

# Childcare

## Funding Resources



Many parents of young children may find they need childcare. Whatever the reason, returning to work or in need of extra help, this can be hard to accept. Leaving your baby or child with someone else is emotional, even if the caregiver is a family member.

In addition to finding quality childcare, parents may need financial assistance to offset the cost. Childcare is expensive. For many families, cost is always a factor. If the child has special needs, the issue might be more than finding the right person with the right experience and training. The cost for childcare could be greater than average for a child with special needs if the child needs a smaller group or the care and support of a single person at all times. When searching for childcare, be ready to answer questions about income, employment, and current services as this may determine eligibility for assistance through state funded programs and other resources.

Consider all options for financial assistance. In some cases, tax credits for the cost of childcare, babysitters, summer camp or other care providers for a child with a disability may be allowed. Speak with an accountant or tax specialist to learn more about this option.

**TIP:** All licensed early education and care providers in Massachusetts must accept children with special needs. There may be an exception to this rule if the cost to care for the child creates an undue financial hardship for the provider.

Family TIES of Massachusetts provides information, referral, and parent to parent support for families of children with special health needs or disability and their professional partners. We also provide information about Early Intervention (EI) and maintain a complete list of EI Programs in Massachusetts.

The information provided on the back page of this sheet is not a complete list of the resources that may be available. For information about community based programs, resources and local support groups, please call your Regional Coordinator or our toll-free line 800-905-TIES (8437).

We publish an annual *Directory of Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Special Needs*. The Directory is always listed as the first place to look for resources on our Topic Sheets!

Call us if you would like a copy of the directory mailed to you. A pdf version of the directory is available to download on our website [www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org). You can also find the phone number for the Family TIES Regional Coordinator for your area on our website.



## Information and Resources

### Family TIES Resource Directory:

- Under *Childcare Resources and Referral Networks*

### Massachusetts State Agency Programs:

- MassHealth Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Program -  
<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/07/wm/pca-consumer-handbook.pdf>
- The MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) -  
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/early-education-and-care-financial-assistance-for-families>

### Statewide:

- MA Child Care Resource & Referral Network  
[https://eelead.force.com/EEC\\_CCRRSearch](https://eelead.force.com/EEC_CCRRSearch)
- Head Start  
<https://www.mass.gov/head-start>