



### Consultant Wanted

Thrive in 5 is seeking a short-term consultant to help move forward planning for developing a centralized, comprehensive, citywide database of services and supports for families with young children.

[> Read more](#)

### In This Issue

#### Thrive in 5 Updates

- Community School Readiness Wiring Update

#### Budget and Policy Updates

- Governor Releases Budget Proposal

- President Obama Releases Budget Request

- Census 2010

### Thrive in 5 Updates

#### Community School Readiness Wiring Update *Hub agencies selected!*

[Community School Readiness Wiring \(CSRW\)](#), one of our Ready Families strategies, is a neighborhood-based effort to bring the entire community together to support young children by supporting parents and caregivers in their role as their child's first teacher.

Over the past several months, we've been involved in a request for proposals process to select 5 hub agencies to begin implementing CSRW in their neighborhood. We're very proud to announce that the following neighborhoods and hub agencies have been selected:

- **Allston-Brighton** led by the Family Nurturing Center
- **Roxbury/North Dorchester** led by the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- **South End/Lower Roxbury** led by the United South End Settlements
- **East Boston** led by the East Boston Community Partnerships for Children Neighborhood Cluster
- **Field's Corner** led by Dorchester House Multi-Service Center

A formal announcement is being planned. [> Read more and learn how to get involved.](#)

*The CSRW grants are made possible by generous funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.*

## Community Events and Opportunities

- Parenting in Action TV Show is Online
- Statewide Facilities Study of ECE and OST
- Free Tax Preparation
- Haitian Support Group
- Community Flu Education Certificate Program
- Closing the Early Literacy Gap Conference
- All Together Now Conference
- ReadBoston Literacy Conference
- Ending Child Poverty Forum

## Early Childhood Research

- Maternal Depression Can Undermine the Development of Young Children
- Early Lessons: Perry Preschool Project

## Quick Links

## Budget & Policy Updates

### Governor Releases Budget Proposal

*State budget process begins*

On January 27, Governor Deval Patrick released [his budget recommendations](#) for fiscal year 2011. The \$28.2 billion dollar budget represents a 3 percent increase in spending over the current fiscal year. Facing a \$3 billion structural deficit, the budget continues cuts from the prior 2 years and recommends further cuts.

The following resources breakdown the budget and how it impacts programs for young children and their families:

> [Preliminary analysis by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center](#)

> [Child- and family-focused report by the Home for Little Wanderers](#)

Want to know more about the budget? > [Contact your state senator and representative](#)

Why are early childhood programs important? Check out a new PEW Center Brief: [The Costs of Disinvestment: Why States Can't Afford to Cut Smart Early Childhood Programs](#)

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### President Obama Releases Budget Request

*Increased Funding for Early Childhood*

Last week, President Obama released [his budget request](#) for the federal fiscal year 2011. The \$3.8 trillion budget freezes most domestic discretionary funding for the next three years, but increases funding for some early childhood programs.

The following resources highlight key impacts on early childhood programming:

> [Early Ed Watch: Obama's FY11 Budget Requests a Boosts For Early Childhood Programs](#)



**Flu Season Isn't Over!** It's not too late to get a free vaccination. Visit a clinic near you. [Get more information and flu updates](#)



**Find local, free and low-cost events for families with young children.** [Check out Talk Read Play's Events Calendar](#)

[Thrive in 5 Website](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[> ZERO TO THREE: President Requests Increased Funding for Key Infant Toddler Services](#)

[> New York Times' Economix: Remembering the Little People](#)

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### Census 2010

*Help prevent the undercounting of kids*

The census is an incredibly important and powerful tool. It affects the number of seats states hold in the U.S. House of Representatives, informs redistricting lines, and steers more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year. Even more, countless people and organizations use these data to inform their community programming, funding, and advocacy.

Unfortunately, young children are more often undercounted than any other age group - most often children of color. It's estimated that more than three quarters of a million children under age 5 weren't counted in 2000 and that an accurate count will be more difficult this year.

[> Read more from the Annie E. Casey KIDS COUNT working paper](#)

Help increase participation in the census and prevent the undercounting of young children! Spread the word about the importance of the census throughout your family and friends, early care and education and pediatric providers, as well as other service and support providers for young children and families. Multilingual posters and other literature are available through the [Boston Regional Census Office](#).

