

UCS News Release

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Head Start Teams Up with Northshire Day School

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — Head Start and the Northshire Day School in Manchester are now working together to provide more classroom support to nursery school children. What's more, the new collaboration even benefits parents.

“Lori Morrissey is our new family support worker from Head Start, who helps children achieve the cognitive, social, and emotional skills they need,” said Northshire Day School Director Carol Kern. “And, where parents have specific family needs, she's there to help as well.”

A family support worker assists teachers, facilitates small groups, and offers support to parents. In this case, Morrissey works closely with parents outside the classroom in an effort to help families meet their needs, whether around parenting, education, housing, or transportation.

“In this situation, Head Start is offering the appropriate developmental and educational support in the classroom and family assistance outside class,” Head Start Director Betsy Rathbun-Gunn said. “When families do well, children learn and grow.”

Previously, Morrissey worked as the Child and Family Case Manager for the Clara Martin Center in Bradford, where she provided therapeutic support to children, adolescents, and families. Most recently she worked for the Westminster Head Start where she gained experience teaching and also provided family support.

“Providing children with the proper resources to develop and grow emotionally and educationally is key,” Morrissey said. “This program is a wonderful way to balance support in school with family reinforcement outside of the classroom.”

United Counseling Service, which sponsors Bennington County Head Start, serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support. Visit www.ucsvt.org for more information.

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