

Dear Editors,

As adults we take seriously our responsibility as stewards of our children's future. And certainly that requires ensuring that every child in Vermont has an equal opportunity for healthy development. What we might not know is what science has to say about how we can best prepare children for a productive future.

We've learned that nurturing, responsive, stable relationships with adults and other caregivers early in life actually build the brain's architecture – establishing either a sturdy or a fragile foundation for all of the development and behavior that follows. And we know that getting things right the first time is easier than trying to fix it later – that's why, when building a home, we make sure the wiring is up to code before we start with the drywall!

Similarly, the stability of our future depends on decisions we make today. If we want good, solid, decent kids who will contribute to our communities in the years to come, we have to fix the gaps in the system of care that disadvantage some of our kids. That's what the Kids Are Priority One coalition is working on – ensuring that all kids can participate in Vermont's early childhood programs. To learn more about how you can help, visit Kids Are Priority One at [vtkap1.org](http://vtkap1.org)

Sincerely,

Jane Doe