



Colorful star

# The Right Stuff

## Resources to Help Realize the Promise of Each Vermont Child



**Featured Topic: Engaging Each and Every Family**

**Issue No. 26 November 2018**

**Supporting Each and Every Young Child and Family's Full and Equitable Participation**, also known as the Vermont Guiding Principles, reminds us of our responsibility to respect and support family members *"as experts, partners, and decisionmakers in the learning and development of their children."* This issue of **The Right Stuff** focuses on resources to engage and support family members as leaders and partners in the development of their child/children.

### **The Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS): A Resource for Families – UPDATED HANDOUT**

<https://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vermont-resource-collections>

This one-page handout highlights ways in which the VELS can help to engage families in conversations about learning and development. It also highlights how the VELS can help families support their child or children.

### **VELS: Family Resources – NEW WEBSITE, NEW RESOURCES**

<https://vels.education.vermont.gov/resources-educators-and-families/family-resources>

A website of [family resources](https://vels.education.vermont.gov/resources-educators-and-families/family-resources) is now available on the Vermont Agency of Education website with amazing free tools to help both professionals and families, based on the VELS. Here are some of the features.

- **Vermont Early Learning Standards: Overview for Families**

<https://vels.education.vermont.gov/sites/vels/files/documents/vels-module-one-overview-purpose-and-usesFINAL-AC.pdf>

This set of PowerPoint slides summarizes the VELS and offers a brief tour of free family materials including family-focused activities, articles, and national resources to learn more about VELS to engage with your child.

- **Developing Self: Resources for Families**

<https://vels.education.vermont.gov/resources-educators-and-families/family-resources/developing-self-families-resources>

Developing Self is the section of the VELS with information about approaches to learning, social and emotional learning and development, and growing, moving and being healthy. This section of the website includes a PowerPoint overview of these three domains, a set of resources for learning more about each domain, and six activities that families or practitioners can use to support learning and development in these areas.

- **Communication and Expression: Resources for Families**

<https://vels.education.vermont.gov/resources-educators-and-families/family-resources/communication-and-expression-families-resources>

Communication and Expression includes the domains of language development, literacy development, and creative arts and expression. This section of the website includes a PowerPoint overview of these three domains, a set of resources for learning more about each domain, and six activities that families or practitioners can use to support learning and development in these areas.

- **Learning About the World: Resources for Families**

<https://vels.education.vermont.gov/resources-educators-and-families/family-resources/learning-about-world-families-resources>

Learning About the World includes the math, science, and social studies domains. This section of the website includes a PowerPoint overview of these three domains, a set of resources for learning more about each domain, and six activities that families or practitioners can use to support learning and development in these areas.

## Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8

[https://www.nap.edu/resource/21868/RiB\\_parenting\\_matters.pdf](https://www.nap.edu/resource/21868/RiB_parenting_matters.pdf)

This summary of findings from research on effective parenting and family engagement and a synthesis of the elements of effective family engagement. These include viewing parents as equal partners, addressing trauma, making programs culturally relevant, and more, all of which reinforce Vermont's Guiding Principles. Read more and learn about the evidence-based recommendations in the executive summary, or download the entire book at <http://www.nap.edu/download/21868#>

## Milestones Photo and Video Library

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/milestones-in-action.html> (English)

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/spanish/actearly/milestones/milestones-in-action.html> (Spanish)

This free library of photos and videos shows developmental milestones from birth through age five. It can be a useful tool for helping family members and practitioners to learn more about what might be reasonable to expect.

## What Can 2-Year-Olds Do? It Depends. <https://youtu.be/sJkmnIQIYZg>

It's often difficult for family members and practitioners to remember how much milestones can vary for each child. This video, which shows two-year-olds performing different tasks, is a delightful reminder of how much learning and development takes place in the 12 months of a 2-year-old. Watch the differences between younger, middle, and older two-year-olds as they respond to the requests and see what a difference a year makes.

## Leading Family Engagement in Early Learning: A Supplemental Guide

[https://globalfrp.org/content/download/235/1601/file/GFRP\\_Policy%20Resource%20Package.pdf](https://globalfrp.org/content/download/235/1601/file/GFRP_Policy%20Resource%20Package.pdf)

This 2018 guide from the [Global Family Research Project](#) examines best practices for family engagement within a variety of spaces, from public libraries to schools. It includes a collection of free resources that thoughtfully offer evidence for culturally responsive and effective ways to engage families.

## Supporting Family Leaders

Supporting families to participate in decision-making at the programmatic and policy level is addressed by the [DEC Recommended Practices](#) (Family Practice 10), as well as the [federal policy statement on family engagement](#) in the early childhood years. Go to <http://ectacenter.org/topics/familyeng/supportingfamilyleaders.asp> to discover four new videos that were developed to highlight strategies, practices, and approaches for effectively preparing and supporting new, or emerging, family leaders to engage in systems-level advocacy and decision-making. The clips focus explicitly on leadership among family members whose children participate in early intervention or early childhood special education.

## Here's to Grandparents! <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2464-the-grand-plan-grandparent-films>

One out of 4 children under the age of five is cared for by a grandparent. This month, ZERO TO THREE says thank you to all the amazing grandparents out there with three short films profiling families who share the care. Check out additional grandparenting resources at <https://www.zerotothree.org/parenting/grandparents-extended-family>

**Want more resources about ways to engage and support each family?** Look for the 12-page annotated collection, Family Engagement Resources, at this website: <http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vermont-resource-collections>

**The Right Stuff** is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features resources for supporting the learning and development of young children who are culturally, linguistically, and individually diverse, birth to Grade 3, and their families. All resources are readily available and free. **Highlighted resources are available in English and Spanish.** **The Right Stuff** may be freely shared or reproduced. Past issues are available at <http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/right-stuff>

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