

# SMALL TALK



## Speak up for early childhood.

Vermont faces a significant shortage of affordable, high-quality child care options. Small Talk is a new initiative by Let's Grow Kids to collect the personal stories of Vermonters whose lives have been impacted by the state's early childhood system.

Policymakers, community leaders, and others need to hear your story to understand why the early years are so important and how we can do a better job of giving every child a strong start and equal chance in life. Whether you're a parent who's sought child care, a business person whose employees have young children, a child care provider or anyone else who's been affected by this issue—we want to hear from you!



**Schedule your  
on-camera interview  
with Small Talk!**



Find a list of Small Talk events or request a visit from Small Talk at:  
**[letsgrowkids.org](https://letsgrowkids.org)**

Flip over to see Frequently Asked Questions about Small Talk! ►

# Frequently Asked Questions about Small Talk:

## What sort of questions will I be asked?

Some questions we might ask, are:

- What was your early childhood like, and how did it shape you?
- What differences do you notice about the experiences of young children today?
- How do you think Vermont is doing caring for our youngest children (0-5)? What's working well? What are the challenges?
- What challenges have you experienced in making sure the children you care for have all the opportunities they need to develop well?
- What are your hopes for what the future holds for Vermont's young children?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you do to improve how Vermont cares for its youngest children and their families?

## Who should tell their story?

The issue of early childhood impacts individuals, communities and Vermont's economy—which means it's everyone's business! We want to hear from parents and caregivers, child care providers and educators, community members and leaders, business people, clergy ... anyone who has a story to share.

## Who's on the Small Talk team?

The Small Talk team includes Lisa Loomis, Small Talk Coordinator, and Molly Loomis, Community Education Director, as well as the Let's Grow Kids Field Team and ambassadors. We've also partnered with Building Bright Futures, Vermont Community Access Media and the Vermont Folklife Center.



Vermont Community  
Access Media



Vermont Folklife Center  
88 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont

## How does a Small Talk interview work?

The Small Talk van has everything needed to record and produce Vermonters' stories about the state's child care system and early childhood development opportunities. Participants will sign up to share their story and visit the Small Talk van and interview tent at pre-scheduled interview times. Please expect your interview to take about 15 minutes, and we'll edit it down to about 2 minutes. Our interviewer will ask you questions to prompt your story. We're happy to provide child care during your interview!

## How will you use my video?

Let's Grow Kids will archive all of the videos. Some will be edited and uploaded to our YouTube channel and a new video page on our website (coming soon!). We'll use your stories to help the general public and policy-makers better understand the issue of early childhood, how important it is, and how we can improve the opportunities for healthy development available to Vermont children.

## Can I use the Small Talk videos?

Of course! Each time you share these videos, you help us build awareness about the issue of early childhood in Vermont. Please share them widely on social media and via email with your networks of friends, family and coworkers.

Find more information and contact us at [letsgrowkids.org](http://letsgrowkids.org).

