



Building Bright Futures

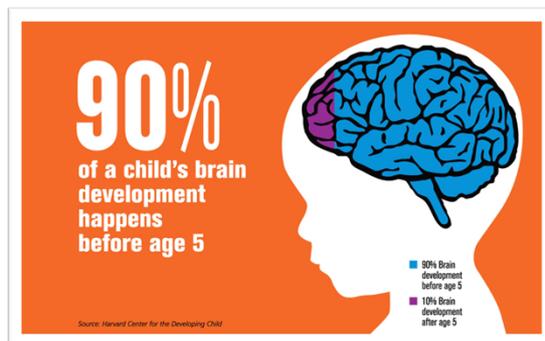
Building Bright Futures (BBF) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization formalized in Vermont state statute Act 104 in 2010 and designated as the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council. BBF is charged with specific responsibilities for improving the quality of services for families and young children by planning, coordinating, integrating and promoting proven-effective early childhood practice, forward-thinking policies, public information and resources at the state and regional levels.



Building Bright Futures, 600 Blair Park, Suite 306, Williston, VT 05495
802-876-5010 | buildingbrightfutures.org
Facebook: BuildingBrightFuturesSAC | Twitter: @BldgBrightFutur

WHY IS EARLY CHILDHOOD IMPORTANT?

Advances in neuroscience confirm that a child's brain develops critical cognitive functions between birth and five-years-old.



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From *How Are Vermont's Young Children 2014*.

EARLY EXPERIENCES MATTER

Early experiences affect the quality of brain architecture

Without high-quality early childhood education, children are:

 **25%** More likely to drop out of school

 **40%** More likely to become a teen parent

 **50%** More likely to be placed in special ed

 **60%** Less likely to attend college

 **70%** More likely to be arrested

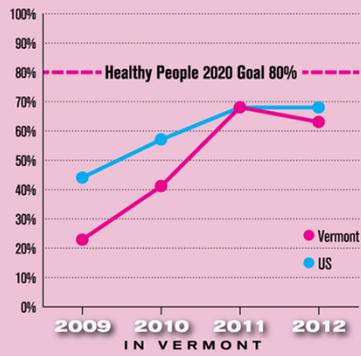


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Immunizations Rate

In 2012, 63% of children under three years of age in Vermont received the full series of recommended vaccines.

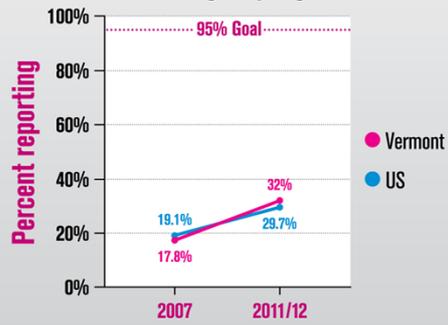


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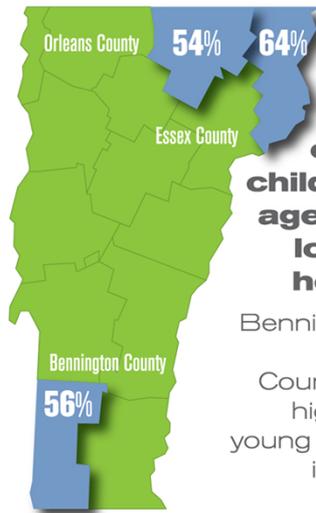
Developmental Screening

Vermont has set a goal that 95% of all children will receive developmental screenings by age 5.



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41%
of Vermont
children under
age six live in
low-income
households

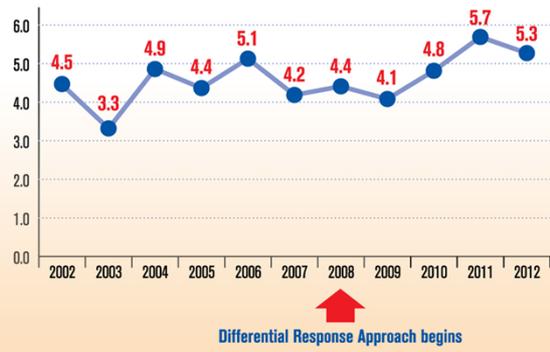
Bennington, Essex,
 and Orleans
 Counties have the
 highest rates of
 young children living
 in low-income
 households

