

Librarians as Early Literacy Experts: Building Community Through Collaboration

Wendy Martin - VELI - Vermont Humanities
Susan O'Connell - Craftsbury Public Library
Sam Howard - Rockingham Free Public Library
Garrett Brinton - Cobleigh Public Library
Bree Drapa - Westford Public Library



Vermont Early Literacy Initiative (VELI)

Since 2010, VELI librarians have improved the cognitive content of their programming, elevated the traditional story hour into meaningful learning experiences for children, and provided engaging programs and resources for families with outreach to community child-care providers.

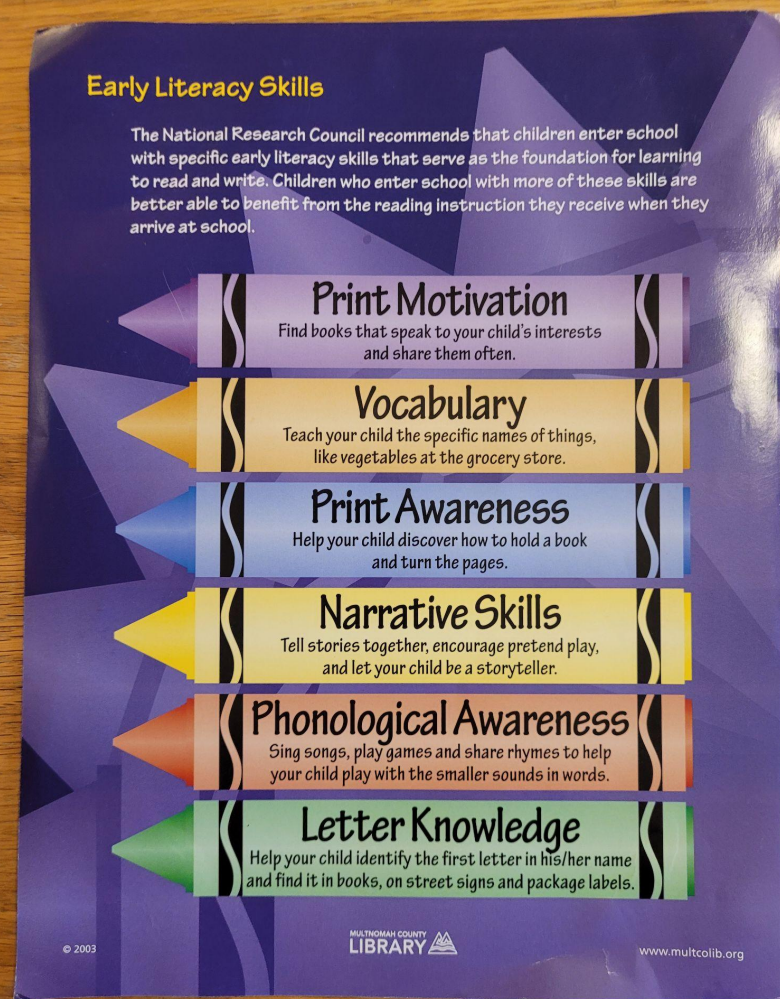
Going forward, VELI librarians share their expertise and knowledge gained through conferences and trainings.

VELI has been supported by the Vermont Department of Libraries and the Winnie Bell Learned Fund, the A.D. Henderson Foundation, and the Turrell Fund.

You're an Early Literacy Expert!

Make sure your community—library staff, trustees, families, caregivers—knows what you're doing during storytime.

Dropping in these “asides” during storytime is an excellent way to communicate your expertise in early literacy.



Communicating Expertise



LETTER KNOWLEDGE



IS KNOWING THAT
LETTERS HAVE
DIFFERENT NAMES AND
ARE RELATED TO
SPECIFIC SOUNDS.

Encourage
scribbling,
drawing,
and
writing.

Point out
the first
letter of
your
child's
name in
any
context
you see it.

Make
letters out
of sticks,
playdough,
food, sand.

Sing the
Alphabet
Song.

Make a letter
puzzle with
your child's
name.

Trace letters with your
finger, and encourage
your child to trace them,
too.

Collaborate



Weekly Playgroups



Family Programs and Events



**Greater
Falls**

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Community Connections



Cobleigh Public Library
NEKCA Lyndonville Early Head Start
NEKCA Family Resource Center
at Lyndon Institute

LISTEN!



[Video interview pertaining to intentionality and building community through early literacy. VELI w/ Wendy, Bree and Kate Hunter](#)

BUILDING





Build a Community with Us!

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