



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Jessica Todisco**  
**Community Outreach Specialist**  
**781-929-2858**  
[jtodisco@littlesprouts.com](mailto:jtodisco@littlesprouts.com)

**A Piece of Hope and Inspiration**  
**Little Sprouts partners with the COMPASS Community College Collaborative**  
**to help educate children in need**

Merrimack Valley, MA. June 13, 2008 - Little Sprouts is honored to be able to have the opportunity to participate in assisting in the process of educating children who are in need. Recently Little Sprouts has created a partnership with the COMPASS Community College Collaborative, a program established between Parenting Resources Associates COMPASS program and the Massachusetts Community Colleges. With the support from these organizations, families living in temporary housing are provided with a range of direct support and empowerment services that individually and collectively serve to strengthen families while they are waiting for permanent housing. One major form of support that is offered to all the families is the opportunity to go back to school, with mothers in the COMPASS Community College Collaborative attending school at Middlesex Community College and Roxbury Community College. To help ensure that parents are able to attend their daily classes, Little Sprouts is educating the children of these families at their Westford, Lowell and Roxbury centers. Having strong early education programs for these children allows the parents to be able to concentrate on their own education to help better the future for them personally and for their families. "Little Sprouts' partnership with the COMPASS Community College Collaborative is in the true essence about the power of one" noted Susan Leger Ferraro, President and Founder of Little Sprouts. "It started with one person wanting to support at risk moms and added one more and one more until we are now serving 16 families with 22 children at our centers. These are children who have not had the opportunity to be part of an award winning early education experience, and parents who have had limited access to job training programs and to higher education. The unity of people with great hearts to help make this happen for these families of the Commonwealth, represent the support and love to help change generational poverty one family at a time!" "The true partnership between the Community Colleges, our COMPASS program and Little Sprouts ensures that families living in temporary housing face a brighter future. To watch the mothers and children get on

the morning buses together to go to their respective education programs is to witness many families making strides toward their own brighter futures.” stated Jodi Wilinsky Hill, Executive Director of Parenting Resource Associates, Inc.

**About Little Sprouts Inc.:** Little Sprouts has been a leader in providing award winning early education since 1982. A group of humanitarians that believe in the power of literacy to change the world; social, emotional, intellectual and physical literacy for children, youth, teachers and families. Little Sprouts believes in the commonality in humanity. We embrace that unity is best achieved by celebrating diversity. Little Sprouts has 7 schools in Massachusetts supporting families that reflect 32 cultures speaking 23 languages from all walks of social, economic, religious & ethnic backgrounds. To learn more about how you can join us in making the world a better place, visit us at [www.littlesprouts.com](http://www.littlesprouts.com)

**About the COMPASS Community College Collaborative:** The Collaborative is a true partnership between Parenting Resource Associates COMPASS program and the Executive Office of the Massachusetts Community Colleges/Welfare to Work Programs, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), pursuant to the recommendations of the Report of the Special Commission Relative to Ending Homelessness in the Commonwealth (December 2007). The Collaborative helps single mothers in family shelters develop their abilities to reach individualized self-sufficiency goals for work, community and home, via a coordinated program of Community College based education and support services, critical information and long-term coaching. The COMPASS Community College Collaborative is currently serving 40 single mothers staying with their children in very under-resourced shelters in Waltham, MA. We are proposing to serve 500 families at 5 Community College campuses next year. The CCCC is in the process of building additional partnerships with like-minded organizations, in an effort to support families and end homelessness throughout Massachusetts. So far, connections have been forged with One Family Scholars; Little Sprouts – leaders in High Quality Early Childhood Education since 1982; and Heading Home, Inc. Many individuals and corporations are on board as well. Please join us – for further information see: [www.parentingresourceassociates.org](http://www.parentingresourceassociates.org)