

# VCFC Family Newsletter

Summer 2019  
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Kathleen Seabolt, Ed.D. | Executive Director  
200 Appleton Place, Nashville, TN 37208  
Kathleen.c.seabolt@vanderbilt.edu | 615.322.8074

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**“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference” – Jane Goodall**

## A note from the Executive Director

Summer marks many transitions for VCFC programs. We say good-bye to our wonderful FSC, Alice Shi, and wish her and husband Henry safe travels and best wishes starting their family in Seattle. We reflect on cycles of transition and the opportunity for growth in change. Through graduations, promotions, relocations, and otherwise journeying through our ages and stages many Vanderbilt employees are experiencing change individually and within their families, in joy and in sorrow, across the spectrum of life. VCFC is committed to identifying resources for support to enable successful navigation of both subtle shifts and deeper transitions.

VCFC welcomes new teachers and families, and prepares to send K-Campers off to Kindergarten. Transitions, even positive events, can be an emotional time for adults and children alike, but we can be sensitive to how feelings change our behavior and the behavior of others. Managing and regulating our big emotions is an essential part of human growth and development. Kindness and consideration can be practiced to create a community of compassion.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Seabolt,*

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Parents exercise choice when they consider how they will best nourish their child. However, according to the CDC, most parents want to breastfeed but stop early due to a lack of ongoing support. Certain factors make the difference in whether and how long infants are breastfed. VCFC is committed to supporting parents that choose breastfeeding by identifying existing lactation rooms and advocating for departments to better resource and further develop this access for their employees. One effort is VCFC's participation in <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/> the August 1<sup>st</sup> – 7th. By highlighting this event through a variety of activities, VCFC seeks to engage the community of Vanderbilt to understand that this is not a women's issue, or a children's issue, but marks the opportune time to view this as a social justice issue with the opportunity to anchor Vanderbilt's practice in actions that reflect sustainability goals, parent-friendly values and gender-equitable social norms at all levels.

## **"Create a garden. Weave food into the curriculum." – Alice Waters**

Gardening is a sensory rich exploration for young children supporting their cognitive, physical and social-emotional development. Children see, hear, touch and smell the water, soil and plants, and there are many ways to safely engage their sense of taste. Often children are willing to try a new food if they grew it! Gardening promotes an inquiry-based curriculum for children to construct and apply their knowledge through curiosity, exploration, initiative, participation, persistence, and reasoning. It is an opportunity to reinforce children's mathematical and scientific thinking as they observe, predict, and analyze the relationship of soil, sun and water and the lifecycles of plants. VCFC is grateful for parent volunteers like Rebecca Allen who have dedicated their time and passions to help our students learn through the rich experience of Nature Education.



## Goodbye from Alice Shi: Family Services Coordinator

Vanderbilt Child and Family Center is taking a summer break to plan upcoming adult and elder care events for Fall 2019. We want to express our immense gratitude to all the organizations and speakers who spoke at our events in the Spring. Look out for announcements on our social media or future E-newsletters for information about the monthly Caregiver Support Group and Boomers, Elders, and More Speaker Series.

With a sad heart, I regret to announce that June will be my last full month at Vanderbilt University as the Family Services Coordinator. I will be relocating with my family to Seattle, WA and will truly miss the Vanderbilt community. I have enjoyed my time as the Family Services Coordinator facilitating all the support group and speaker series events, writing the monthly newsletters, and helping each of you who have e-mailed me regarding your elder care questions.

Taking over the role in the interim will be the amazing Toya Cobb, M.Ed., who some of you might have met at one of our events in April or May! Toya will be the main contact for our events in the Fall.

Starting June 24th we will have a new e-mail you can contact if you have questions, feedback for our programs, or if you know of anyone who would like to subscribe to the newsletter. The new e-mail is **VCFCservices@vanderbilt.edu**.

## Welcome Toya Cobb!

Toya Cobb brings over 13 years of experience in the field of Early Education. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Child and Family Studies and Master of Education in Educational Leadership from East Tennessee State University. While working in the field, Toya has served as an early childhood teacher, trainer and coach for the Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance and in administrative leadership at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) Children's Center. Toya enjoys building relationships with teachers, encouraging their growth as professionals and creating environments that are safe and welcoming for all families and children.



*Alice Shi*



*Toya Cobb*



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## VCFC Curriculum Committee

Samantha Barclay, A.A. (ECE) is a preschool teacher at VCFC's 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center and serves as a representative on Vanderbilt's USAC.

Toya Cobb, M.Ed, B.S. (Child and Family Studies) is the interim site director at VCFC's 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center.

Bethany Downs, B.A. (Human Sciences and Education) is a toddler teacher at VCFC's 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center.

Amber Earls, M.A. (ECE) is a preschool teacher at VCFC's Edgehill Child Care Center.

Rashonda Escoffery, M.A. (Character Education), B.A. (ECE) is a preschool teacher at VCFC's 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center.

Adrienne Golden, MEd (Early Childhood Special Education), BCBA is a curriculum modification trainer for Kaplan and a doctoral student at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.

Gr'Nisha Hanserd is an Assistant Toddler Teacher at VCFC's 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center.

M.L. Hemmeter, Ph.D is a professor in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University. She serves as the co-faculty director of the Susan Gray School for Children.  
<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

Pam McColl, M.A. (ESL) is a PreK teacher at VCFC's 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center and the K-Camp Summer Program coordinator.

Katharine Newman, Ph.D (Learning, Teaching and Diversity) is the Research Coordinator for the Classroom Quality Real-Time Empirically-Based Feedback (CQ-REF) Project at Vanderbilt University.

Jeanne Peter, Ed.D (Language and Literacy), M.A. (ECE) Lecturer, Literacy Education, Department of Teaching and Learning at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College taught at VCFC from 1987-1991.

Katharine Pettit, MLS is a toddler teacher at VCFC's 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Child Care Center.

Shantera Rice, M.S. (Healthcare Administration) is a twos teacher at VCFC's Edgehill Child Care Center.

Anita Wager, Ph.D is Associate Chair, Teacher Education, Department of Teaching and Learning at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.

Continuing the Vanderbilt Child and Family Center journey of program quality excellence in early childhood education, VCFC is convening a committee to assess current pedagogy and review research-based curriculum for the preschool aligned with the program's foundation of social-constructivism and strong value for play. Chaired by Cierra Price, Education Director, a call for applicants distributed in May was met with enthusiastic response and VCFC is gratified by the many individuals who have committed to this inquiry.

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/child-family-center/>





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PRESENTS

# Spill

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A TEA PARTY IN CELEBRATION OF  
WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

# Tea

AUGUST 7 • 4:00-5:30 PM

THE LIVING ROOM  
GODCHAUX NURSING ANNEX  
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