EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Each of these organizations has dues paying members who receive benefits. Some of the benefits include access to services, a professional journal, membership card, discounts at the organization’s conferences, etc.

The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) reaches out to educators working with children from infancy to adolescence around the world. Their mission is to promote and support in the global community the optimal education and development of children... and to influence the professional growth of educators and the efforts of others who are committed to the needs of children in a changing society. http://www.acei.org/

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is an organization of early childhood professionals and others dedicated to improving the quality of early childhood education programs for children birth through age eight. http://www.naeyc.org

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) The mission of NAFCC is to support the profession of family child care and to encourage high quality care for children. NAFCC does this through accreditation, leadership training, technical assistance, public education, and policy initiatives. NAFCC holds an annual national conference and publishes a quarterly newsletter. http://www.nafcc.org

North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) This network of educators, parents, and advocates seek to elevate both the quality of life and quality of schools and centers for young children. Its work is inspired by Laurence Malaguzzi, the former director of the early childhood schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Its goals are to serve as a conduit for dialogue, to strengthen professional relationships, and to strengthen access to professional development. It has professional journals, an annual conference and other means for members to exchange and share practice and ideas. http://www.reggioalliance.org/

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) The mission of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, is to improve the lives of our members and their families, to give voice to their legitimate professional, economic and social aspirations, to strengthen the institutions in which we work, to improve the quality of the services we provide, to bring together all members to assist and support one another and to promote democracy, human rights and freedom in our union, in our nation and throughout the world. Members include teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; local, state and federal employees; higher education faculty and
staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals, and retirees. If you are not eligible to join the union or are a student, you may be eligible for AFT's associate member program. AFT recognizes early childhood educators and child care providers and the Center for the Child Care Workforce is affiliated with the AFT. [http://www.aft.org/](http://www.aft.org/)

**Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)** The mission of the CEC, a world-wide organization, is to improve educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities. It includes a Division for Early Childhood (DEC) focused on professionals working with children with special needs ages birth to age six. Members include teachers, administrators, students, parents, paraprofessionals, and related support service providers. [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

**Vermont Childcare Providers Association (VCCPA)** VCCPA is a state-wide not for profit professional organization offering peer support as well as access to information and resources for early childhood professionals. Contact: VCCPA: [http://www.vccpa.org/Home_Page.html](http://www.vccpa.org/Home_Page.html) Cheryl Wells, President 802-796-4180

**Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council (VCCICC)** is a state-wide not-for-profit membership organization supports Vermont’s children, families, communities, schools and businesses by promoting the highest quality child care for young and school age children through the recruitment, development, mentoring and retention of qualified child care professionals. [www.vtchildcareindustry.org](http://www.vtchildcareindustry.org)