

ISSUE 1  
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2018

# IMPACT

Collectively Building Maryland's Future



## From the Director's Desk

By Jennifer A. Nizer, M.Ed.  
Director, Office of Child Care

At the Office of Child Care (OCC), I get many questions about relevant topics that often pertain to the entire child care community. I also have Facebook posts from providers speaking about topics, asking about rumors, and giving each other information that MAY NOT BE TRUE. This is the place where I will try to clarify things that I hear or see so that the provider community can get the factual information directly from the OCC.

So, here we go...

**There are providers across the State that speak different languages. Does the OCC have forms in different languages?**

We do! Recently the Licensing Branch had many forms used by providers interpreted into Spanish and Hindi. We are working on adding additional languages. We will also have a Child Care Scholarship flyer translated into Spanish, French, Chinese, Amharic and Arabic available soon.

Please see the current forms at [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing/](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing/)

Always check back for new and revised forms. We will also send out a link to revised or updated forms in Tuesday Tidbits.

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**I took the Health & Safety training over a year ago and I have not received my update. Do I have to take the training over?**

No. The Office of Child Care is in the last stages of getting our regulations posted for public comment. The regulations have not changed yet so you are in compliance until the new regulations are in the Maryland Register and have passed. We will send out the update for those providers who have already taken the Health and Safety training. MSDE will continue to send out an annual update, for anyone who has taken the class, regardless if it was taken last year or last week. All staff will sign off and place it in their files for licensing to check as they inspect the facilities.

**I am attending training to renew or upgrade my Credentialing certificate. How do I know that the trainer I am taking the class with is an approved Maryland trainer?**

We have had several trainers that have expired training approval numbers that are still offering training. Check the website at [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/training](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/training) for an updated list. Please be sure to look online prior to paying and signing up for training to be sure the trainer is approved by MSDE.

**I am trying to find ways to assist the provider community in getting Professional Activity Units (PAUs). What do I have to do to see if my activity qualifies?**

First, go to [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing) and fill out the Maryland Child Care Credential PAU Approval Form. Send this form to the address listed at the bottom of the form. You will receive either an approval or denial for that activity within 60 days. Please submit this form 60-90 days prior to the activity. Do not tell participants they will receive a PAU unless it is approved, in writing, by the OCC.

**For additional questions, contact the Division of Early Childhood.**

Access resources, documents and forms from the branches in the Office of Child Care by following these links:



**Child Care Subsidy Program**

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/child-care-subsidy-program/subsidy-forms](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/child-care-subsidy-program/subsidy-forms)

**Maryland Child Care Credential Program**

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-credential-program](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-credential-program)

**Licensing**

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing/licensing-forms](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing/licensing-forms)

**Maryland EXCELS**

[marylandexcels.org/commitment-to-quality/maryland-excels-standards/](http://marylandexcels.org/commitment-to-quality/maryland-excels-standards/)



# WELCOME...

**Roslyn Coleman** to the Early Learning Branch as an Education Specialist -PreK Monitor. She can be reached at [roslyn.coleman@maryland.gov](mailto:roslyn.coleman@maryland.gov).

**Susan Harman** to the Early Learning Branch as an Education Specialist -PreK Monitor. She can be reached at [susan.harman@maryland.gov](mailto:susan.harman@maryland.gov).

**Kenneth Blackman** to the Division of Early Childhood as the Research Statistician. He can be reached at [kenneth.blackman@maryland.gov](mailto:kenneth.blackman@maryland.gov).

**Tara Bartosz** to the Office of Child Care as the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Child Care. Shes can be reached at [tara.bartosz@maryland.gov](mailto:tara.bartosz@maryland.gov).

## Contacting the Division Branches

Division of Early Childhood	<a href="mailto:earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov">earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov</a>
Early Learning Branch	<a href="mailto:early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov">early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov</a>
Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch	<a href="mailto:collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov">collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov</a>
Office of Child Care	<a href="mailto:earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov">earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov</a>
Licensing Branch	<a href="mailto:licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov">licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov</a>
Credentialing Branch	<a href="mailto:credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov">credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov</a> or 1-866-243-8796
Child Care Subsidy Program	<a href="mailto:ccscentral@conduent.com">ccscentral@conduent.com</a> or 1-866-243-8796
Maryland EXCELS	<a href="mailto:info@marylandexcels.org">info@marylandexcels.org</a> or <a href="http://marylandexcels.org">marylandexcels.org</a>

## Connect with us!

Be sure to friend and follow all of the Division's social media accounts to stay up-to-date on Early Childhood news in Maryland.

