**Spring 2025 Start with the Arts at Centers Program Description**

**Application Deadline *March 1, 2025*** *session begins mid-late March 2025*

***Start with the Arts is our early childhood arts-based literacy***

***program for childcare providers and the children (ages 0-5) in their care.***

*\*\*New in 2018, we added an intentional focus on Social Emotional Learning(SEL) to our program. All providers are welcome and eligible to participate, regardless of past participation in either of our Start with the Arts Programs before this update\*\**

Providers earn 20 PD hours for completing the entire ***FREE*** program, 6 of these can be used for Advanced Specialized Care.

Start with the Arts is an inclusive, intensive, mentoring program for childcare providers caring for children preschool age and younger. Quality children’s books are extended with rich, arts based experiences, something from every artistic genre; music, dance, drama and visual arts, to help children and providers explore and find their best expressive means. Our teaching artists mentor and support providers, and providers practice creating and documenting their own Start with the Arts lessons, with the goal being that at the end of the program, the providers themselves will have the inspiration and confidence to continue the use of the model on their own.

If you would like Inclusive Arts Vermont to consider working with your center please complete the attached application. 20 hours of professional development will be awarded upon completion of the program. If more than one staff person will be working with us (maximum of two staff in one classroom to share PD hours, one classroom per center), professional development hours will be allocated by the number of hours of direct contact with our teaching artist and the number of hours the staff members individually lead and document activities with children. Ideally there will be a consistent group of children participating.

Please review the outline of the program that I have included to familiarize yourself with the program details and responsibilities of centers participating.

\*\* We plan to offer the program as a blend of in person and online, to meet the needs of all participants.

**To be considered please fill out the application included and return to me no later than  *March 1, 2025.*** Thank you.

*Peggy Rainville*, Director of Early Childhood Programs, Inclusive Arts Vermont, 2346 Main Street, Isle La Motte, VT 05463 or peggy@inclusiveartsvermont.org

**Start with the Arts Center Program Application**

Center Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What value do you think Start with the Arts has for your center? What needs will it help you address?
2. Do you currently extend books with arts based activities in your program?
3. What is the range of skills or professional development of the staff who might participate? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_no PD \_\_\_\_\_CDA \_\_\_\_\_Bachelor’s Degree+
4. What is the age range of the children that you serve? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_how many? \_\_\_ how many in the classroom you would like us to work with? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you have an existing professional development program for your staff?
6. Is your program part of STARS? \_\_\_\_\_Specialized care? \_\_\_\_ Accredited? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is there time available for staff to plan and attend reflection meetings? If so is this during the work day or after work hours? If during the work day is coverage available so that they can attend without having to also take care of the children?
8. What supervisory support is available from senior staff at your center for staff members participating in Start with the Arts?
9. Is staffing consistent enough that participating staff members could complete a

program that lasts over a period of several months?

10. Is your program open year round? If not, please share your programs schedule.

11. Ideal days and times to schedule SWTA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Staff person(s) participating: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(**Maximum number of staff allowed to share PD hours is 2**)

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Age group: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How many children? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do the same children attend all week ? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

When are participating staff members available to meet one on one with the SWTA teaching artist for reflection meetings? These meetings would last approximately 60 minutes long, and are intended to be held without children. It is possible for some of these to be held virtually.

\_\_\_\_\_before work \_\_\_\_\_ nap time \_\_\_\_\_\_ after work \_\_\_\_ AM (with staff release time) \_\_\_\_\_ PM (with staff release time) \_\_\_\_\_ other(please specify)

The SWTA program provides 20 PD hours of training in Northern Lights core knowledge areas: Teaching and Learning or Curriculum and Learning Environments.  6 of those hours may be used towards the Advanced Specialized Care training requirement.  *If more than one staff person will be working with us, training hours will be allocated by the number of hours of direct contact with our teaching artist and the number of hours the staff members individually lead and document activities with children*. (**Maximum number of staff allowed to share PD hours is 2**)

How would professional development training hours be used by staff working with SWTA program?  Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Meet annual training hour requirement for child care licensing regulations

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Meet training hours for Professional development arena of STARS applications

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Meet training hours towards a CDA credential

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Meet Advanced Specialized Care training requirement

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Start with the Arts Program requirements**

* 12 weeks, twovisits a week, beginning in March 2025, for a total of 26 hours, including meetings, sessions with children and reflection meetings
* Center staff will participate in each session working with the SWTA teaching artist as a team.
* Center staff will attend all meetings scheduled.
* Center staff will document their sessions using the log forms provided. A total of 11 logs minimum are to be submitted.
* Center staff will complete pre and post assessments for the children participating in the program.
* Center staff will distribute and collect photo/media permission forms on the behalf of Inclusive Arts Vermont.
* Center staff are also asked to write a letter of support, supporting the future of the program.

Start with the Arts is a program provided *free* to child care providers and center staff. The monetary value of this program is approximately $6500.00 per site. Inclusive Arts Vermont does not charge a fee for this program, however, center staff do have to invest their time and commit to the program. The entire program must be completed to earn the professional development hours, no partial credit is given. Inclusive Arts Vermont must report to our funders about the program, and to receive continued funding we need to have committed providers and staff participating. This is a paid position for our teaching artists and they depend on your commitment as well.

If after reading through the program description and requirements you are able to commit to Inclusive Arts Vermont and the complete Start with the Arts program, please sign below. We look forward to working with you!

With your signature below, you confirm that you have reviewed the program outline and can commit to the SWTA program requirements and hours.

Staff signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor of staff person participating: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Program director signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Return no later than  ***March 1, 2025*** to: Peggy Rainville, Director of Early Childhood Programs, Inclusive Arts Vermont, 2346 Main Street, Isle La Motte, VT 05463

Or email to [peggy@inclusiveartsvermont.org](mailto:peggy@inclusiveartsvermont.org) (the quickest!)