



Universal PreK (UPK) Café

June 25, 2019 – Issue 7

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!

1) [Water Play!](#)

Everyone's favorite place to be on a hot summer day – the water! This resource comes straight from our Vermont 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.

2) [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! Here is another great resource from the VELS website that can be shared with families or used in your program this summer.

3) [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!

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!