



## For Immediate Release

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### New Little Sprouts friends STRIVE to success!

#### Project STRIVE and Little Sprouts join forces to help high school students gain their GED.

Lawrence, MA. March 25, 2008 - Project STRIVE recently hosted their graduation for their 10 participants at Cambridge College in Lawrence on Friday, March 21, 2008. Created in 1998, Project STRIVE is a GED and leadership program for at-risk youths who have dropped out of high school in the greater Merrimack Valley Region. The program runs the full year and meets Monday-Friday for 20 hours per week, leaving time for work experience and internships. Participants are placed in local businesses as paid interns to learn the basics of being employed: responsibility, maturity, teamwork, problem solving, interacting with others, and career and life choices. Thanks to the support of Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers, all of the STRIVE participants had been placed in the Little Sprouts Centers for their internships and workforce training to gain hands-on experience with children, staff and families. The Project STRIVE and Little Sprouts staff worked with participants to place them in career building occupations with strong job growth and potential for promotion. Many of the participants are now employees at Little Sprouts due to their determination, strength, interest and love of children. Many family and friends of the participants sat in the audience at the graduation to listen to the accomplishments that each student has made in the Project STRIVE program. "The hard work and dedication from this group was inspiring and I am eager to see our services expand with our new Director of Youth Programming and Outreach Services, Cara Gradzewicz." noted, Whitney Repetto, Executive Director of Project STRIVE. Cara Gradzewicz stated, "I am looking forward to working with the youth in our community and making solid connections that will help participants gain the necessary skills they need to enter the workforce. "



**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)