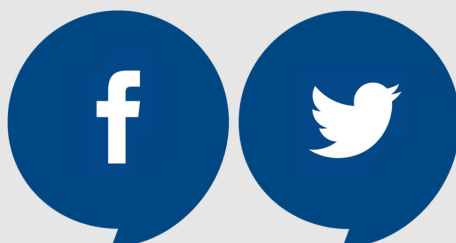
**Division of Early Childhood**  
[twitter.com/md\\_early\\_ed](https://twitter.com/md_early_ed)  
[facebook.com/msde.earlyed](https://facebook.com/msde.earlyed)

**Office of Child Care Director, Jenn Nizer**  
[facebook.com/jenn.nizer.7](https://facebook.com/jenn.nizer.7)

**Assistant State Superintendent, Steven Hicks**  
[twitter.com/stevenhicksmsde](https://twitter.com/stevenhicksmsde)

**Family Engagement**  
[twitter.com/MDEngageEarly](https://twitter.com/MDEngageEarly)  
[facebook.com/MDEngageEarly](https://facebook.com/MDEngageEarly)

**Maryland EXCELS**  
[twitter.com/MarylandEXCELS](https://twitter.com/MarylandEXCELS)  
[facebook.com/MDEXCELS](https://facebook.com/MDEXCELS)  
[instagram.com/MarylandEXCELS](https://instagram.com/MarylandEXCELS)

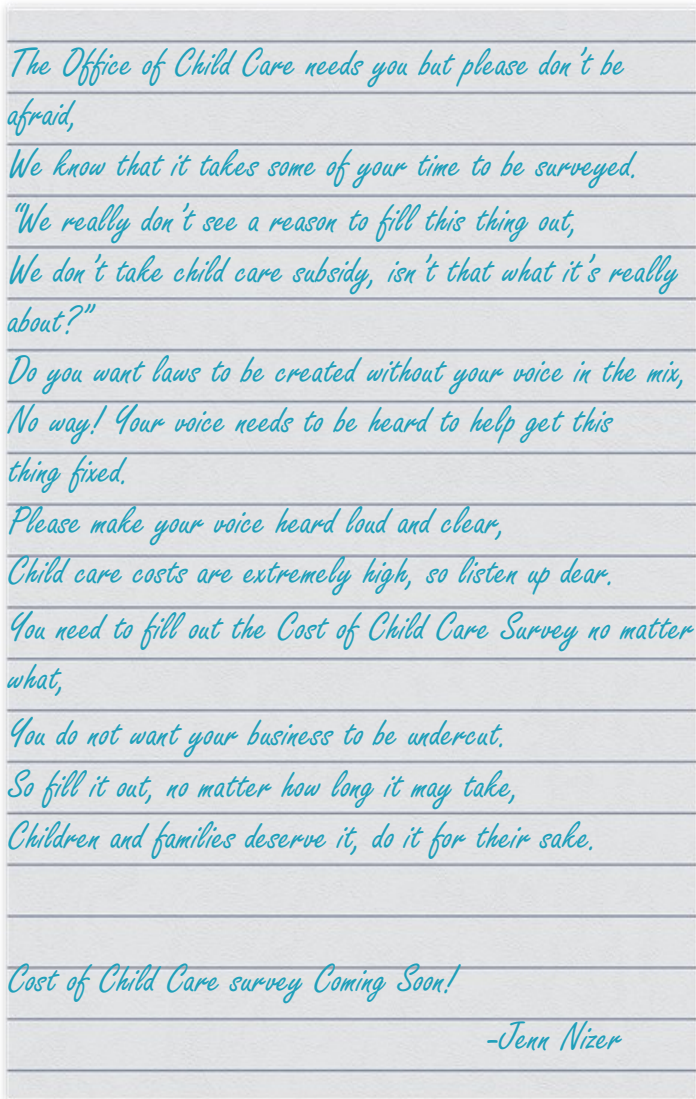


[SIGN UP TO RECEIVE IMPACT HERE](#)



# Don't Take a Loss, Take the Survey About Your Costs

The Office of Child Care will be sending a request for information from child care providers to determine the cost of child care across Maryland. When the survey becomes available please complete it.



