



Flu Updates

The H1N1 flu vaccine is now available in limited quantities for target populations. For information about flu clinics in Boston and other strategies for preventing the flu:

[> Visit the Boston Public Health Commission's website](#)

Job Opportunity

With funding from Thrive in 5's W.K. Kellogg grant, Boston Public Schools is hiring an Early Childhood School Readiness Data Manager.

[> Read More & Apply](#)

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Thrive in 5 News

Community School Readiness Wiring Update

Proposal review process underway

Proposals for Community School Readiness Wiring (CSRW) grants were due this past Monday, November 2. Through this proposal process, 5 organizations/collaborations will be selected to implement CSRW in 5 Boston neighborhoods. CSRW is a Ready Families strategy from Boston's School Readiness Roadmap. [> Read more](#)

A group of community readers are hard at work reviewing the proposals. Awards will be announced in January. If you'd like more information or have questions about this process, contact Katie Madrigal, Thrive in 5's Ready Families Manager, at (617) 624-8196 or katie.madrigal@thrivein5boston.org.

CSRW grants are made possible by generous funding from the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#).

Budget & Policy Update

Closing the State Budget Gap

Implications for children and families

On October 29, Governor Patrick announced his plan to close the \$600 million gap in the state's budget for this year (FY2010). The plan calls for \$352 million in cuts, including \$277 million to the Executive Branch and \$75 million to other branches that will need approval from the Legislature. The plan also relies on \$248 million in

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Quick Links

temporary and enhanced revenues.

Use the following resources to **learn how these budget cuts are impacting services for young children and their families.**

> [Complete listing of the Governor's budget reductions.](#)

> [Brief by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.](#)

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

Community Events & Opportunities



Talk Read Play Day - 11/13

Partners wanted

This Friday, November 13 is "Talk Read Play Day," a day of city-wide action to increase the visibility of Countdown to Kindergarten and Read Boston's public awareness campaign that supports families in their role as their child's first teacher. The campaign promotes a simple message: children thrive when you talk, read, and play together.

The campaign seeks community partners - childcare centers, healthcare facilities, libraries, and other gathering places across the city - **to help raise awareness about [Talk, Read, Play on November 13](#)** by distributing information and resources to families. The campaign will deliver these materials directly to their partners.

For more information and to sign up, [download the sign up form](#). Please help spread the word to organizations that may be interested.

Celebrating Family Literacy Month

Help promote activities and opportunities

[Governor Patrick has declared November Family Literacy Month](#) to recognize: parents as full partners in their children's education; communities, libraries, and schools' role in providing family literacy activities; and Massachusetts' commitment to universal literacy.

[The Massachusetts Family Literacy Consortium's website](#) provides resources to help community partners promote family literacy month.



Families shouldn't miss the [Boston Children's Museum's Family Literacy Month Celebration on Friday, November 13](#), from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., at the Museum (300 Congress Street, Boston, 02108).

Families can find more free and low-cost family events on [Talk Read Play's Events Calendar](#).



Infant Mortality Summit - 11/17

Addressing racial disparities in babies' health

Join the [Boston Public Health Commission](#) and other partners on **November 17, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at 35 Northampton Street, Boston, 02115 for "Death at an Early Age: A Summit to Ending the Black-White Gap in Infant Mortality."

Black infants in Boston die at a rate that is more than three times the rate for White infants. This summit will mobilize new and old partners - community organizations and activists, child welfare agencies, education groups, civil rights organizations, housing groups, food and nutrition organizations, families, health centers, hospitals, and clinicians - **to address the persistent racial**



disparities in infant mortality rates.

Thrive in 5's Ready Systems Manager, Alba Cruz-Davis, will be participating on a panel at the Summit.

For more information and to register, [download the Summit Flyer](#).

Early Childhood in the News

[See Baby Discriminate - Newsweek](#)

Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman - September 14

Bronson and Merryman review several research studies about the development of children's racial attitudes. Children as young as six months recognize differences in skin color and try to understand its meaning. Children's minds form their first conclusions about race between **three years old and third grade, a developmental window during which explicit conversations about race can be used to prevent bias**. The frequency and content of these conversations in families vary across races.

[Hispanic Immigrants' Children Fall Behind Peers Early, Study Finds - New York Times](#)

James C. McKinley Jr. - October 21

A new study by researchers at the University of California, Berkley demonstrates that **by age two children of Hispanic immigrants begin to fall behind other American children in terms of linguistic and cognitive skills**, despite being born healthy and with similar intellectual ability. This gap usually widens with age.

[Teachers' House Calls Make Pupils, Parents Feel at Home - Boston Globe](#)

James Vaznis - October 22

Home visiting programs in Boston and Springfield are bringing school teachers into their students' homes to meet with their families. The programs aim to **build stronger relationships between teachers and parents as well as increase parent engagement** in their children's education, a critical component of school success. Boston's program is working in partnership with Harvard University's Three to Third initiative and is operating in five elementary schools.

[State Disputes Report on Cuts to Prekindergarten Spending - Boston Globe](#)

David Abel - October 22

Massachusetts state officials are disputing a [report](#) recently released by the Pew Center's Pre-K Now Campaign that states Massachusetts cut their prekindergarten education budget by 22 percent this year, the second highest among the states. State officials are saying the **report's findings are incorrect and don't reflect the overall budget of the Department of Early Education and Care.**

The Pew Center responded with [State Wrong to Dispute Pew Report on Spending Cuts](#) citing that the report **correctly reflects the state's reductions in funding for high quality pre-kindergarten programs specifically.**

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