Thrive in 5 is preparing to release a second report on *Boston's Progress Toward Universal School Readiness* in early 2011. We would like to highlight school readiness developments, progress and activities in Boston's broader early childhood community. Through November 24th, we're collecting information on collaborative projects, new initiatives and innovative services for the report. Including your work in the report is a great way to share your successful programs and strategies with others in the early childhood community and beyond. > Read More & Submit Your Information

**Boston Children Thrive Neighborhoods in Action**

3 Boston Children Thrive (BCT) neighborhoods - Allston-Brighton, Dudley, and the South End/Lower Roxbury - are beginning to roll out community-based strategies that build their neighborhood’s capacity to ensure families’ access to early childhood information and resources.

*Dudley Children Thrive* recently organized a neighborhood field trip bringing 66 people the Boston Children’s Museum's *School Readiness Friday Nights*, a monthly opportunity for groups of up to 150 people to visit the museum free of charge for an evening of school readiness activities!

*Allston-Brighton Children Thrive* is currently seeking 4 – 6 parents (who will receive a paid stipend) to serve as “outreach ambassadors” in their neighborhood. Please [read more](#) and help...
spread the word!

**East Boston and Field’s Corner** kicked off BCT in their neighborhoods in September. **East Boston Children Thrive**, led by their local Community Partnerships for Children cluster, held their first neighborhood School Readiness Roundtable in October. **Field’s Corner Children Thrive**, led by Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, has been holding community dialogues with businesses, parents and other stakeholders in preparation for their first Roundtable next week.

All the BCT neighborhoods are building their capacity as change agents. In October, 19 stakeholders (staff, community partners and parents) from each of the 5 neighborhood sites participated in the Interaction Institute for Social Change’s 3-day Facilitative Leadership course. Thrive in 5 sponsored the training, which focuses on the approach, skills and tools that have proven effective in leading collaborative change efforts.

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**Measuring School Readiness**

***The School Readiness Pipeline Project***

To ensure Boston is on track to achieve universal school readiness by 2018, Thrive in 5 has set a goal that by 2014 at least 75% of Boston’s children will be ready for school when they enter kindergarten. Today only 54% are. In order to achieve 75%, Thrive in 5 will focus on implementing 14 priority strategies from our Roadmap (see sidebar) over the next four years.

The starting point for measuring our 2014 goal is the DIBELS, an early literacy assessment given to all Boston Public Schools kindergarteners in the fall of the their kindergarten year. While literacy is an important part of school readiness, broader language development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, social & emotional development and physical well-being & motor development are equally important. Therefore, one of Thrive in 5’s priority strategies is to identify and use a more comprehensive measure of school readiness.

Since September, we have been working with a broad set of stakeholders to expand our current measure of school readiness. By June, we will have identified a series of measures, starting at
- Identify a Comprehensive Set of School Readiness Measures

**Thrive in 5 Named Priority Initiative for Opportunity Agenda**

In June, the City of Boston, the Boston Public Schools, and many of Boston's philanthropies and foundations teamed up to launch the Boston Opportunity Agenda, a historic partnership that is building a seamless education pipeline for children from birth to adulthood.

Thrive in 5 has been selected as the priority initiative for the early childhood portion of the education pipeline, "Strong Educational Foundation". We will keep you informed as this partnership develops.

**NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS**

**Local Organizations Partner to Launch Early Childhood Blog**

Six organizations with distinct missions, but a common goal of supporting Boston's young children, came together to launch In The Know: Boston's Early Childhood Blog. The partners: ReadBoston, Jumpstart, Countdown to Kindergarten, Boston Children's Museum, Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund, and Thrive in 5, post weekly about early childhood news, events and matters in Boston. Check out the blog and join the conversation today!

**Building a Unified Voice for Massachusetts' Young Children**

The Massachusetts' Department of Early Education and Care, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the MYCHILD initiative have partnered with the Frameworks Institute to develop clear, shared messages about the importance of early childhood and high quality programs to be used throughout the state. Frameworks is hosting a “Study Circle” of Massachusetts providers and advocates over the next few months to build these messages and the participants' capacity to be fluent and competent early childhood advocates.