Providers will earn Professional Activity Units (PAU) for completing the survey. News and updates will be coming soon.



# Completar el curso en español

## Complete the course in Spanish

A Spanish version of "Health and Safety Basics: Requirements for Certification" is available from Penn State Better Kid Care. Certificates are issued for CEU credit so a small fee is charged by Penn State for processing. This is currently the only Health and Safety Training available in another language recognized by MSDE- Office of Child Care. Information will be updated with additional training offerings in other languages as they become available.

<http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/lessons/espanol>

## The 2018 IMPACT Project Has ACCEPTED Maryland's Proposal!

Maryland submitted a proposal to the Federal Office of Child Care to participate in the two-year Impact Project with the State Capacity Building Center (SCBC). The state's proposal was accepted and the Office of Child Care (OCC) will begin working with the SCBC to develop and expand Maryland's capacity for planning, investing in, and implementing quality early childhood systems, policies, and practices.

The Project will include an evaluation of each branch that falls under the OCC, including Licensing, Child Care Scholarships (formerly known as Subsidy), Maryland EXCELS, and Credentialing to ensure the state is moving forward as a leader in high quality early childhood education and care. In addition, the Project will include a review of best practices and innovative ideas that will improve the state's existing programs. During this process, the SCBC will provide consultation to help further Maryland's work, and to support the overall vision of this Project.

Maryland needs your input! The OCC will be reaching out to stakeholders for feedback and collaboration as the state moves forward with the IMPACT Project. Stay tuned for more details.

# Maryland Child Care Resource Network Planned Closings for End-of-Year 2018

## Maryland Family Network

November 22-23, 2018  
December 24-25, 2018  
December 31, 2018  
January 1, 2019



## Child Care Choices

November 22-23, 2018  
December 24, 2018 (closing at noon)  
December 25, 2018  
December 31, 2018 (no evening hours at Carroll office) January 1, 2019

## APPLES for Children

November 22-23, 2018  
December 19, 2018 through January 2, 2019

## Abilities Network

November 22-23, 2018  
December 25, 2018  
January 1, 2019

## Arundel Child Care Connections

November 22-23, 2018  
December 24, 2018 through January 1, 2019

## Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center

November 22-23, 2018  
December 24-25, 2018  
December 31, 2018  
January 1, 2019

## Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center

November 21 -23, 2018  
December 20, 2018 through January 1, 2019  
(facility being painted so staff will be unable to access)

## Howard County Child Care Resource Center

November 22-23, 2018  
December 25, 2018  
January 1, 2019

## Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center

November 22-23, 2018  
December 24, 2018 through January 1, 2019

## Montgomery County Child Care Resource Center

November 22, 2018  
December 25, 2018  
January 1, 2019

## Prince George's Child Resource Center

November 22 and 23, 2018  
December 25, 2018  
January 1, 2019

## The Promise Resource Center

November 22-23, 2018  
December 24, 2018 through January 1, 2019



# MARYLAND EXCELS

## Maryland Family Child Care Survey Extended



The MSDE Division of Early Childhood is conducting a survey about the potential development of a Maryland Accreditation program for family child care. The survey was developed with a work group composed of Maryland family child care representatives.

Take the survey at [marylandexcels.org/fccsurvey](http://marylandexcels.org/fccsurvey).

## Year of **BONUSES!**

The Maryland EXCELS Year of Bonuses is well underway. Check out the details below and visit [marylandexcels.org/bonus](http://marylandexcels.org/bonus) for further information.

**MARYLAND EXCELS**  
Year of Bonuses!  
"Getting Published Pays"

Bonuses will be paid to Maryland EXCELS participating programs that publish a first-time quality rating 1 through 5, or republish a quality rating 5, from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

For more information, visit [www.marylandexcels.org/bonus](http://www.marylandexcels.org/bonus)

# PROVIDERS WANTED

Are you a provider that exemplifies outstanding quality?  
Do you know a provider with an awesome story to share?

