



Edward Street Child Services

Providing advocacy, resources and support to early childhood educators and the children they serve.

\$ 343,905.00 Awarded

Suzanne M. Bump, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development recently announced a grant award from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund in the amount of \$343,905.00 for the Coalition for Early Education Careers. The YWCA of Central Massachusetts is the fiscal agent. Edward Street Child Services is the Project Manager. The career specialist will be housed at the Colleges of Worcester Consortium. The coalition includes Guild of St. Agnes, Worcester Comprehensive Child Care Services and Rainbow Child Development Center. Additional partners are Quinsigamond Community College, Becker College, Worcester State College, Worcester Technical High School, and Youth Works. Paula Rigero has recently been hired as the Career Advisor for the project.

[Read more.](#)

The project will assist 100 teachers to attain their Associate and Bachelor degrees. The goal of this workforce development program is to create a pool of qualified employees within the industry and among current high school students attracted to the industry.

High quality early childhood education requires a high quality workforce. Research indicates that outcomes for children improve when teachers are adequately compensated and have a bachelor's degree or better. This grant will be used to break down the barriers to higher education for our teachers and increase the quality of early childhood education in our community..

Early brain development research is clear. We must give all children the chance to achieve in school and in life. The ultimate savings in special education, juvenile justice and future welfare dependency are a benefit of a community's investment in early childhood education. More importantly, however, all children deserve a fair start that will lead to happy and successful lives.



Seventy six Early Childhood Educators attended a recent Medication Administration training sponsored by Edward Street Child Services. The training was conducted by Erin McMaster, MD, a pediatrician from UMassMemorial.

Fast Facts

The average salary of a Lead Teacher in a center based program in Worcester is \$26,988.00 annually. (\$12.97 per hour)

The average salary of an Assistant Teacher is \$20,925.00 annually. (\$10.06 per hour)

Our teachers work 5 days per week, 8 hours per day, 260 days per year.

A first year teacher in a Worcester Public School preschool earns \$30,000.00 per year plus benefits including retirement. (\$27.78 per hour) These teachers work 5 days per week, 6 hours per day, 180 days per year.

The Accreditation Challenge



[Read more about the impact of higher education on early education.](#)

Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is considered the gold standard of quality. In recent years NAEYC has significantly raised the bar requiring higher quality standards before awarding accreditation. Worcester has risen to the challenge. Massachusetts has the highest number of accredited programs in the country. Worcester has the highest number of programs accredited under the new standards in the commonwealth.

Edward Street Child Services is dedicated to improving the delivery of early childhood education in the community. We have assisted agencies in achieving accreditation through consultation assistance and facility improvement projects. Our work with the Coalition for Early Education Careers will impact the quality of the teaching staff for many years to come.