



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

December 20, 2019 – Issue 16

Welcome to Issue 16 of the **UPK Café** and (almost) the first day of Winter! The Agency of Education Early Education Team continues 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. Meet the new Universal PreK Coordinator, Wendy Scott!

Wendy has been with VT Agency of Education since 2016, serving as the Peer Review Program Coordinator (alternate route to licensure). Wendy is a licensed Social Studies teacher who fell in love with early education through her interactions with the field. She is currently enrolled in an early childhood education master's program to follow her passion. She looks forward to serving and advocating for early education in her new role. She's here to help! Wendy can be reached at the new UPK email address (checked daily): AOE.UPK@vermont.gov or by phone (802) 828-1332.

2. Teaching Strategies GOLD® Thank Yous!

Thank you all so very much for your hard work and time entering information for the TSG Fall Checkpoint! The time you spend entering your observations help us report progress in Early Education for the State of Vermont. Your work is so important for each and every child, having this data shows our children's growth and the importance of quality Early Educators. Thank you!

3. Please take time with your family and friends, enjoying the winter break! Heck, here's a little something to get you started! Happy Winter! ([video](#))

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!