

# Vermont's Literacy Resources

## Statewide Programs for All Ages

Updated September 2016



### **Building Bright Futures (BBF)**

[www.buildingbrightfutures.org](http://www.buildingbrightfutures.org)  
802.876.5010

Early literacy is a key ingredient in building academic success and good life-long outcomes. Building Bright Futures (BBF) serves a dual role as both Vermont's Early Childhood Advisory Council and 501(c)(3) statewide network, aligning local solutions of twelve local councils with policy at the state level in order to make improvements in access, quality, and affordability of early care, health, and education for families and young children. The twelve Regional Councils are a major artery of communications, planning and organizing, resulting in coordinated and strategic actions toward improvement of the child and family service-delivery system. Join a local early childhood council near you! To find the nearest council, go to our website and click your region on the map.



### **Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF)**

[www.clifonline.org](http://www.clifonline.org)  
802.244.0944

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to nurturing a love of reading and writing among children throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. CLiF's programs target low-income, at-risk, and rural children up to age twelve. Its many free programs have served almost 200,000 children in more than 400 communities across the Twin states. Each year CLiF provides inspiring writing workshops, author visits, storytelling, seminars, more than half a million dollars in new books, and other forms of literacy support to many groups including children in rural towns, refugee children, children in shelters and low-income housing, children in childcare centers, children of prison inmates, families with newborns, and many others.

### **Everybody Wins! Vermont (EW!VT)**

[www.ewvt.org](http://www.ewvt.org)  
802.229.BOOK (2665)

Everybody Wins! Vermont (EW!VT) is a children's literacy and mentoring organization dedicated to encouraging positive attitudes about reading in elementary school children. Reading Mentor volunteers are paired with students at 24 elementary schools in the state to promote reading for pleasure, build self-confidence and enhance self-esteem in children, and to serve as caring adult role models. EW!VT provides books, training materials, orientations, and ongoing support for mentor pairs. EW!VT also organizes periodic enrichment events for parents/guardians and mentors in order to support their efforts in fostering a love of reading and language.

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## Mother Goose Programs

[www.mothergooseprograms.org](http://www.mothergooseprograms.org)

802.875.2751

Mother Goose Programs are learning opportunities from the Vermont Center for the Book. Mother Goose Programs provide adults with picture books, activity guides, hands-on learning materials, training and resources to transform reading with preschool children into multidimensional, standards-based and powerful learning experiences. New in 2015: *More Than Feelings: Social Emotional Development in Young Children* and *I-2-3 Read to Me: Early Mathematics for Young Children*, both developed for early childhood educators who care for infants and toddlers. Both programs include picture books, resources and materials for families.



## The Northern Lights Career Development Center

<http://northernlightscdc.org>

802.828.2876

The Northern Lights Career Development Center works with the Child Development Division and Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) to help early childhood and afterschool professionals in Vermont. Northern Lights staff work with sponsors of training, instructors, and other partners to make available high-quality professional development activities and provide career advising. Staff of early childhood and afterschool programs use Northern Lights services to find resources, identify training in the BFIS statewide course calendar, track their professional development activities, achieve certificates and credentials and find their best career pathways.



## Reach Out and Read New England (MA, VT, CT, NH)

[www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org)

617.455.0614

Reach Out and Read doctors prepare America's youngest children to succeed in school by prescribing books and encouraging families to read together. We incorporate Reach Out and Read's evidence-based model into regular pediatric checkups by advising parents about the importance of reading aloud and giving developmentally appropriate books to children. The program begins from birth, at the first checkup, and continues through age five, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities. Families served by Reach Out and Read read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies, stronger language skills and a six-month developmental edge. Currently there are 35 Reach Out and Read Programs in Vermont. To find out which pediatric and family practice clinics, health centers, and private practices are participating, please contact us.

where great stories begin™



## Stern Center for Language and Learning

[www.sterncenter.org](http://www.sterncenter.org)

802.878.2332

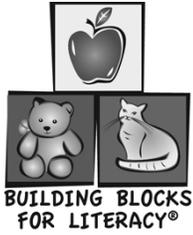
The Stern Center is a nonprofit organization with locations in Williston, Vermont and West Lebanon, New Hampshire. We have an extensive Professional Learning program, offered through the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence within the Stern Center, providing a range of opportunities in structured literacy, social cognition, executive function and systems analysis for school change for both educators and school districts. In addition, our multidisciplinary staff provide evaluations and instruction in all areas of learning, including reading, writing, spelling, math, social cognition and study skills for children, adolescents, and adults.

### Building Blocks for Literacy

[www.buildingblocksforliteracy.org](http://www.buildingblocksforliteracy.org)

The Stern Center's Building Blocks for Literacy® program provides early care and education providers, and parents of preschoolers, research-based early literacy strategies. In addition to live professional trainings, parent workshops and undergraduate and graduate courses, strategies can be accessed online for free.

A small fee applies to those seeking a certificate.



## VSA Vermont

[www.vsavt.org](http://www.vsavt.org)

802.655.7735

VSA Vermont is a statewide nonprofit devoted to arts and disability. Our Start with the Arts Program is an inclusive arts based-early literacy program, targeting children ages 0-5, which offers supportive onsite mentoring free to 36 home based childcare sites and six center-based sites each year, representing every county of Vermont. Participating child care providers earn 20 Professional Development hours upon completion of the program; six of these can be used for advanced specialized care training.



## Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VAEYC)

[www.vaeyc.org](http://www.vaeyc.org)

802.244.6282

As the Vermont affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, VAEYC's mission is to enhance the quality of early childhood programs and professional practices, and advocate for young children (birth through 8 years) and their families in order to realize the promise of every Vermont child. Our membership numbers over 550, and includes anyone who cares about the education and well-being of young children. VAEYC uses a three level approach in working to achieve our mission. Our Quality Improvement Project supports early care and education programs in their quality improvement efforts through mentoring and technical assistance. VAEYC also seeks to impact the quality of the early care and education workforce by providing

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professional development experiences that elevate their professional knowledge. One example is our \*NEW\* T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont Scholarship Project, helping to support early childhood professionals working in regulated child care attain degrees in our field. Lastly, VAEYC seeks to improve VT's early care and education system through advocacy and systems building efforts including our participation in VT's Early Childhood Alliance and the committees of Building Bright Futures State Early Childhood Council.



## Vermont Humanities Council

www.vermonthumanities.org  
802.262.2626

Vermont Humanities Council offers free, lively, interactive workshops that promote a lifelong love of reading—Never Too Early professional development for early care and education providers, and Read With Me programs for parents of children from birth to age six. Participants discover ways to make books come alive that encourage language development and communication, and receive books to take home. Other humanities-based literacy programs reach middle school students, incarcerated adults and adult literacy students. An annual statewide one-book community reading program involves readers of many ages and backgrounds. VHC programs also include book discussions, speaker events, conferences and a grants program that supports humanities projects of other nonprofit organizations.



## Vermont Public Libraries Vermont Department of Libraries

<http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries>  
802.828.3261

Vermont's 183 public libraries provide a wealth of free resources and services for citizens of all ages to support literacy and lifelong learning activities. With a free public library card, citizens can borrow books, magazines, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs, and can access (from any computer with Internet access) free downloadable ebooks and audiobooks, online subscription-based resources, and self-paced online classes. Libraries also offer public computers with Internet access, public wifi, digital literacy assistance, and a wide variety of public programs for children, teens and adults. Check out your local public library! For more information about Vermont's public libraries and to see a directory of libraries statewide, log on to <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/>.



## Vermont Early Literacy Initiative

Begun in 2010, the Department of Libraries (VTLIB) and the Vermont Center for the Book (VCB) have partnered on a statewide research-based early literacy initiative for birth to age five called the Vermont Early Literacy Initiative (VELI). Librarians in more than 60 public libraries have been trained to bring early literacy, language and math information and activities to their communities through storytimes, programs for parents and workshops for childcare providers. The training combines the Vermont Center for the Book's "Beginning with Mother Goose" program with the American Library Association's "Every Child Ready to Read" program, customized for Vermont.

## Adult Education and Literacy Services



Four non-profit organizations known as the **Learning Works** partners provide free adult basic education and literacy services for Vermont adults and youth (age 16 and over) who need:

- Basic literacy skills: reading, writing, math
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- Preparation and testing for high school diploma and GED credential
- Academic skill readiness for work, college and/ or technical training

### **Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (CVABE)**

Serving Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties

Central Office  
46 Washington Street, Suite 100  
Barre, VT 05641  
802.476.4588 • [www.cvabe.org](http://www.cvabe.org)

### **Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS)**

Serving Essex, Orleans and Caledonia Counties

Central Office  
55 Seymour Lane, Suite 11  
Newport, VT 05855  
802.334.6532 • [www.nekls.org](http://www.nekls.org)

### **The Tutorial Center**

Serving Bennington County

Central Office  
208 Pleasant Street, Bennington, VT 05201  
802.447.0111 • [www.tutorialcenter.org](http://www.tutorialcenter.org)

### **Vermont Adult Learning (VAL)**

Serving Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor counties

Central Office  
60 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676  
802.244.0634 • [www.vtadultlearning.org](http://www.vtadultlearning.org)

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## Finding Local Resources



### Vermont Agency of Education

[www.education.vermont.gov](http://www.education.vermont.gov)  
802.479.1030 General information  
802.479.1405 Literacy contact

The mission of the Vermont Agency of Education is to provide leadership and support to help all Vermont students achieve excellence. The AOE offers a wide variety of programs and services in support of Vermont's students, teachers, educators, administrators, families, and community members.



### Vermont 2-1-1

[www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org)  
Dial 2-1-1

Every day, someone in Vermont needs to find essential community services, an after-school program, a food shelf, or help with care for an aging parent. Often Vermonters facing these challenges don't know where to turn for help. The solution is to dial 2-1-1. Vermont 2-1-1 contact specialists help people find the information they need and make referrals to human services for everyday needs and in times of crisis. An easy-to-remember number, a confidential conversation, and a helpful start to finding a solution, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



### Help Me Grow Vermont

Dial 2-1-1 to reach Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow Vermont (HMGVT), a project of Vermont's Early Learning Challenge grant, is a statewide system that helps identify at-risk children and link those children and their families to existing community-based services and supports. Help Me Grow supports collaboration between health and mental health providers, early care and education professionals, human service providers, and families in order to better identify and address the needs of children. HMGVT also provides easy access to accurate and up-to-date parenting education information. Vermont 2-1-1 is the centralized telephone access point staffed by trained Child Development Specialists who answer parent and caregiver questions about their children's development; offers tools to families for tracking developmental milestones; and connect families to the necessary resources in their communities, including Children's Integrated Services. Help Me Grow is a statewide resource that all parents and caregivers of children birth to eight will find valuable.