



The State
Organization on
Arts and Disability

Start With The Arts

Intensive mentoring/professional development for childcare providers AND arts-based literacy activities for children of all abilities



....improving the statewide capacity in foundations of learning for Vermont's children, ages birth - 5

Start With The Arts meets these 3 needs...

1. Need for accessible & quality professional development (PD) training for childcare providers.

- 46% of childcare providers are on some form of public assistance.
- Most PD programs do not meet the accessibility needs of home-based and small, center-based providers.

2. Need for children to be ready for school.

- 38% of VT's children were deemed "not ready" for kindergarten in 2012-2013 in all 5 developmental areas.
- 20% of VT's children ages birth to 4 years live in poverty, a key factor influencing school readiness.

3. Need for quality childcare programs.

- Over 70% of children under 5 years are in the care of someone other than their parents for a part of the day.
- 15,000 children are in a childcare programs.
- VT's 2017 goal is that 95% of childcare programs will participate in STARS—**ST**ep **A**head **R**ecognition **S**ystem; presently only 50% participate.





Start With The Arts partnerships contribute to meeting Vermont goals

SWTA Partners	Partner Provides	VSA VT Provides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT Birth-3 Initiative • Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children • Vermont Child Care Provider Association • Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals • Mentors to help providers with STARS paperwork & PD plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training hours applicable to STARS • Face-to-face connection between mentors and providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VT State Division of Child Development • Northern Lights Career Development Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes VSA VT artists to teach • Authorizes training hours • Tracks our training for the Early Childhood Data Reporting System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training that meets the access needs of childcare providers • Training that contributes to meeting State goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Bright Futures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population information • Needs, resources, and results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info on training resources • Data for monitoring population results



VSA Vermont (VSA VT) and Results-Based Accountability

In order to measure our results and improve our program, we use the 3 guiding questions of Results-Based Accountability (RBA):

- 1. How much do we do? (quantity)***
- 2. How well do we do it? (quality)***
- 3. Is anyone better off? (quality)***

Start With The Arts for Home-based Childcare Providers

Each year, **36 home-based childcare providers** representing every county in Vermont:

- Receive **28 hours of professional development**, sustained over a 7-month period
- View **12 model literacy lessons** provided by trained teaching-artists in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and arts-integration methods.
- Create, deliver, and document **16 of their own weekly** arts-based literacy activities.
- Use their **20 training hours for STARS applications, Specialized Care credits**, or for higher education or cohort leadership roles.

Each year, **200 children** from Birth to 5 years receive **28 weekly read-aloud** experiences of fine children's literature **followed by** varied experiences in **music, dance, drama and visual arts** to help children of all abilities **extend their engagement with books**.





Start With The Arts for Center-based Childcare Providers

Each year, **6 small licensed, low-resource, center-based childcare programs** across Vermont:

- ❑ Receive **26 hours of professional development**, sustained over a 3-month period
- ❑ View **9 model literacy lessons** delivered by trained teaching-artists in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and arts-integration methods.
- ❑ Create, deliver, and document **11 of their own** arts- based literacy activities.
- ❑ Use their **20 training hours for STARS applications, Specialized Care credits**, or for higher education or cohort leadership roles.

Each year, **85 children** from Birth to 5 years receive **20 weekly read-aloud** experiences of fine children's literature **followed by** varied experiences in **music, dance, drama and visual arts** to help children of all abilities **extend their engagement with books.**



SWTA resolves challenges in improving quality childcare

(as identified in 2011 Early Childhood Professional Development Survey by VT State Child Development Division)

Challenge	SWTA 's Program Solution
Cost	There is no cost to providers for SWTA.
Location	SWTA takes place on site with the provider's children.
Time	SWTA is scheduled individually with each provider.
Access to an advisor/mentor	SWTA provides 26 to 28 one-on-one contact hours over 3 to 7 months with connection to mentors from VB3, VAEYC, or VCPA.
Advanced Training	SWTA has 6 State authorized Advanced Level Training Hours for Specialized Care Status .

Results-Based Accountability: Start With The Arts (SWTA)

The major goal of SWTA is to prepare children to be ready for school by improving the quality of childcare programs.

Quantity	Quality
<p>20 hours training in arts-based literacy provided per childcare provider.</p> <p>42 childcare providers enrolled per year: 36 home-based and 6 center-based providers</p> <p>9 to 12 hours of arts-based literacy activities provided per child by SWTA instructors</p> <p>11 to 16 hours of arts-based literacy activities provided per child by childcare providers</p> <p>285 children enrolled per year</p>	<p>100% training access challenges identified by childcare providers resolved: SWTA training is cost-free to providers, scheduled individually includes advanced level training and is provided via intensive sustained on-site mentorship</p> <p>95% enrolled childcare providers complete training in arts-based literacy and rate training as positive experience</p> <p>100% activities for children include quality children's literature followed by activities in music, dance, visual arts and drama</p>
<p>43 to 44 childcare providers create, deliver and document their own 16-week arts-based literacy curriculum over a four-month period</p> <p>32 childcare providers use SWTA credits to gain STARS points</p> <p>7 childcare providers use SWTA advanced credits for Specialized Care status</p> <p>256 children measured in pre- and post- observations improve in VT Early Learning Standards</p>	<p>95% childcare providers create, deliver and document their own 16-week arts-based literacy curriculum over a four-month period</p> <p>70% childcare providers use SWTA hrs to gain STARS points</p> <p>15% childcare providers use SWTA advanced credits for Specialized Care status</p> <p>90% children measured in pre- and post observations improve in VT Early Learning Standards in: Language Development, Early Reading and Creative Expression.</p>



Measuring Our Results

Over the past 8 years, 1600+ children and 275+ childcare providers have completed the Start With The Arts (SWTA) program. Here are the latest results:

Outcome Goals: Is anyone better off?	2014 Spring Center Results	2014 Spring Home Results
<u>95%</u> of childcare staff will create, deliver, and document their own arts-based literacy curriculum	100%	94%
<u>70%</u> of childcare sites will use SWTA PD training hours to gain STARS points	100%	89%
<u>15%</u> of childcare sites will use SWTA PD training hours for Advanced Specialized Care Status	33%	15%
<u>90%</u> of children measured in pre- and post- observations will improve in Early Learning Standards in Language Development, Early Reading, & Creative Expression	90%	98%



VSA Vermont **thanks....**

Start With The Arts financial partners:

- A.D. Henderson Foundation
- **Ben and Jerry's Foundation**
- Franklin/Grand Isle Building Bright Futures
- Jane B. Cook 1983 Charitable Trust
- Maximus Foundation
- National Life Group Foundation
- Oakland Foundation
- The Marks Family Foundation
- Vermont Children's Trust Foundation
- Vermont State Division of Child Development



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