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### Parenting in Action TV Show is Online

*parentinginaction.org*

Parenting in Action is a new TV program for Boston families with young children. Viewers learn about local resources and get tips from parents and other experts on topics and questions submitted by

viewers. The show airs on BNN (Comcast channel 9 or RCN channel 15) on Thursdays at 8 p.m. and repeated on Saturdays at 9 a.m. Tune in this month for "Building Learning into Everyday Life" and "Sleep: Helping your Child Get Some So That You Can Too"

You can now find more information and watch past episodes on [www.parentinginaction.org](http://www.parentinginaction.org)



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### **Statewide Facilities Study of Early Care and Education and Out-of-School Time**

*Outreach for participation begins*

Throughout 2010, the Children's Investment Fund, with assistance from the Wellesley Centers for Women and On-Site Insight, will conduct a statewide facilities inventory to document the current condition of buildings housing early care and education (ECE) and out-of-school time (OST) programs. This is a first step towards building sustainable capital funding for ECE and OST programs in Massachusetts.

If you run an ECE or OST program, you may be contacted to participate in the study. [> Read more](#)

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### **Free Tax Preparation**

*For eligible families*

The Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign is offering free tax preparation for individuals who worked and earned less than \$49,000. Participants can avoid fees and misleading offers, claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, receive credit advising, and sign up for free financial coaching, among other benefits.

Sites are open around the city. For more information, call (617) 918-5275 or [download a flyer](#). Please help share this resource and/or [sign](#)

[up to volunteer.](#)

Contact [mfcabrera53@gmail.com](mailto:mfcabrera53@gmail.com) for flyers in Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Cape Verdean, Somalian, and Haitian.

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### **Haitian Support Group**

*Wednesdays from 2 - 3 p.m.*

The Codman Health Center holds a Haitian Support Group on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Join others to talk about: how the earthquake is affecting you and your family; how to cope with the news; what is normal at times like these; and how to take care of yourself. Call (617) 822-8142 and leave your name, phone number, and date of birth to register (required).

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### **Community Flu Education Certificate Program**

*February 25 - Help educate your community*

The Boston Public Health Commission's Community Flu Education Certificate Program will train formal and informal community leaders to serve as resources for accurate, timely information about the seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu. This one-day training is on February 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 35 Northampton Street, 4th Floor. [> Read more and register](#)

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### **Closing the Early Literacy Gap**

*March 3 Conference*

The Massachusetts Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and Early Education

and Care (ECE) welcome educators for a conversation about strategies to close the early literacy gap. The conference will be on Wednesday, March 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, MA. [> Read More & Register](#)

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**All Together Now: Supporting Diverse Children, Families, and Staff in Early Education and Care Settings**

*March 4-6 Conference*

Join the Massachusetts Training and Technical Assistance Center at EDC, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, and the Massachusetts Head Start Association for a 3-day conference, March 4-6, at the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. This conference is for the early education and care community, including managers and staff from child care centers, family child care homes, and public and private preschools. [> Read More & Register](#)

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*Every Word Counts* **Literacy Conference**

*March 6 - Free professional development opportunity*

ReadBoston invites providers to a free morning of hands-on literacy workshops on Saturday, March 6, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. Earn 3 professional development hours. Workshops meet the Guidelines for Preschool Standards. [> Read More & Register](#)

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**Ending Child Poverty: The Legacy of Senator Edward M. Kennedy**

*March 7 - Kennedy Library Forum*

Join Marian Wright Edelman (President of the

Children's Defense Fund), Shirley Sagawa (former member of Senator Kennedy's staff and expert on education), and Christina Paxson (Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School and Senior Editor of *The Future of Children*) to pay tribute to Senator Kennedy's commitment to improving the lives of children. The forum is on March 7, 2 to 3:30 p.m., at John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. > [Register](#)

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## Early Childhood Research

### Maternal Depression Can Undermine the Development of Young Children

*National Scientific Council on the Developing Child and the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs - December 2009*

This joint working paper summarizes recent evidence that serious depression in parents and caregivers influences the well-being of children in their care.

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### Early Lessons: Perry Preschool Project

*American RadioWorks documentary by Emily Hanford*

Hanford explores the history, implications, and continued work of the Perry Preschool Project. Download the radio program or "ebook".

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