

What is the Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center?



Northern Lights is the hub and connector of the professional development system in Vermont for early childhood and afterschool professionals.

OUR GOALS:

- Provide clear information and resources about professional development and career pathways.
- Enhance and align the components of a user-friendly professional development system.
- Increase opportunities for professional development and career advancement.
- Make Vermont's professional development system as effective as possible.



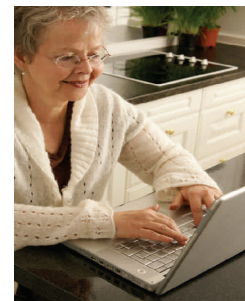
"The more I can learn, the better off I'll be, the more I can help the kids I'm with."
- Vermont early childhood professional

CALL US!

For individual career guidance, support and information

(802) 828-2876
(Montpelier)
OR
(802) 885-8374
(Springfield)

and use our website below.



Northern Lights is hosted by the Community College of Vermont and the Vermont Child Care Industry and Careers Council & Funded by the Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families, Vermont Agency of Human Services, and others.

WE HELP EARLY CHILDHOOD AND AFTERSCHOOL PROFESSIONALS:

- Understand where they are on the Career Ladder
- Determine their career pathway
- Develop their professional development plan
- Find relevant, quality training, coursework and support
- Pay for courses and training
- Keep track of their professional development activities
- Find resources, networking and advocacy groups related to professional development

WE HELP INSTRUCTORS:

- Join Vermont's Instructor Registry
- Market and track the instruction they offer
- Support their ongoing development as instructors

WE HELP SPONSORS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Locate approved instructors
- Provide professional development activities that are advertised, verified and tracked for providers through the Bright Futures Information System (BFIS)
- Stay current on the needs and interests of the field

For more information visit our website
<http://northernlightscdc.org>

See the reverse side for more information on the Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center

Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center (Continued)



Professional development is anchored to five CORE KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

- Child/Youth Development
- Families and Communities
- Teaching and Learning/Curriculum
- Healthy and Safe Environments
- Program Organization and Professionalism

The Core Knowledge areas are divided into *subheadings*, and *competencies* describe the knowledge and skills in each area.

The Core Knowledge and Competencies build to form a common Career Ladder or Pathway. They set the standards for professionals in the field, and are used by instructors, individuals and sponsors planning professional development.

CERTIFICATES are awarded for each Level of the Career Ladder or Pathway completed. These also align with recognition bonuses from the Child Development Division, Teaching Staff Qualifications for STARS program applicants, and child care licensing regulations.

CREDENTIALS stem from the Career Ladder and Pathways. They recognize specialized knowledge and skills. Vermont's early childhood and afterschool credentials include:

- Program Director Credential
- Afterschool Professional Credential
- Early Childhood Family Mental Health Credential

SOME OF OUR MANY PARTNERS ARE:

- Vermont Child Development Division
- Vermont Agency of Education
- Community Child Care Support Agencies
- The Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VAEYC)
- Vermont Afterschool Inc.
- Vermont's Child Care Industry and Careers Council
- Higher Education Institutions

"I just realized that there is a common link between Course Calendar, the Core Competencies, and the Documentation of Professional Development Form. They all use the same five Core Knowledge Areas!"

- Child Care Apprentice student



Did You Know...?

Northern Lights supports the Child Development Division online data management system: *Bright Futures Information System (BFIS)*
<http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd>

Northern Lights booklets

- *Your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP)*
- *Career Advising Guide*

Knowledge and Competency booklets:

- *Core Knowledge and Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals*
- *Core Competencies for Afterschool Professionals*
- *Vermont's Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Competencies*
- *Competencies for Program Directors of Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs*

Find these booklets, Northern Lights fact sheets and more on our website.



Vermont Northern Lights Career Development Center
PO Box 489, 660 Elm Street
Montpelier, VT 05601
(802)828-2876