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|  | **The Right Stuff** **Resources to Help Realize the Promise of Each Vermont Child** |
| **Issue No. 1 September 2016** **Featured Domain of the Vermont Early Learning Standards: Approaches to Learning** **Elements of this Domain*** **Play and Exploration:** Children engage in play to understand the world around them
* **Initiative:** Children show curiosity about the world around them, and take action to interact with it and learn
* **Problem Solving:** Children display an interest in novel situations and demonstrate flexibility creativity and innovation in solving challenging tasks

**Tips on Playing With Babies and Toddlers (0-2)**Access this resource from the ZERO TO THREE website to get tips on supporting learning and exploration through play. Suggestions for supporting infants and toddlers of diverse abilities are included.[**https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1081-tips-on-playing-with-babies-and-toddlers**](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1081-tips-on-playing-with-babies-and-toddlers)**Learning Through Play: 24 to 36 Months**Here are some ideas for playful approaches to learning for older toddlers.[**https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1089-learning-through-play-24-to-36-months**](https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1089-learning-through-play-24-to-36-months)**Nature-Based Learning and Development for Teachers (3-5)**This skillfully organized video connects opportunities for nature-based outdoor experiences to learning and development across all domains of development. A companion video (Nature-Based Learning and Development for Administrators) looks at the rationales for nature-based learning from the perspective of program directors and leaders.[**http://view.vzaar.com/4501587/download**](http://view.vzaar.com/4501587/download)(Teacher version)[**http://view.vzaar.com/4501588/download**](http://view.vzaar.com/4501588/download)(Administrator version)**What About Play? The Value of Investing in Children’s Play (3-5)***This 10 minute video explores the value of play, playful inquiry and the role of adults in supporting, advocating for and investing in children’s play. A companion full-color, 42 page book is available to purchase from the Portland Children’s Museum* [**http://www.portlandcm.org/shop/educational-materials/what-about-play**](http://www.portlandcm.org/shop/educational-materials/what-about-play). [**https://youtu.be/IjoG6tMq9ZU**](https://youtu.be/IjoG6tMq9ZU)**Natural Learning Opportunities for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers** **(birth – 6)**The material and methods described in this article highlight naturally occurring learning opportunities for children from birth to six years of age with or at risk for developmental disabilities, as well as children who are typically developing.[**http://www.uconnucedd.org/pdfs/NatLearnOpps-2001.PDF**](http://www.uconnucedd.org/pdfs/NatLearnOpps-2001.PDF)**Outdoor Activities for Children Ages 6-10**This section of Family Education website lists dozens of ideas for supporting learning and development through outdoor play. Many of the activities could be easily modified to support dual language learners or children of diverse abilities. [**http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/outdoor-activities/33394.html**](http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/outdoor-activities/33394.html)**Free Resources That Promote Life Skills For Young Children (0-9)**Mind in the Making and First Book have combined forces to compile lists of books and tips that support seven essential life skills. The lists are organized by topic and age group (0 to 2, 3 to 5 years, 6 to 8 years, and 9 to 12 years). For each life skill (e.g., focus and self-control), relevant children’s books are listed that can be used to support/develop that skill. Options for using each book are provided on a downloadable tip sheet; many tip sheets are available in both English and Spanish. [**https://www.mindinthemaking.org/firstbook/**](https://www.mindinthemaking.org/firstbook/)**Dear Teacher: Heartfelt Advice for Teachers from Students (4+)** Effective professionals work to support each child’s learning needs. The content of this brief video came from children who wanted to share with educators how their brain works and offer simple ways teachers can help.[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTMLzXzgB\_s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTMLzXzgB_s)**Technology and Interactive Media as Tools in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children (0-8)** This joint position statement from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Fred Rogers Center provides guidance on how to thoughtfully use technology and media to support learning. Although not developed as a guide for families, the information here may be helpful to inform decisions.[**https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/topics/PS\_technology\_WEB.pdf**](https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/topics/PS_technology_WEB.pdf) **Using Technology to Support Learning (0-8)** The Technology in Early Childhood Center at Erikson Institute has lots of resources to support the intentional, appropriate, and effective use of technology and interactive media with young children.**Want more information about this domain?** Check out the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) online at [**http://education.vermont.gov/documents/edu-early-education-vels.pdf**](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/edu-early-education-vels.pdf) The Approaches to Learning section starts on page 23.**Want more free resources related to this domain?** An annotated collection of free resources related to the approaches to learning domain is available at [**http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vels-institute**](http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vels-institute)It includes free evidence sources, print materials, videos, websites and more.  |
| **The Right Stuff** is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features a domain of the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) and resources for supporting the learning and development of young children, birth to Grade 3, in that domain. All resources are evidence-based, readily available and free. All or part of **The Right Stuff** may be freely shared or reproduced. **The Right Stuff** is compiled by Camille Catlett. It is supported by a contract from the Vermont Agency of Education. Funding is provided through the Vermont Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant.To join the listserv, send an email **with no message** to **subscribe-the\_right\_stuff\_listserv@listserv.unc.edu**To suggest resources, please contact Camille Catlett at **camille.catlett@unc.edu** |