekindergarten education programs and the families of prekindergarten students. It contains information needed to operate, apply or access UPK in Vermont.

2) [Learning Modules](#)

The Early Learning Modules address Early Education and Early Childhood Special Education topics. They explain the responsibilities public and private programs must follow within state rules and federal laws. The material is suitable for providers, administrators, stakeholders and families.

3) [Early Childhood Special Education \(ECSE\)](#)

The Agency of Education has overarching responsibility for compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the corresponding Vermont state regulations regarding the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities. This page provides up to date information and guidance for families and educators while supporting young children with disabilities to be full participants in everyday routines and activities across a variety of settings (in their homes with their families, in child care, preschool or school programs, and in the community) throughout the early childhood years.

4) Vermont Agency of Education's definition of High-Quality Effective PreKindergarten Education

What defines Vermont Universal Prekindergarten Education (UPK) 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!