



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

February 8, 2021

Dear Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Providers,

First and foremost, we thank you for your commitment to children and families during the pandemic. Not only have you stayed open during these unprecedented times and supported Maryland's families, but you paved the way for additional programs to recover and reopen safely. It is because of your courage and commitment during this unprecedented time that allowed us to learn from you and create our new Build-A-Plan Tool to help you develop Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan.

COVID -19 has heightened the importance of child care to a thriving economy. The Build-A-Plan Tool can assist child care providers in developing Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan to reopen or recover safely, and stay open. The Build-A-Plan Tool incorporates the health and safety guidance, developed in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health. It provides vetted and effective strategies to implement in programs and classrooms, easing the burden from educators and providers. In addition, the Build-A-Plan Tool provides explanations of the guidance and visuals to better aid you in implementing the strategies. Additionally, it allows you to share with families the measures you are taking to keep their children safe, helping to assure parents during this difficult time.

We encourage you to use the Build-A-Plan Tool to develop Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan based on your program's individual needs. The Build-A-Plan Tool and Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan can help you to "Stay Open Safely with Confidence" while supporting staff and families during this difficult time!

Thank you,

Steven Hicks
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood
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