



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Health Department Helps Promote *Raising of America* Conversation



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BURLINGTON – The importance of programs, policies and prevention efforts that support a healthy early childhood is the focus of a new documentary film *Raising of America*. The Vermont Department of Health has joined 16 other organizations and agencies to support a 30-minute sneak peak of the film, followed by a community discussion to locations around the state. The events will beginning Oct. 20 at the Bennington Museum (5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.).

The film is part of the *Let's Grow Kids* campaign, which works with communities, organizations, businesses and individuals to create positive lasting change that allows children to succeed in life.

“Strong maternal and child health programs in Vermont, and the efforts of health care providers and community organizations to work together, is a key reason we are routinely ranked as one of the nation’s healthiest states,” said Acting Health Commissioner Tracy Dolan. “Our hope is the film will strengthen those connections and inspire others to become involved.”

Eighty percent of a child's brain is developed in the first three years of life, and 90 percent by age 5. An estimated 50 percent of Vermont children arrive at kindergarten unprepared, according to Let's Grow Kids.

The campaign, funded by a collaboration of private foundations, offers resources including a toolkit, online educational materials and simple ways to educate the community about the importance of supporting early childhood programs.

Eight screenings of the film are currently scheduled during the last two weeks of October. Other organizations supporting the film include the American Academy of Pediatrics (Vermont chapter), the Vermont Department of Mental Health, and the Vermont Early Childhood Alliance.

For more information visit: [letsgrowkids.org](http://letsgrowkids.org). All screenings and discussions are 5:30-7:30 p.m. If you plan to attend one of the events, send an email to [ryan@letsgrowkids.org](mailto:ryan@letsgrowkids.org).

**Bennington:** Bennington Museum, Oct. 20  
**Franklin:** St. Albans Historical Society, Oct. 21  
**Chittenden:** Main Street Landing Film House, Oct. 22  
**Windsor:** Wilder Center, Oct. 23  
**Caledonia:** St. Johnsbury Academy, Stuart Black Box Theater, Oct 27  
**Windham:** Latchis Theater, Oct. 28  
**Rutland:** College of St. Joseph, Tuttle Theater, Oct. 29  
**Addison:** Middlebury College, Twilight Auditorium, Oct. 30  
**Lamoille:** Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, Oct. 30

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