

As the Director of Education here at Castleton University overseeing our early childhood licensure program, chair of the planning committee for the annual Early Childhood Educators Institute, and co-chair of the Vermont Early Childhood Higher Education Consortium, I have become acutely aware of the challenges faced by parents and guardians due to the lack of childcare and of qualified early childhood teachers in the state. We are trying to do our part with the recent development of a Bachelor's degree program that will produce licensed teachers in early childhood and early childhood special education. One of the requisite expectations for this licensure program is having access to quality childcare facilities in order for our students to complete practicum and student teaching experiences throughout their programs. A childcare center in town would greatly help a number of students who have transportation issues and have a hard time getting to placements outside of the town. The Castleton Village School has been a perfect place for some of our elementary and secondary students with similar transportation challenges. Tearsa Brannock has a track record of operating very high-quality childcare sites and we anticipate that this site at the Village School will be no different. Please consider her as a viable option for that site.

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