



# Vermont Birth to Five (VB5) & Vermont Center for the Book (VCB) 2014-2015 Social-Emotional Development of Infants & Toddlers Project Final Evaluation

## Background

A collaboration between VB5 and VCB, the goal of this project was to encourage healthy social-emotional development in children ages 0-3 and bring early literacy learning experiences, knowledge and concepts to them through the use of picture books, conversations and age-appropriate hands-on learning materials.

The project was implemented by two VB5 mentors with their cadre of mentees in three regions of the state, including the Hartford, Springfield and St. Johnsbury AHS Districts.

The following report uses the Results-Based Accountability™ (RBA) framework to provide a synopsis of the key project outcomes, including:

- How much was done (*the scope of the project*)
- How well it was done (*the quality of the experience of the providers who were involved*)
- Whether anyone was better off as a result of the project (*improvements in overall quality of child care, as well as improvements specifically around social-emotional appropriateness of child care and family practices*).

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## How Much?

- **Child care provider, child & family participation**
  - There were 75 child care providers who initially enrolled in the project.
  - The participating child care programs had a collective total enrollment of 529 children (*all ages*).
  - Out of those 529 children, there were 334 infants & toddlers who participated in the project.
  - Those 334 infants and toddlers were part of a total of 311 families.
- **Materials distributed to child care providers & families**
  - Materials were distributed to 75 child care providers.
  - Materials also were distributed to the 311 families with infants and toddlers, as well as another 24 families whose children were cared for by the participating providers.
- **Support given to providers**
  - 74 child care providers received an orientation, mentoring and/or technical assistance.
  - Participating providers received a total of 145.5 hours of support from the two VB5 mentors.
  - Provider training events were conducted as follows:
    - 16 child care providers attended training events
    - 2 professional development events were listed in the BFIS Course Registry
    - 28 professional development hours were awarded.

### **In their own words:**

- ❖ It was nice to have outside people here to share their perspectives. Great job!
- ❖ Love the great books and materials. So helpful to be shown how to use them and teaching techniques.



## How Well?

- **Quality of the Social-Emotional Development of Infants & Toddlers Project**
  - The project had a 99% retention rate, with 74 out of the 75 child care providers who enrolled completing the full project through Spring 2015.
  - 100% of post-survey \*respondents would participate in another program \*(99% of all participating child care providers)

### **In their own words:**

- ❖ Loved the information in the manual and the great books!!
- ❖ Love love love the books
- ❖ Love these great programs and amazing books!! I hope you will continue to offer more programs like this! Thank you!!
- ❖ I hope you offer more programs like this!!

## Is Anyone Better Off?

- **Improved quality of care**
  - STARS Enrollment
    - 74 child care providers were enrolled in STARS at the beginning of the project
    - 74 child care providers were enrolled in STARS at the completion of the project
    - 33 (45% of) providers increased levels in STARS from the time of beginning participation in Mother Goose project to the project's conclusion.
- **Improved social-emotional development practices with children**
  - 99% of survey respondents reported gaining new knowledge and/or perspective by participating in the project
  - 96% of survey respondents reported that they would apply what they learned from the project
  - 93% of survey respondents reported that they now completely understand social-emotional development terminology, such as self-regulation, attachment, empathy, executive function and belonging
  - 85% of participating providers now talk with children more often about showing emotions, making friends, resolving conflicts, solving problems, learning new things and other coping strategies
  - 85% of participating providers now tell and retell stories to the children in their care more often
  - 84% of participating providers now read books and talk with the children in their care more often.

### **In their own words:**

- ❖ I loved the program—it made me more "aware" of the children in my care. Their social emotional strengths and weaknesses and how I can better support them and their families. Thank you!!!



- **Improved communication with parents and parental support of child's early social-emotional development**

- 86% of participating providers now talk with parents more often about the early literacy activities and the activities to support healthy social-emotional development that they do with the children in their care (building relationships, developing empathy, resolving conflicts, solving problems, self-regulation, etc.)
- 74% of participating providers now hear feedback from parents more often related to reading books and doing things that support early literacy and healthy social-emotional development with their children.

**In their own words:**

- ❖ Loved the option for a parent night—parents gave great feedback and thanks for books.
- ❖ Excellent program! Really makes you think, feel and evaluate (or reevaluate) your program to best support what is in the best interest of the children/families in your care.

