

Vanderbilt Child & Family Center

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“Always be on the lookout for the presence of wonder”

– E. B. White

A note from the Executive Director

There is so much to be thankful for, but I am reflecting on my recent engagement with The Women’s Center’s Parent Group and a fun conversation about children’s books. I am knocked out by books and literature – an appreciator raised on weekly library visits! One of the most delightful discoveries for me when moving to Tennessee was Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school, no matter their family’s income. Books make the best gifts, but families are often overwhelmed when selecting them for children. Some helpful resources:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/about-us/>

<https://libguides.ala.org/recommended-reading/children>

Autumn offered our VCFC team a whirlwind of opportunity and activity. I am left feeling deeply grateful that life has positioned me to work and learn among colleagues for whom I have the deepest respect and admiration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Seabolt

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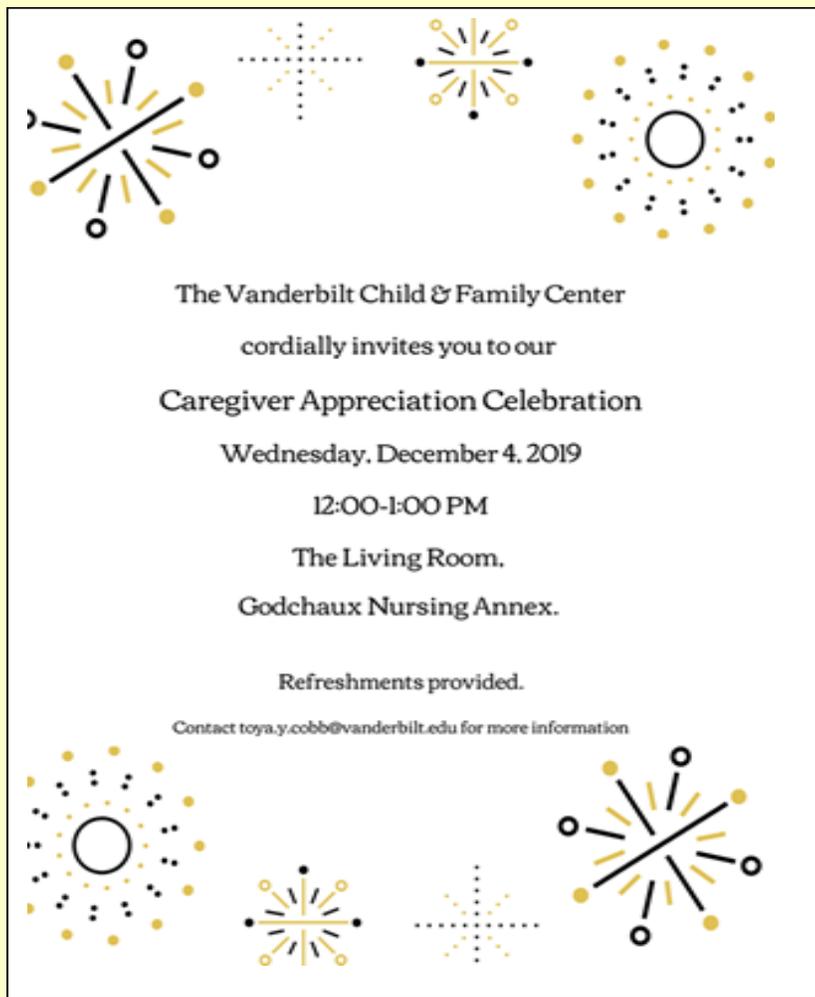
Over two years ago Chancellor Emeritus (and VCFC alumni parent) Nick Zeppos beautifully articulated this perception of our littlest learners as the youngest students at Vanderbilt University. VCFC teachers and administrators spent eighteen months reflecting on this strong concept appreciating the advocacy expressed in the highest halls of Vandy leadership for the Whole Child as an active protagonist in the construction of their own knowledge. The early childhood care and education program is founded upon social constructivist thinking theories and offers children an emergent curriculum. Play is celebrated as the most efficacious method for human learning. Our students use their prior experiences and conversations with others to create theories about the world in which they live, continuously experimenting supported by the nurture and guidance of their trusted teachers in an enriched learning environment deeply influenced by nature to support children's biophilia.

Inspired by the glorious arboreal campus and the metaphor of the oak, VCFC has developed new branding for the early childhood program with the support of the Division of Communications Marketing Solutions. VCFC is grateful to interim Chancellor Susan Wentz for visiting our learning community to engage with our students and teachers in celebration of our new name and enhanced identity during the week of its release!

Program design for the 2020-2021 School Year reflects the recommendations of the VCFC Advisory Task Force white paper published in April 2019 and the ongoing work of the VCFC Curriculum Committee. Program hours changes reflect usage analysis in Spring and Fall 2019 as well as content from the Vanderbilt University child care survey released campus wide in March 2019. Regular updates about The Acorn School are available to the university community at the VCFC website: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center/child-care-center/acornschool.php>



(Mission)
**The Acorn School
commitment to innovative
teaching in early childhood
education is founded upon
a vision of children as
capable and competent
citizens of the world
possessing an infinite
capacity for wonder and
discovery.**



Toya Cobb, M.Ed
Family Services Coordinator

VCFC is partnering with the Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee in 2020 to pilot several activities including caregiver topic lunch and learns and to beta test their Eldercare Coach services. Updates will go out through the VCFC Elders, Boomers and More! Newsletter released monthly.

VCFC continues to work across Vanderbilt to support each department to develop their lactation room spaces. If your manager needs support to understand how to best resource this room, please let them know VCFC is here to help. Current lactation room spaces can be found through the handy VCFC map at: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center/resource-quick-links/Lactation-Rooms.php>

Caregivers support their family and friends with elder support. It is important that this work is acknowledged and celebrated. If you or a colleague you know is providing and managing these essential supports encourage them to be seen and celebrated by joining VCFC for a Caregiver Appreciation Celebration on Wednesday, December 4th at 12:00 PM. Fun and fellowship and a little thank you swag!

Save the date! VCFC's annual Summer Camp Fair will take place on February 20, 2020.



Professional Development Means Leading!

“Professional development is a continuum of learning and support activities designed to prepare individuals for work with and on behalf of young children and their families, as well as ongoing experiences to enhance this work.” - National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)



VCFC recognizes that The Acorn School teachers bring considerable expertise to the work of early childhood care and education and can have impact on this important field including in support of colleagues and programs outside of our organization. The Acorn School seeks to resource meaningful engagement with other institutions of merit, ensuring that interested teachers have the opportunity to contribute to ECE research and child development and lead staff development.

Several of our teachers continue to move into these frameworks. Samantha Barclay will be featured in a model teaching video for Nashville’s Pre-K Professional Learning Program (sponsored by the Mayor’s office), and Katie Pettit and Pam McColl both presented at the national NAEYC conference this year. VCFC is very proud!

PARENTING GROUP

FALL 2019

SEPTEMBER 11
Gender Socialization

OCTOBER 3
Kids and Social Media

NOVEMBER 21
Books and Games for Kids

DECEMBER 12
Navigating School Choice

12:00–1:00 p.m.
BUTTRICK 123

Lunch provided on a
first-come basis

Questions? Please contact
womenctr@vanderbilt.edu.

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Child and Family Center
Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Parenting Group is coordinated by the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center and provides engaging topics through a lunch and learn format. VCFC is privileged to be a sponsoring partner for this family education initiative. The next event is December 12th at 12:00 PM on the topic of School Choice (MNPS will be represented.)