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2002-2012 Child Abuse & Neglect Rate Increase

New Children Under Age Six in DCF Custody
out of Every 1,000 Children



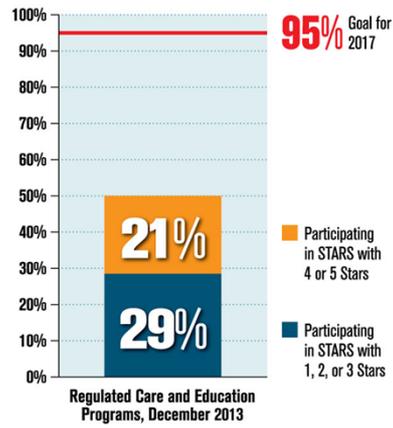
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The Vital Link: Early Childhood Investment is the First Step to College, Career and Citizenship Readiness

<p>VT children in kindergarten were not ready in five areas</p>		<p>Kindergarten Readiness In order to be successful in school and in life, children must meet milestones in a range of developmental areas. But a new analysis shows that by age 8, most children in the United States are not on track in cognitive knowledge and skills, and many lag in the areas of social and emotional growth, physical well-being and engagement in school.⁸⁹ Thirty-eight percent of Vermont children entering kindergarten in 2012-13 school year were not ready in all five developmental areas: cognitive development, communication, social-emotional development, approaches to learning and physical health and well-being.</p>
<p>Vermont Third Graders reading below grade level</p>		<p>3rd Graders Reading at Grade Level Third grade achievement is a reliable predictor of high school graduation. Why is third grade so important? It's when children make the leap from learning to read to reading to learn. At that point, children must read well in order to understand other subjects. Up to half of the printed fourth grade curriculum, for example, is incomprehensible to students who read below that grade level.⁹¹ An estimated 32% of Vermont third graders (2011-12 school year) are reading below grade level. For children in families eligible for the free and reduced lunch program, the rate of children reading below grade level jumps to 45%.</p>
<p>The majority of VT students graduate high school on time</p>		<p>High School Graduation is an important starting point for job/career readiness. Eighty-eight percent of Vermont high school freshman in public schools go on to graduate on time.⁹³ The Vermont cohort graduation rate has remained consistent between 2004-05 and 2011-12 school years with rates of 87.18% and 87.63% respectively.⁹⁴ In 2011-2012, seven high schools fall below an 80% rate and twenty-three schools are above a 90% rate.</p>
<p>The majority of Vermont jobs will require a college education</p>		<p>College Education According to a recent analysis by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce indicates that 62% of Vermont jobs will require a postsecondary education by 2018.⁹⁵ Through Act 38 (2009) the VT legislature established the goal of 60% of the population have at least an associates degree by 2025.⁹⁶ There has been very minimal growth towards achieving this goal. Forty-five percent of the state's 339,520 working age adults (25-64 years) hold at least a two years associates degree. Chittenden has the highest percentage with 59% and Orleans and Essex counties with the lowest share, 29% and 26% respectively.</p>

Vermont's Participation in STARS



**Percent of Care and Education
Programs with 4-5 STARS**
by AHS District, 2013

Agency of Human Services Districts	% Licensed Centers and Registered Homes with 4-5 Stars <small>(December 2013)</small>	% Licensed Centers with 4-5 Stars <small>(December 2013)</small>	% Licensed Homes with 4-5 Stars <small>(December 2013)</small>
Vermont	22.39%	45.40%	4.68%
Barre	13.26%	32.43%	0.00%
Bennington	22.77%	48.78%	5.00%
Brattleboro	32.05%	50.00%	6.25%
Burlington	25.94%	45.12%	5.77%
Hartford	20.18%	31.34%	2.38%
Middlebury	31.00%	64.44%	3.64%
Morrisville	22.22%	47.37%	3.85%
Newport	22.50%	38.46%	14.81%
Rutland	22.88%	47.06%	3.53%
Springfield	28.57%	50.00%	9.09%
St. Albans	15.05%	56.10%	3.45%
St. Johnsbury	22.47%	50.00%	5.45%

2013 Vermont Basic Needs Budget

The average Vermont family with 2 children must spend \$77,880 a year to meet only their basic needs. The median Vermont family household income is \$54,168.

