I watched the leaves swirl down from the trees all weekend, and it seemed like a metaphor for how 2023 is swirling toward 2024. The fall is the perfect time to plan for the next year and this year, Act 76 has big plans for child care in Vermont in 2024.

It might almost be easier to throw the 2023 budget out the window, swirling to the ground with the leaves. The Business Technical Assistance Program is here to help if you with individual business consulting want to start fresh (or build on what you have) for 2024.

And now SPARQS coaches and mentors can help you with your quality assessments, the same way BTAP can help you with your business and financial planning. As always, Northern Lights has all our business trainings on their calendar if you prefer to do your learning in a small group.

Funding opportunities
A reminder that if you are interested in expanding your program, or starting up a new site, Make Way for Kids Infant/Toddler Capacity Building grant program can help. For more information,

Coming soon!
Shared Services VT is getting a refresh and we will be rolling out changes to this resource over the next month. The official unveiling will be at the VTAEYC conference in November. If you haven’t
The Vermont Early Childhood Fund supports creative solutions that will improve the well-being of children, their families, and the Vermont communities where they live. For more information, go to buildingbrightfutures.org/vecf. Applications are due on October 25.

Look for us November 3rd at Vermont Afterschool Conference and November 6th & 7th at the VTAEYC conference.

Speaking of VTAEYC, have you seen their new SPARQS webpage? SPARQS will deliver coaching, program assessments, and support for VT Early Child Networks, among other things.

October trainings, workshops, webinars

October 3 – Act 76 legal issues webinar – if you missed this and want more information, please email infovt@firstchildrensfinance.org

October 10 – Act 76 & Staff Benefits
October 12 – Planning for the Future: Annual Budget and Cash Flow for Family Child Care
October 17 – Act 76 & Staff Benefits
October 17 – Policies and Procedures for Child Care Centers
October 18 – Act 76 panel discussion - TBD
October 24 – Act 76 & Human Resources
October 26 – Planning for the Future: Accounting and Financial Statements for your Child Care Center

The Vermont Business and Technical Assistance Program (BTAP) provides expert business training, technical assistance, and consulting to help start, sustain, and grow child care businesses. The BTAP is made possible through funding by the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division. The Vermont BTAP is a partnership between First Children’s Finance and Let’s Grow Kids.

Still have questions about the Readiness Payments? This video tells you what to expect and gives you some ideas of how to use your payment. You can also use the links in the video to get more information.