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[MAChildcareresourcesonline.org](http://MAChildcareresourcesonline.org)



MAChildcareonline

## Massachusetts Awarded 50M Race to the Top Grant

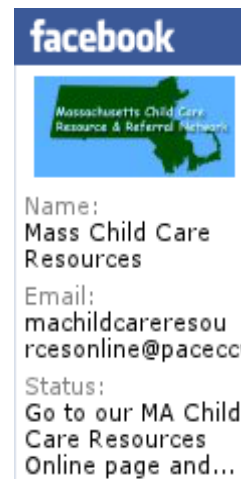
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2012

Massachusetts is one of 12 winning states in the national Race to the Top (RTTT) competition, funded by the U.S Department of Education to promote reform in four areas: standards and assessments, great teachers and leaders, school turnaround, and data systems. Some of RTTT funding has been allocated to over 250 participating school districts who have signed on to the challenge of implementing RTTT programs **at the local level.**

The Commissioner of the Department of Early Education & Care, Sherri Killins, will be holding **Parent Informational Sessions** across the Commonwealth this Spring to give details on the Massachusetts plan and to get input from parents.

Stay tuned to [MAChildCareResourcesOnLine](http://MAChildCareResourcesOnLine) for information on the times and locations of these sessions.

To learn more about the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge, [click here.](#)



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**Quote for the month.....**

*"You're never too old to do  
goofy stuff." ~From the*

## Newsletter Spotlight

### On-line Learning Games for Kids FREE

From Pre-school & Kindergarten to upper elementary grades, this [site](#) from Sheppard software offers hundreds of educational games & activities for kids (and parents) to use on-line for **FREE!!**

CNN called it "**The FUN site of the week!**" other reviews include this one from Candice Gomes, Education Outreach Coordinator, Boston Public Library - "**I stumbled upon your fun interactive geography games from a link on the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance Website. Since then, your games have become quite a hit...**" and from the Dallas Children's Museum - "**Terrific online educational games, especially geography.**"

[Click here to access the site](#)

### New from the CDC "Up & Away & Out of Sight"

The CDC has just launched this educational web site to remind families of the importance of safe medicine storage.

To help keep children safe through proper medicine storage, Up and Away and Out of Sight educates parents and caregivers by: reminding them about safe medicine storage; [providing them with information and tools](#) to keep their child/children safe; and encouraging them to take action. To learn more about the program and its resources and tools, visit [www.upandaway.org](http://www.upandaway.org). Also visit the CDC's Medication Safety Program [web site here](#).

*television show Leave it to Beaver, spoken by the character Ward Cleaver*

*Have a great quote you would like to share?*

**Submit to:**  
[info@childcarecircuit.org](mailto:info@childcarecircuit.org)

Have you visited our [web site?](#)

[Take our survey](#) and be entered for a chance to win a \$100 gift card.

We've joined Twitter . Follow us at @MAChildcare



## Sixth Annual EITC Awareness Day is Friday, January 27, 2012

The Earned Income Tax Credit & the Child Tax Credit of up to \$5,751 (or more) may be available to you if you qualify, but you have to **CLAIM IT!!**

Go [here](#) to use the IRS **"Interactive Tax Assistant"** and learn more about the EITC.

For FREE tax assistance, [find a VITA site](#) near YOU.

If you worked in 2011, had children living with you & earned less than about \$46,000 - **YOU COULD QUALIFY!!!**

Your EITC & CTC refunds **DO NOT** count as income when you apply for or renew benefits like food stamps, SSI, Medicaid, cash assistance or public housing.

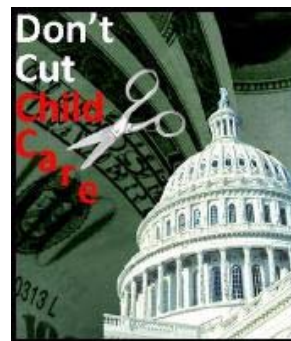
[Click here](#) or call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to learn more.

### What's New in Early Childhood

## New Crib Standards

Beginning December 28, 2012, any crib provided by child care facilities and family child care homes must meet new and improved federal safety standards. The **[new crib standards](#)** took effect for manufacturers, retailers, importers and distributors on June 28, 2011, addressing deadly hazards previously seen with traditional drop-side rails, and mandate more rigorous testing.

Click here for a **["Providers Guide to New Crib Standards"](#)** In addition, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has an **[on-line Q & A](#)** on the **[new Crib Standards](#)** that may be of use.



**Urge Congress Not to Cut  
Child Care Spending!! .**

[Click here](#) to send a letter  
today!

View some recent "[Safety Recalls](#)" from the CPSC.

**FREE Event Posting**



Want to post a local event in your community on the MACHildCareResources web page?

Use the link below to access our on-line form for submitting local events to be posted on the MACHildcareresources web site FREE of charge.

**[Submit Here!!](#)**

Find us at:  
[www.machildcareresourcesonline.org](http://www.machildcareresourcesonline.org)



**Winter Fun!!!!**

MACHildCareResourcesOnLine is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care.

**Questions or comments?  
E-mail us at :  
[ccorso@childcarecircuit.org](mailto:ccorso@childcarecircuit.org)**

[Forward email](#)



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