Category	Two Working Parents with Two Children (Rural) Cost estimates per month	Two Working Parents with Two Children (Urban) Cost estimates per month
Food	995	995
Housing (including utilities)	923	1,029
Transportation	1,174	947
Child Care	990	1,075
Personal and Household Expenses	653	653
Health & Dental Care	482	482
Insurance & Savings	324	318
Taxes	950	935
	\$6,490	\$6,434

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The JFO estimates the basic needs budget for a 2 child- 2 parent family must earn annually: \$77,880

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

BBF supports 12 Regional Councils

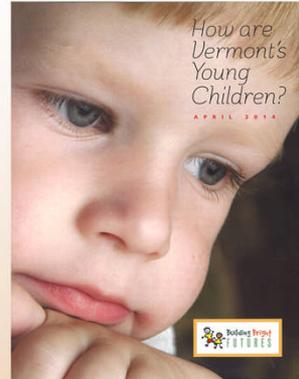


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...and their ability to promote the importance of early childhood through technical support, funding, statewide action planning and other philanthropic, state, federal and local grants directed toward local communities.

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

BBF monitors,
tracks and
reports data



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...to the public about the well-being of Vermont's young children and their families through the data portal **Vermont Insights**, public education and publications like our annual report, ***How Are Vermont's Young Children?***

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

BBF advises

the administration and state legislature about Vermont's young children and their families



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...the administration and state legislature about Vermont's young children and their families through our annual report, ***How Are Vermont's Young Children?***

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

BBF Coordinates Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan

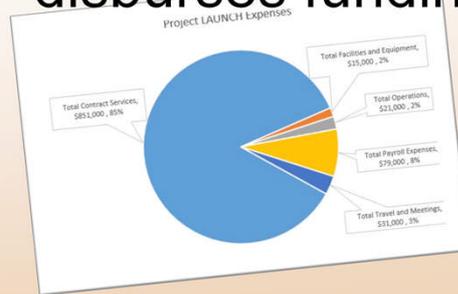


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...at the state and regional level.

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

BBF pursues, accepts and disburses funding



...according to Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan.



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...according to Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan. (For example: Project LAUNCH, with \$851,000 per year to 10 agencies for five years.)

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

BBF educates

...the public about the importance of investing in early care, health and education.



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...the public about the importance of investing in early care, health and education.

TO IMPROVE CHILD WELL-BEING....

Contact Building Bright Futures

BBF invites interested individuals from the public and private sectors to get involved with your area BBF Regional Council to promote the importance of early childhood. For a list of regional contacts, visit us online at **buildingbrightfutures.org**.

Or.....



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...the public about the importance of investing in early care, health and education.

The Building Bright Futures **Regional Councils** are a resource for understanding what Pre-K For All means for you and your community.

Contact the BBF **Regional Coordinator** near you.

Addison

Dana Anderson
(Middlebury) 802-349-5173

Bennington

Robin Stromgren
(Bennington) 802-447-2887

Caledonia & Southern Essex

Dawn Powers
(St. Johnsbury) 802-673-6478

Central Vermont

Becky Raymond
(Barre) 802-778-0875

Chittenden

Beth Truzansky
(Burlington) 802-876-373-8937

Franklin Grand Isle

Loli Berard
(St. Albans) 802-370-0838

Lamoille Valley

Steve Ames
(Morrisville) 802-279-7558

Northern Windsor & Orange

Sarah Buxton
(Hartford) 802-233-0274

Orleans & Northern Essex

Sylvie Corriveau
(Newport) 819-822-5740

Rutland

Peg Bolgioni
(Rutland) 802-353-3696

Springfield Area

Coming Soon
(Springfield) 802-876-5010

Southeast Vermont

Chad Simmons
(Brattleboro) 802-451-8627



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