

***RIVET Professional Development Initiatives***

***In collaboration with Reggio Children and NAREA***

The [Reggio Inspired Vermont Earlyeducation Team](https://www.rivetnetwork.net/) (RIVET) is a network of early childhood educators inspired by a transformative vision of children and childhood that is foundational to the pedagogical approach of the internationally acclaimed system of early education in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Briefly, the [Reggio Approach](https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/reggio-emilia-approach) “is an educational philosophy based on the image of a child with strong potentialities for development and a subject with rights, who learns through the hundred languages belonging to all human beings, and grows in relations with others.” This vision sees the unlimited potential of all children and their teachers, families and communities and shapes their everyday lives in profound ways.

Inspired by this vision, RIVET has embarked on a three-year professional development initiative which includes:

1. Collaborating with [NAREA](https://www.reggioalliance.org/) (North American Reggio Emilia Alliance) and Reggio Children to bring the Exhibition/Atelier [*Mosaic of Marks, Words, Materials*](https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/rc/exhibitions/mosaic-of-marks-words-material/) to Vermont in the summer of 2026 and hosting the NAREA 2026 Summer Conference, featuring two educators from Reggio Emilia, Italy;
2. Organizing a Vermont delegation to participate in the NAREA Study Group of the municipal Early Childhood programs of Reggio Emilia (May 25-29, 2025);
3. Creating a network of early childhood programs to serve as Reggio-inspired hubs of study and practice where educators, families and community members, administrators and policy makers will find opportunities to learn about how the experiences of Reggio Emilia are interpreted in different cultural and educational Vermont contexts while sharing a transformative vision of children, families and communities.
4. Offering Reggio-inspired professional development opportunities throughout the year to Vermont Early Childhood educations

**Bringing the *Mosaics of Marks, Words, Materials* and NAREA 2026 Summer Conference**

**to Vermont**

In collaboration with NAREA and Reggio Children, RIVET is bringing the Reggio Children Exhibition/Atelier *Mosaic of Marks, Words, Materials* to Vermont in the summer of 2026. The exhibition, a collection of works by children who attend the municipal infant-toddler programs and preschools of Reggio Emilia, reflects an investigation of the transactions that take place between materials and children’s drawings, words and stories. It serves as an inspiring reflection of literacy development as a joyful, engaging and social enterprise. The exhibit also includes an atelier/studio space that serves as a hands-on professional development resource for teachers and community members.

In conjunction with the presence of the exhibition/atelier and in collaboration with Reggio Children and NAREA, RIVET is also organizing a three-day conference with speakers who are educators from Reggio Emilia who participated in the work represented in the exhibition.

Both the Exhibition-Atelier and conference will take place at the Winooski Educational Center in Winooski, VT.

**Organizing a Vermont delegation to participate in the NAREA Study Group of the municipal Early Childhood programs of Reggio Emilia (May 25-29, 2025)**

RIVET organized a Vermont delegation to participate in the NAREA Study Group of the municipal Early Childhood programs of Reggio Emilia (May 25-29, 2025). The Study Tour included presentations by Reggio educators, visits to observe the infant toddler and preschool classrooms of Reggio Emilia and opportunities to debrief with Reggio teachers following the visits. RIVET offered pre-tour sessions to prepare Vermont educators for the study tour, organized daily gatherings during the study tour and met with members of the delegation following the study tour to consider the implications of what they learned and observed in their own contexts. Thanks to a Building Bright Futures grant, Rutland County Head Start teachers and Castleton Early Childhood students were among the 27 VT educators participated in the VT delegation.

**Creating a Network of Reggio-Inspired Hubs of Study and Practice**

Funded by a Turrell Landon Award, RIVET launched a pilot program in 2023 in Addison County to serve as a prototype toward the creation of a Vermont Network of Reggio-Inspired Hubs of Study and Practice. Specifically, Mary Johnson Children’s Center, the Addison County Parent Child Center and Bristol Family Center served as its community partners. In 2024, RIVET received a Building Bright Futures grant to work with 5 programs in Chittenden County (Burlington Children’s Space, The Janet Munt Family Room, Stepping Stones Children’s Center, King Street Children’s Center and the Burlington Forest School) and has also contracted to work with the Montpelier Children’s House in Washington County and the Rutland County Head Start program. The professional development program includes a series of professional in-service days, classroom consultations, and on-line group discussions to begin the study of the Reggio Approach and its implications for these Vermont contexts. Funding for this project has been extended through December 31, 2025, and expanded to include Mary Johnson Children’s Center and its two off campus affiliated programs and the Bristol Family Center.

RIVET plans to build on what it learns from these experiences to guide its efforts to create a statewide network of programs that serve diverse communities and missions but share a view of the child as having rights and rich in potential. Built on a professional model of a community of practice, RIVET plans to collaborate with other programs across Vermont to build a network that will serve as both a resource and source of inspiration by changing the current prevalent narrative that focuses on young children’s needs and deficits to one that recognizes young children’s rights and potential.

**Offering professional development opportunities throughout the year to Vermont Early Childhood educations**

##### Building on the momentum of the Boulder Journey School Northern Lights series, RIVET offered a Community of Practice six-session series, “What does it mean to be a Reggio-inspired early childhood program in Vermont?” through Northern Lights (November 2024 – February 2025). A second COP series was also offered in the spring, 2025.

##### RIVET launched its Saturday morning three part in-person series, *Celebrating the uniqueness of every child and nurturing their multiple and diverse literacies* on November 16, 2024, at Camp Meade in Middlesex VT. A second gathering took place at Spring Hill School in Warren VT on February 15, 2025. A third gathering took place June 7, 2025, at the Fairbanks Museum, in St. Johnsbury, VT. The Saturday morning series is now being planned for 2026.

##### In addition, RIVET has organized its first mini-conference “Celebrating the 100 Languages of…Children and Teachers and Trees, Oh My!” It will be held on September 13, 2025, at Camp Meade in Middlesex, VT. For program and registration information, click [here](https://www.rivetnetwork.net/_files/ugd/2e95dd_9949c6cc0a484334b27a855cbe0dec38.pdf).