

Building Vermont's Future From The Child Up Summit

October 3rd & 4th
Sugarbush Resort
1840 Sugarbush Access Road | Warren, Vermont

Building Bright Futures is hosting a Summit at Sugarbush on October 3rd and 4th at which participants will develop a blueprint for Vermont's future early care and learning system for ages 0-5. Developed by 300 diverse stakeholders using an Appreciative Inquiry process, this design will be presented to the legislature in January 2018, leading to positive change for Vermont's young children and families.

Why a Summit?

The summit builds on the great work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High Quality, Affordable Child Care (BRC). Last year, the BRC recommended that Vermont make immediate investments to strengthen our early care and learning system. The Commission also recognized the need for a statewide conversation looking at new opportunities in the way Vermont delivers, funds and governs early care and education. Building Bright Futures was tasked with starting that conversation.

The summit is an opportunity to bring Vermonters together to collectively design an early care and learning system that meets the needs of Vermont's children and families.

Who will be attending?

Invitees include the widest array of stakeholders possible to ensure that every voice is heard: Parents, early care and learning professionals, state agency leaders and staff, K-12 public education and higher education employees, philanthropists, health and mental health care professionals, business and non-profit leaders, and legislators will be in attendance.

Why it matters

Participants in the summit will:

- Make history by contributing to Vermont's statewide early childhood system change effort.
- Collaborate with cross-sector experts and innovators to create an early care and learning system that meets the needs of Vermont's children, families, and businesses.
- Inform proposed legislation and guide the work of post-summit implementation teams.
- Lead to significant and lasting positive change for Vermont's children.

What is Appreciative Inquiry?

Appreciative Inquiry is a framework used to approach complex systems change. Instead of focusing on weaknesses or problems to be solved, it emphasizes working from strengths to find new directions for growth. We will be using this framework for our Summit, which will be led in collaboration with the David L. Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry at Champlain College.