SEND US YOUR STORY IDEAS TO [SOCIAL@MARYLANDEXCELS.ORG](mailto:SOCIAL@MARYLANDEXCELS.ORG)

As of October 2018, Maryland EXCELS has 4,497 child care and early education programs participating. Their commitment to providing quality for the families and children of Maryland is nothing short of inspiring. Be sure to check out the Provider Spotlight articles on [MarylandEXCELS.org](http://MarylandEXCELS.org) for vital examples of such incredible work.

## In the Community

The Maryland EXCELS Team is busy in the community connecting with families to promote the hard work of all participating programs.



## Baseball Events

Over the summer, Maryland EXCELS engaged with families at minor league baseball games—including Bowie Baysox, Delmarva Shorebirds and Frederick Keys—to share the importance of quality child care and early education. Character Nights at the baseball games were especially well attended by young families whose children wanted to meet everyone from Peppa Pig to Shimmer and Shine and Vampirina.

With the start of the 2018 school year, Maryland EXCELS attended several back-to-school events to interact with families, educate about quality child care and direct them to the Quality Finder app to locate care.



## Professional Events

The change of the seasons also brought wonderful opportunities to participate in the Maryland State Child Care Association symposium (October 11) and the Maryland State Family Child Care Association annual conference (October 12 – 15). Maryland EXCELS was happy to support these events and connect with child care providers throughout Maryland.

## Maryland EXCELS 5th Birthday!

Following the July 27, 2018 kickoff celebration at Camden Yards, Maryland EXCELS began its regional birthday events on September 20, 2018 in Salisbury. A second regional event was held in Waldorf on November 8, 2018. These events celebrate Maryland EXCELS 5 years as the state’s quality rating and improvement system while honoring participating programs’ commitment to providing high-quality child care and early education to Maryland families.



### Future Birthday Events:

- January 17, 2019 - Central
- March 21, 2019 - Baltimore City
- April 11, 2019 - Harford/Cecil
- May 16, 2019 - Western

# Credentialing Branch Updates

**Are you a credentialed provider?  
Need to contact the Credential Program?  
Have questions?**

Mail or fax your Maryland Child Care Credential Program application to Child Care Central.

Child Care Central  
PO Box 598  
Baltimore, MD 21203  
Fax: 410.229.0145  
Phone: 1.866.243.8796



Do not mail your credential program application packet to MSDE Headquarters. Applications received at MSDE for the Maryland Child Care Credential program will be returned.

Applications, forms and additional information for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program are available at

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing)

## Training Voucher and Reimbursement Program



- Applications faxed to MSDE will not be processed.
- Applications sent to Child Care Central will not be forwarded to MSDE and will not be processed.

For more information, visit:  
[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org)

### How to Submit a Training Voucher and Reimbursement Application

Applications can be submitted to MSDE:

1. By mail  
MSDE-Credentialing Branch  
200 W. Baltimore St. 10th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201
2. Online  
<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/training-vouchers-and-reimbursements>

Training Vouchers and Reimbursement are designed to assist child care professionals participating in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at Level Two or higher with the costs of training for professional development.

**Training voucher and reimbursement applications should not be mailed, faxed or emailed to Child Care Central. Applications sent to Child Care Central will not be forwarded to MSDE for processing.**



# Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

**Are you interested in pursuing an associate's or bachelor's degree?**

The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) is a tuition assistance program for child care providers to obtain a college education at participating colleges/universities in Maryland. Funding is available for child care providers to earn a college degree in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education
- Child Development
- Elementary Education
- Special Education

## Eligibility Requirements

CCCPDF applicants must meet the following requirements to receive funds (COMAR 13A.14.09):

- Participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at Level Two or higher
- Work in a licensed child care center or be a registered family child care provider in Maryland at least 10 hours per week
- Have at least one year of documented experience working with groups of children in an approved setting
- Maintain employment in child care in Maryland while participating in the Program
- Participate in professional development
- Agree to complete the child care service requirement in Maryland for at least 10 hours per week after completion of the degree and/or withdrawal from the fund

