

Vermont's Early Learning Challenge

Fast Facts: Help Me Grow Vermont

What is it?

Help Me Grow Vermont (HMG VT) is a statewide system that helps identify at-risk children and link those children and their families to existing community-based services and supports. It provides opportunities for accurate and up to date parent education. Help Me Grow Vermont supports collaboration between health and mental health providers, early care and education professionals, human service providers, and families in order to better identify and address the needs of children. Help Me Grow Vermont is a project of Vermont's Early Learning Challenge grant.

What will it do?

Centralized Telephone Access Point



Provide a telephone access point, hosted by VT 2-1-1 and staffed by trained early childhood care coordinators who:

- (1) answer parent and caregivers questions about their children's development
- (2) provide families with tools to track developmental milestones
- (3) connect families to the necessary resources in their communities, including Children's Integrated Services.

Community Outreach



Partner with Building Bright Futures Regional Councils for community outreach to:

- (1) promote the use of HMG VT
- (2) provide networking opportunities for families and service providers
- (3) maintain up-to-date information on regional programs and services to support HMG VT phone line
- (4) create web and text access for parent education

Provider Outreach



The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) will train child health & early care and education providers on developmental monitoring, screening, and how to link families to local resources and services.

VCHIP will also provide training on use of the new Developmental Screening Registry, part of the Health Department Child Health Profile, to better track the well-being of Vermont's children.

Data Collection and Analysis



Collect data on all aspects of the Help Me Grow system in order to:

- (1) identify gaps and barriers
- (2) promote continuous quality improvement
- (3) promote the importance of early detection and intervention for all children's well-being.

Why does it matter?

Early detection of developmental and behavioral concerns is critical for the success of all children, but too often children slip through the cracks and don't receive the services they need at an early age, when the benefit of those services is greatest. Many initiatives in Vermont provide services to young children in need, but families, child health providers, and early care and education providers don't always know these programs exist, or how to connect with them. Help Me Grow Vermont addresses this by providing a centralized access point for information and referral, building collaboration among community programs, promoting developmental screenings, and educating and informing the community. As result, families and communities have the information and resources they need to help all children succeed.