



Universal PreK (UPK) Café **May 14, 2020 – Issue 28**

Dear Friends,

“Look for the helpers.”

Mister Rogers gave us such a heartwarming and hopeful reminder that there are so many people helping to care for us all.

AOE’s Early Education Team thanks you for being the helpers. Your continued work supporting Vermont’s children and families does not go unnoticed. We hope that you, your families and students are doing well during this ever-changing time in our world.

NEW! The UPK Café is now posted on the [Early Education Team’s webpage](#)! Please visit the webpage to explore the resources in current and past issues. You will continue to receive the weekly UPK Café via PreK and/or ECSE list serves.

And as always, if you have found any helpful resources that you would like to share or resources you would like to see, please let us know!

Resources for Early Childhood Educators and Early Childhood Special Educators

- **EDUCATOR in the SPOTLIGHT – Share your distance learning experiences and activities with colleagues from around the state! What has worked well for you? What are some lessons learned? Do you have ideas or activities to support student transition to kindergarten? Please let us know!**

- **Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media**
[Support for Helpers During Corona Virus](#)

To those of you holding many feelings for children in these weeks, thank you. Reorganizing daily life is not easy, but we are grateful to watch the world make efforts large and small to protect vulnerable people. This article provides resources from the Fred Rogers Center in addition to partner organizations for those of you looking for ways to create learning opportunities and structure for children.

- **Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG)**
[Classroom Connect: A toolkit for educators impacted by Covid-19.](#)

TSG provides content, encouragement, information and tips that can be used to customize support for families at home.

- **Vermont PBS Scheduling Information Week of 5/18**
Vermont Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and the Agency of Education (AOE) are partnering to support continuity of learning for our students and school communities.

This partnership provides access to free educational programming through [Vermont PBS At-Home Learning](#). Teachers can create unique accounts with their school email or Google account through [PBS LearningMedia](#). Accounts are free and provide access to a range of additional features. Each Wednesday, the [Vermont PBS Week-Ahead Program Schedule](#) will be made available to educators so they can plan for the following week. Resources that can be printed and sent home have been identified within the schedule.

- **Vermont Public Radio's But Why: A Podcast for Curious Kids**
But Why, VPR's Podcast for Curious Kids is coming to the air-waves every Friday at 1 p.m. May 8-June 19, 2020. Students can listen to the program over the air on [VPR's stations](#) or listen to the web-stream at [vpr.org](#). On May 15, 2020, students can write a poem to share with Poetry Guy Ted Scheu. On May 22, 2020, the focus will be space exploration from NASA Chief Scientist, Jim Green. Supplemental resources for each program are available at [butwhykids.org](#) and the [Vermont AOE Vermont VPR webpage](#).

Resources for Families

- **Nation Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI)**
[Tips for Supporting Yourself During the Pandemic](#)
This infographic provides suggestions and resources to help you take care of yourself so you can support your child during this unprecedented time.
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**
[Guiding Children by Using Questions](#)
Your child probably asks a lot of questions. Do you try to answer them? If you do, then you already know the benefits of giving your child time and attention. Teachers call these daily conversations powerful interactions. They help adults and children keep in touch and enjoy being together. These interactions also support children's learning. This article provides some communication tips and examples of the types of things to say.
- **Erikson Institute: Early Math Collaborative**
[5 Books and Songs for Exploring Growing Patterns](#)
From an early age, children notice and appreciate patterns in the world around them. Patterns and sequences of different kinds begin to pop up all over the place, especially in the books that children love. As the growing pattern is revealed through the story, children get excited because they can figure out "what comes next." What other patterns can you find on in your home? On a walk? So many patterns!
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VERMONT EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS (VELS)

Domain: Approaches to Learning

Element 1: Play and Exploration

Goal 1: Children engage in play to understand the world around them.

Developing Self Activities:

- Take a Sound Hike! Whether taking a sound hike at around your neighborhood, a nearby park, or even on a mountain trail, ask your child to notice the sounds they hear and make a list to talk about when you get home!
- Pillow Play: Place familiar objects inside of an empty pillowcase. Let your child try to guess what the objects are. Help the child describe how each object feels. Vary the activity by using holiday/seasonal items or items with a theme such as animals or shapes.
- Make a Salad: As you add different vegetables or other ingredients, ask your child what they see in the bowl. Pick out different ingredients and allow your child to take a bite of each one. Ask questions about the salad you made together: What do each of the ingredients taste like? Have you had that ingredient before? Do you like the way it tastes? Does it remind you of something else you've eaten?

Books to read with your child:

- *At the Same Moment, Around the World*, Written by Clotilde Perrin
- *All the World*, Written by Liz Garton Scanlon
- *The Day You Begin*, Written by Jacqueline Woodson Illustrated by Rafael Lopez

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

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

Helpful Links:

- [COVID-19 Guidance for Vermont Schools](#)
- [COVID-19 Information from the Vermont Department of Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Information from the Agency of Human Services/ Department of Children and Families](#)