- Fulfill entrance requirements at the participating college of your choice
- Maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA from the point of first entering the Program

**The next deadline for new applications for the Fall Semester is March 1, 2019.**



Helpful tips for preparing to apply for the CCCPDF:

- Apply to the participating college of your choice (see page 12 for a list of participating colleges/universities.)
- Review program information online: [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-career-and-professional](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-career-and-professional)
- Get to know your coordinator: Once accepted into the college of your choice, schedule a meeting with the CCCPDF Coordinator to review your application before submitting to MSDE
- Ensure that your credential is up-to-date and current through the application deadline
- Applications for the fund should be submitted no earlier than January 2019



For more information about the application process and a list of participating colleges, please visit our website:

[earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org)

# Student Testimonial

Dreams do come true when the timing is right!

As a little girl, I always dreamed of being a teacher. Opportunities were not available to me at that time.

One day, I received a flyer from Harford Community College that stated "The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund covers all tuition, fees and books. "All" made me sit down. So, I picked up the phone and began making the necessary calls to find out if this was true.



Today, I am a proud recipient of this grant and am currently enrolled at UMBC in Catonsville in the Early Childhood Program. Thank you so very much MSDE for including the child care professionals. This grant has blessed my life tremendously, as dreams do come true. Now, it's finally my turn! -Teresa Sutton

# New Maryland Child Care Credential Program Booklet is Available



# Funding for Centers & Providers

The **Child Care Quality Incentive Grant Program** funds child care centers and family child care providers to enhance the quality of childcare provided to children in Maryland programs. Funds can be used to purchase approved



materials, equipment, and supplies that create or enhance stimulating learning environments that help children develop physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively.

Child care centers and family child care providers are eligible for a Quality Incentive Grant award once every three (3) years. Quality Incentive Grant funds are dispersed quarterly.

Child Care Quality Incentive Grant awards are based on the number of children enrolled at the time of application:

- A child care center or family provider with fewer than 10 children may be awarded a grant of up to \$1000.
- A child care center with up to 29 children may be awarded a grant of up to \$1,500.
- A child care center with more than 30 children may be awarded a grant of up to \$2,500.

The **Family Child Care Provider Direct Grant Fund Program** provides reimbursement to registered family child care providers for expenses necessary to achieve or maintain compliance with the requirements of Child Care Licensing. Providers will be reimbursed for compliance-related expenses.

Registered family child care providers are eligible for a one-time provider grant award. Provider grant funds are income based and dispersed monthly. Providers may be awarded a grant of up to \$500.

Download Credential booklets, guides, applications, forms, and more at:

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing>

## Professional Activity Units (PAUs)

Conferences hosted by local Child Care Resource Centers (CCRCs), Community Colleges and MSDE recognized Child Care Associations

Participants will receive one PAU for attending conferences hosted by the local CCRCs, local community colleges, and MSDE recognized local child care associations.

### MSDE Recognized State Child Care Associations and Organizations

Participants will receive Two PAUs for attending State child care conferences. i.e the Maryland Family Network (MFN), Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA), Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) and Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC).

### MSDE Recognized National Child Care Associations

Participants will receive three PAUs for attending a national child care conference. i.e National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



## National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accreditation Update

### Accredited 2018 or later-

Your update is due 18 months after you achieve accreditation.



### Accredited 2017 or sooner-

You will complete two updates. Your first update fee is due one year after you achieve accreditation. Your second update is due two years after you achieve accreditation. No fees are required if your update is submitted on time.

The update strengthens commitment to maintaining the quality standards, encourages ongoing professional development,

and promotes continuous quality improvement. Timely submission of an update is required to maintain accreditation status through the 3-year award period. Accredited providers must submit the update and fee within 30 days of that date. Late submissions may affect your accreditation and result in additional fees. Upon successful completion of the update, NAFCC sends a validation seal for your certificate. If the update is not submitted within 30 days

of its due date, accreditation will no longer be valid.

Due to changes in requirements to maintain the NAFCC Accreditation, effective January 1,

2019, family child care providers must submit a new accreditation certificate with the new seal as proof that your program maintained accreditation to maintain Level 4 - Option One.



