



Application Packets are

Available ONLINE!

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/>

## The 2009 Early stARTS Project

The Early stARTS Project is a joint effort between the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Early Childhood Division, Office of Child & Family Services. It highlights the importance of quality arts education for preschool age children and ensures that there is a focus on arts education within early childhood education programs in Maine. The Early StARTS initiative promotes the use of all the arts disciplines through 1) professional development opportunities for early childhood educators and care providers, 2) networking and resource lists, 3) artist-in-residence programs, and 4) conferences.

### Purpose

The Early stARTS Project invites all Child Care Providers in center-based, school-age, and family child care network settings to apply for a grant to have an artist spend time with its staff and children by hosting either a Single Artist Workshop, which offers the opportunity for a child care facility to have an artist spend the day or part of the day with its staff and children, or an Artist-in-Residence, which offers the opportunity to have an artist spend an expanded and focused amount of time equivalent to a week with its staff and children. The goal of these grants are to incorporate new creative concepts into the child care setting and sustain them, as well as focus on increasing the professional development of staff, parents and educators.

### Funding

Grants of up to \$400 are available for Single Artist Workshops and up to \$1500 are available for Artist-in-Residencies to bring an artist in to work with children, staff, parents, larger community or a combination of these populations.

### Application Information

Application packets are mailed to licensed child care providers early in the year for workshops to be completed between April 1 and August 31. **Completed applications are due by March 6, 2009.** Applications will be reviewed by staff of the Maine Arts Commission, Early Childhood Division, Office of Child & Family Services and Maine Roads to Quality. Review will be based on complete answers to the application questions with consideration given to geographic spread and the variety of arts disciplines of program proposals.

### FMJ or to Request an Application Packet

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