

# Vermont's Early Learning Challenge

## Fast Facts for Families

### What is it?

Vermont's Early Learning Challenge – Race to the Top Grant (ELC) is a \$36.9 federally funded, four year grant to help all young children in Vermont be ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. The grant empowers families to understand and meet the developmental needs of their children and helps families access high-quality services.

### What will it do?



VT 2-1-1 will host a Help Me Grow phone line for families seeking information, support, resources, and referrals related to early childhood health, education, and care.

Create a family guide to the revised VT Early Learning Standards to inform parents about children's learning and development from birth through Grade 3.



Expand high-quality home visiting services to pregnant women and young children and help support parents as their children's first teachers.

Increase developmental screening and ongoing child assessments across health, education, and care settings, so that parents can easily understand and track their child's development.



Train more child care and education professionals to use the Strengthening Families model, which promotes a family's strengths, engages families in their child's development, and connects them with services as needed.

Provide strategies for families to use in supporting their child's social, emotional, and behavioral development



Identify Promise Communities in rural areas, which will work to better assist young children and families, in order to create improved outcomes for children with high needs.

Help families create smooth transitions for their children across early childhood and kindergarten through third grade.

### Why does it matter?

The Early Learning Challenge grant supports early learning and the healthy physical, social, and emotional development of children with high needs. By improving the quality of early learning and development programs, making services more accessible to everyone, and helping families support their children's development, the grant lays the foundation for the future success of all Vermont's children.



Feedback from the early childhood community is critical to the success of the grant. For more information visit <http://buildingbrightfutures.org/early-learning-challenge/> or contact:

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