# Credentialing & CCCPDF By the Numbers

The Credentialing Branch is excited to report that the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund has **438** students from participating Colleges/Universities in the State of Maryland.

Take a look at the number of child care providers enrolled in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program as of June 30, 2018.

FY2019 Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund Participants	
College/University	
Anne Arundel Community College	27
Baltimore City Community College	17
Carroll Community College	16
Community College of Baltimore County	23
Cecil College	4
Chesapeake Community College	14
Coppin State University	23
College of Southern Maryland	33
Frederick Community College	20
Hagerstown Community College	14
Harford Community College	17
Howard Community College	50
Montgomery College	85
Notre Dame University	16
Prince George's Community College	14
Salisbury University	11
Towson University	7
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	7
University of Maryland Baltimore County	3
Washington Adventist University	13
Wor-Wic Community College	24
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>438</b>

Providers Enrolled in Child Care Credential Program			
Program Type	Type	Level	Level
Licensed	7606	Admin Level 1	82
		Admin Level 2	12
		Admin Level 3	5
		Admin Level 4	66
		Staff Level 1	873
		Staff Level 2	814
Registered	579	Staff Level 3	2106
		Staff Level 4	1480
		Staff Level 4+	175
		Staff Level 5	734
		Staff Level 6	1255
		Admin Level 1	13
		Admin Level 2	2
		Admin Level 3	1
		Admin Level 4	6
		Staff Level 1	51
		Staff Level 2	39
		Staff Level 3	109
Staff Level 4	157		
Staff Level 4+	86		
Staff Level 5	55		
Staff Level 6	60		
	<b>8181</b>	<b>Total Enrolled</b>	<b>8181</b>

# Scholarships 101

The Child Care Scholarships (CCS) Program provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible working families in Maryland. The program is managed through a centralized vendor - Child Care Subsidy Central (CCS Central).



**For programs to receive Child Care Scholarship reimbursement, they must participate in the state's quality rating and improvement system, Maryland EXCELS.**

Need an application for a family to apply for a scholarship?

Applications, forms and additional information are available at **money4childcare.com**

Submit completed vouchers to:  
 Child Care Subsidy  
 PO Box 17015  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21297  
 Fax: 410.229.0053

**Need to contact CCS Central? Call 1-866-243-8796**

## Child Care Scholarship Program Tips & Helpful Information *help*

### I need Scholarship forms, where can I get them?

Forms for providers and families are available at [earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/child-care-subsidy-program/subsidy-forms](http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/child-care-subsidy-program/subsidy-forms). Forms are also available from CCS Central, call them at 1-866-243-8796.

### What do I need to do to accept Scholarship payments?

Maryland families using Child Care Scholarship Vouchers are required to use a Maryland EXCELS participating program or provider. Programs wishing to participate should complete a two-step process of creating a user account and applying. The application must be submitted in order to participate in Maryland EXCELS. Once the application is submitted, you are eligible for Child Care Scholarship reimbursement.

### Can Scholarship applications be faxed in?

Yes, Scholarship applications can be faxed to CCS Central. They can also be mailed and emailed.  
 Fax: 410.229.0053  
 Child Care Subsidy  
 PO Box 17015  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21297  
 Email: [ccscentral@conduent.com](mailto:ccscentral@conduent.com)

## Changes to Income Eligibility for Scholarships

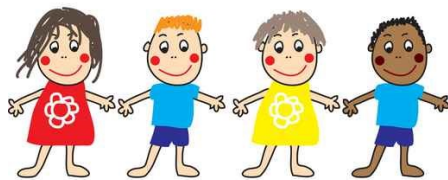
Effective August 1, 2018, families in the following income categories may be eligible for a Child Care Scholarship:

Family Size	Maximum Annual Income
Family of 2	\$48,637
Family of 3	\$60,081
Family of 4	\$71,525
Family of 5	\$82,969
Family of 6	\$94,413
Family of 7	\$96,558
Family of 8	\$98,704
Family of 9	\$100,850
Family of 10	\$102,996

Note: CCS Applications submitted prior to August 1, 2018 that were denied for being over-income will need to submit a new application to CCS Central, if the current income falls within the revised income scale.

