

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY

Name: Kate Roper, Ed.M

Title: Director, Massachusetts ECCS Project

Organization: Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health

Address: 250 Washington Street

City: Boston State: MA Zip Code: 02108

Phone: (617) 624-5442

Email: Kate.Roper@massmail.state.ma.us

Kate Roper is the Director of the Massachusetts Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Project (MECCS) Director at the Mass Department of Public Health (DPH). MECCS is funded through the State ECCS grant of the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau. The goals of ECCS are to coordinate across systems of early childhood health, mental health, child care and education, family support and parenting education. Kate works closely with senior staff from the state agencies serving young children and their family, who comprise the Young Children's Interagency Workgroup. Kate coordinates DPH's early childhood health issues, including facilitating training for Healthy Child Care Consultants (health and mental health consultants) and maintaining a web page on Health and Safety in Child Care. The training for consultants includes a segment on nutrition and obesity prevention. MECCS co-sponsored training on "I am Moving, I am Learning" with Mass Head Start Association, the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the U Mass Donahue Institute for Head Start and Early Care and Education providers. Kate advised EEC on a new regulation requiring 60 minutes of physical activity daily in child care settings.

Kate has been in the field of ECE since 1978 as an infant teacher, teen parent child care director, trainer, adjunct faculty member, and mentor for women transitioning from welfare to work as infant-toddler teachers. Prior to joining the MECCS project, Kate was a curriculum developer and consultant for 13 years, working with a range of programs including Head Start, CCR&Rs, private foundations, and state agencies. Kate received an Ed. M at Harvard Graduate School of Education in Human Development. She completed the train the trainers program at the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants in 2003.