



# Fast Facts: Children, Families and Early Education in Palmer

	Palmer	Statewide
Children birth through 5 (under 6)	860	477,882
Total # of preschool-aged (3-5yr) children	468	239,190
% of children under age 6 living below the poverty line*	17.1%	12.6%
% of children under 6 with all parents in the labor force	74.3%	61%
% of public school children attending full-day kindergarten	100%	65.9%
% of students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch	19.8%	28.2%
% of children 5-17 whose first language is not English	0%	14.9%
% of students unable to perform classwork in English	0%	5.6%
% of students receiving special education services	16.2%	16.9%
% of students who dropped-out of high school	1%	3.8%
% of third graders who do not meet the state standards for reading proficiency on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System	48%	42%

\* The 2006 federal poverty line for a family of four is \$20,000 per year.

## Early Education and Care in Palmer

- According to the 2000 Census, 48.9% of 3-5 year-olds in Palmer are enrolled in preschool.
- Of those children enrolled in preschool in Palmer, 52 (22.7%) attend public school pre-kindergarten, according to the Department of Education. The remaining 77.3% are enrolled in community-based or family child care programs.
- In Palmer, there is 1 public school preschool program, 6 licensed center-based programs, and 22 licensed family child care programs, according to the Department of Early Education and Care.
- As of January 2007, 32 children ages 0-14 were on a waiting list to receive a child care subsidy from the Department of Early Education and Care, of which 11 are of preschool-age (2.9-5 years).
- The Department of Early Education and Care estimates that 93 of Palmer's jobs are in the early education and care industry.
- The average salary of a preschool teacher in the Worcester Area is \$28,770, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sources: US Census, 2000

Massachusetts Department of Education: Kindergarten Enrollment Data, FY06, FY07 (statewide)

Massachusetts Department of Education: School District Profiles, 2006-07

Massachusetts Department of Education Dropout Rate Data, 2004-05

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care: Early Childhood Education Indicators, 2004

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, 2004

Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, Wait List Data, 2007



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July 2007