**If you know of a family that needs help with paying for the child care services you provide for them, share the contact information for the Subsidy Program. Have them call CCS Central today!**

# What's New with the Early Learning Assessment?



Child care programs participation with the Early Learning

Assessment (ELA) has continued to increase. As of June 30, 2018, 179 teachers administered the ELA to more than 2,100 children in 55 programs. If you are not familiar with the ELA or the recent changes to it, the information below will be helpful.

The ELA, a formative assessment for children 36 to 72 months of age, has several new features. Teachers can include notes and child work samples, including video clips, as they observe children (e.g., during center time or small group activities). The ELA is flexible, with teachers deciding which items they want to observe and how often. Child care programs also benefit by using the ELA since it is aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

If you are interested in learning more about the ELA, visit the links below to view recent webinars that were recorded for child care programs.

Child care programs interested in receiving training should sign up by completing the online interest survey. Go to the following link to complete the survey: <http://bit.ly/elainterest>.

A free ELA kit will be given to participants upon their successful completion of the 12-hour training. Reimbursement for the training will be handled through the Office of Child Care - Credentialing Branch.

Please contact Robert Wagner at [Robert.wagner1@maryland.gov](mailto:Robert.wagner1@maryland.gov) for questions about the ELA and eligibility requirements for the Professional Activity Unit (PAU).

## Ready At Five has what you're looking for— School Readiness Publications!

Please click [here](#) to access the order form or visit our website at [readyatfive.org](http://readyatfive.org) to find the programs we offer, our Family Engagement Resources and our Parents Matter publication (available in English and Spanish).



Sign up for our newsletter to keep updated on Ready At Five's activities and free resources.

ELA Child Care Interest Webinar:

[http://bit.ly/ELAinterest\\_1\\_9\\_18](http://bit.ly/ELAinterest_1_9_18)

ELA Child Care Q & A Webinar:

<https://fram.com/player/I38QP?layout=landscape>



## The Results are In



The Maryland Child Care Resource Network (MCCRN) 2018 Results-Based Accountability System report published by Maryland Family Network is now available. The MCCRN

provides leadership and services designed to improve the quality, availability, and affordability of child care in communities across the state. This report summarizes the annual successes of the Resource Centers in the Network with an emphasis on the well-being of the children and families which it serves. Read the report by visiting [marylandfamilynetwork.org/RBA](http://marylandfamilynetwork.org/RBA).

## The First Five Years



The First Five Years is a radio program presented by Maryland Family Network that airs on WYPR 88.1 FM every Wednesday afternoon at 4:32 PM. The series, generously funded in part by the Maryland State Department of Education, is focused on the extraordinary developmental period of birth to age five. The First Five Years highlights the challenges and opportunities related to nurturing young children and helping them build a solid foundation for success in school and in life. Listen live or listen anytime by downloading the podcast at [marylandfamilynetwork.org](http://marylandfamilynetwork.org).

### Picture this: no vacancies.

Update your child care program availability, fees, or hours by calling the Maryland Family Network LOCATE: Child Care Provider Support Line at 866.752.1614 or visit [marylandfamilynetwork.org](http://marylandfamilynetwork.org).



The Statewide Training Clearinghouse Calendar is a resource available to the child care community to locate training advertised by approved trainers and training organizations in a variety of subjects. Search for child care training in three formats:

1. Online/eLearning
2. A trainer to come to your site
3. Go to a trainer's site/in-person training

The calendar is available courtesy of the Maryland Family Network at

[http://apps.marylandfamilynetwork.org/mdcfc/for\\_providers/trsearchstart.asp](http://apps.marylandfamilynetwork.org/mdcfc/for_providers/trsearchstart.asp)