Thrive in 5 is excited to be part of this effort to unify and amplify Massachusetts’ voice for early childhood. Two of our managers, Katie Britton and Alba Cruz-Davis, were selected to participate in the Study Circle and are looking forward to bringing their learning back to Boston.
development of our Parent Leadership Project.

Additionally, Thrive in 5 sponsored 5 parent leaders from our Parent Advisory Group to attend the Mind in the Making Lunch & Learn at Boston Children's Museum in October to help build their capacity as early childhood ambassadors.

Resources

Pre-K Now Releases Report - Engaged Families, Effective Pre-K: State Policies that Bolster Student Success

> Download Now

Strategies for Children’s Launches New Blog: EyeOnEarlyEducation.org

Blogger Irene Sege follows developments in research, policy and practice that inform the twin goals of ensuring that all children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and are proficient readers by the end of third grade.

TRUCE Media Action Guides

Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children’s Entertainment’s resource guides help parents and providers use media to encourage health development and learning.

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Smart from the Start Expands to Franklin Field
Parents & partners invited to open house celebration

Smart from the Start is a family support and community engagement initiative in Boston that offers a range of programs that empower families to increase their self-sufficiency and to step confidently into their role as their child’s first teacher. Beginning in three pilot communities in January 2008 – Mattapan, Roslindale and Charlestown – Smart from the Start is now expanding to Franklin Field in Dorchester.

To celebrate their expansion, Smart is inviting families and partners to stop by an open house at their new play space on November 18, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Franklin Field (70 Ames Street, Dorchester, MA). For more information and to RSVP call (617) 635-4920 x2155 or cherie.craft@cityofboston.gov.

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Boston Quality Inventory Community Meeting
Presentation of EEC program quality study

Please join Boston EQUIP (Early Education Quality Improvement Project) next Monday for a presentation of the Wellesley Centers for Women’s 2010 study of Early Education and Care program quality in Boston’s Community-Based Programs. The presentation will be followed by a panel including representatives from the United Way, the Department of Early Education and Care, ABCD Head Start and Thrive in 5.

Monday, November 22, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Boston Foundation (75 Arlington Street, Boston). RSVP to (617) 695-0700 x229 or onavarro@associatedece.org.

Boston EQUIP is an initiative of Associated Early Care and Education.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES
Bring D.W. Counts Down to Kindergarten to Your Community for FREE
The Boston’s Children Museum is looking for community partners to host D.W. Counts Down to Kindergarten, a 30 minute, interactive school readiness play for 3 to 5 year olds and their parents. Add it to an existing school readiness event or start planning one today! [Play guidelines] & [application]

November is Family Literacy Month – Plan Your Celebration Today
Governor Patrick has issued a Proclamation declaring November 2010 to be Family Literacy Month. For resources to help plan your celebration, visit the Department of Early Education and Care’s (EEC) website

“Parenting In Action” on BNN Live Every Thursday at 8 p.m. & Saturday at 9 a.m.
Tune into Comcast Channel 9 & RCN Channel 15 for How Parents and Kids Can Get Ready for Kindergarten on October 21 & 23. [Click here for upcoming episodes] & [here to watch past episodes online]

Wheelock TeachBoston
Earn a master’s degree from Wheelock and an initial teaching license for grades PreK-2 in as few as five semesters with Wheelock TeachBoston. [Click here for more information]

Children’s Investment Fund Opportunities
Free training and equipment grant program for providers serving very young children. [Read More]
Emergency Capital Grant Program For Boston Early Care and Education (ECE) and Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs > Read More

EEC Professional Qualifications Registry Improvements
EEC released a new step-by-step guide for joining and using their Professional Qualifications Registry. They are also working to improve the usability and functionality of the registry and welcome your suggestions at EECPQRegistry@massmail.state.ma.us

Boston Association for the Education of Young Children

Babies & Toddlers Conference
December 4, 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

20th Annual Conference for Directors & Administrators
January 28, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

> Read More

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