



### Featured Article

Thrive in 5 Releases Year One Report: *Boston's Progress toward Universal School Readiness*

[> Link to the report](#)

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### WHAT'S NEW?

#### **Thrive in 5 Releases Year One Report:**

*"Boston's Progress toward Universal School Readiness" is released at community event at the Mattapan Public Library*

Parents, providers and community leaders gathered at the newly opened Mattapan Public Library on May 19th for the release of Thrive in 5's year one report:

[\*Boston's Progress toward Universal School Readiness.\*](#)

Thrive in 5 Leadership Council Co-Chairs, Liz Walker, Principal of the Walker Group: Communications Specialists and former WBZ news anchor, and Randal Rucker, CEO of Family Service for Greater Boston, alongside Council members, formally presented the report to Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Michael K. Durkin, President & CEO of United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, whose organizations together spearhead Thrive in 5. Children at the event enjoyed a special appearance by D.W. (younger sister on the Arthur television series aired on PBS), who performed a segment of the upcoming Boston Children's Museum's play "D.W. Counts Down to Kindergarten."

The progress report summarizes collaborative activity in Boston supporting school readiness since the release of [\*Boston's School Readiness Roadmap\*](#) last April, as well as upcoming work. One example of progress highlighted at the event is the City of Boston's Registry Division's new parent outreach effort that will distribute the following Talk Read Play card, in English and Spanish, with every birth certificate. Reaching an estimated 21,000 parents each year, the card links parents to resources and provides information about nurturing caregiving.

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**I love it when you talk, read and play with me.**

- Hold me when I cry. It helps me develop trust.
- Talk, read and sing with me in any language. It's how I learn.
- Take care of yourself. It helps you take care of me.

For support, information or a free home visit, call Healthy Baby Healthy Child at 1-800-711-1180 (for city of Boston residents).

**talk read play**

You are my first and most important teacher.  
[www.talkreadplay.org](http://www.talkreadplay.org) I learn from you.

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston

[> Link to Boston's Progress toward Universal School Readiness](#)

[> Enlarge the Talk Read Play card](#)

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## **POLICY CORNER**

### **Massachusetts Senate Releases Budget**

*Tracking investments in early childhood (continued)*

On May 13th, the Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Committee (SWM) released their proposed state budget for fiscal year 2010 (FY2010). As the state budget cycle progresses, early childhood advocates continue to monitor how our youngest children and their families fare under the proposed budgets.

Use the following links to better understand the state budget process as well as the SWM FY2010 budget and its implications.

[> Learn about the state budget process](#)

[> Review the SWM FY2010 budget](#)

[> Read an overview of the SWM FY2010 budget by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center](#)

[> Download a report on line-items that impact children and families by the Home for Little Wanderers](#)

You can also call your Senator to learn more.

[> Find the name and contact information of your elected officials.](#)

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE NEWS

### **Thrive in 5 Partner Draws Attention to Children's Vulnerability in Today's Economy**

*Dr. Robert Sege's guest editorial published in Boston Globe*

In an op-ed to the Boston Globe on May 11, 2009, Thrive in 5 partner Dr. Robert Sege of Boston Medical Center and Barbara Talkov document that "when the economy suffers, children suffer even more." The stress of the current economic crisis is hindering parents' ability to meet their children's basic needs. Yet, state budget proposals for fiscal year 2010 are weakening the safety net for children and families at a time when they need it more than ever. Sege and Talkov urge our Commonwealth to not lose sight of "those who are 'too little to fail'."

Dr. Robert Sege and Boston Medical Center are lead partners on Thrive in 5's Ready Systems agenda.

[> Read Vulnerable children are suffering twice](#)

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