# Discusses School Readiness On Fox 45's Straight Talk!

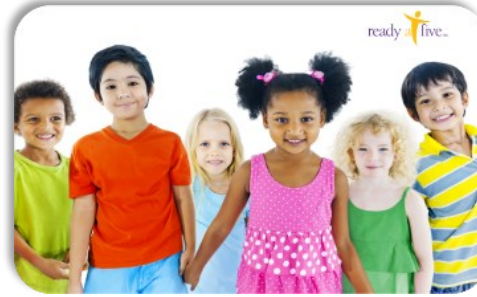


We were thrilled to have our Executive Director, Keri Hyde, and our Executive Leadership Committee Chair, Meredith Callanan discuss School Readiness on Fox45's Straight Talk! If you missed the episode which aired on Fox45's sister stations, 45.2 and CW Baltimore on August 19th you can watch it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MC41B0Arm4&feature=youtu.be>

# You can Make a Difference!

A Note from Ready At Five:



Please help Ready At Five improve the practice and quality of early learning in

Maryland and join our list serve.

[readyatfive.org/resourcesdownloads/enewsletter.html](https://readyatfive.org/resourcesdownloads/enewsletter.html)

Ready At Five is a self-sustaining program of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) and does not receive funding from the MBRT. One-time or monthly donations of \$100 or more are sought and gratefully accepted to expand Ready At Five's impact. To contribute visit



[readyatfive.org/donate-to-ready-at-five.html](https://readyatfive.org/donate-to-ready-at-five.html)



THE PERFECT TIME IS... NOW



Learn more at [ReadAloud.org](https://ReadAloud.org)

Children who are read to during infancy and preschool years have better language skills when they start school and are more interested in reading, according to research. Parents who read to their children nurture more than literary skills!

You can only teach young children so much during the day, which is why partnering with parents to ensure concepts and skills are reinforced at home is so essential to children's learning.

Promote early reading to your parents with materials from

**ReadAloud.org**



Every child. Every parent. Every day.



R E S O U R C E S

# Maryland EXCELS Toolkit Connection:

Connecting and Engaging with Families



It's always the right time for programs to engage with families. Programs are encouraged to take advantage of the variety of information and resources in the Maryland EXCELS Toolkit to help communicate with their families and consider new ways to engage them in the program.

Visit the Administrative Policies and Practices section of the Toolkit to access resources related to Family Engagement and Communicating with Families.

[marylandexcels.org/commitment-to-quality/maryland-excels-toolkit/](http://marylandexcels.org/commitment-to-quality/maryland-excels-toolkit/)



# Ready At Five's Learning Party for Parent Leadership

This Learning Party, developed in collaboration with experts at Every Person Influences Children (EPIC), provides parents and families with important leadership and advocacy skills to promote civic engagement in the familiar and comfortable Learning Party format.



The Parent Leadership Learning Party is part of a larger effort to create and sustain local parent leadership efforts through the Early Childhood Advisory Councils, Judy Centers, and public school systems.

The Parent Leadership Learning Party is designed to support parents/family members as they take an active role in their child's education and in schools, early learning programs, and local communities.

Parent Leadership Learning Parties support growth and development in four areas:

- Trust and Conflict
- Communication
- Advocacy Idea
- Implementation

**The Parent Leadership Learning Party has been designed to meet Goal 7 of the Maryland Family Engagement Framework.**

Family engagement initiatives should support the development of families as leaders and child advocates. When parents and families are empowered, they can be a strong force for positive change in their child's education and in many other areas of life. Therefore, Maryland initiatives and the family engagement practices of early care and education providers should support families to participate in leadership development, decision-making, program policy development, and community and state organizing activities to improve children's development and learning experiences.

There are opportunities for every jurisdiction in Maryland to receive training in Parent Leadership Learning Parties - please contact Robin Hopkins at [robin@readyatfive.org](mailto:robin@readyatfive.org) for more information.

# Calming Tantrums and Meltdowns

*Curriculum Corner—Published by the Montgomery County Child Care Resource & Referral Center*

Life with a toddler is filled with giggles & happiness one minute and tantrums & tears in the next. Seeing the world from their viewpoint may give you a better understanding of why they meltdown and help you think about



ways to prevent tantrums.

Why do toddlers have meltdowns? Life can be hard for a toddler, and sometimes things happen that make them so sad, or so mad, or so scared that they have an emotional meltdown because they are completely overwhelmed by their feelings.

## Here are some of the reasons toddlers melt down:

1. Rules. They want to do something that's against the rules and are angry at you for not allowing them to do so.
2. Impossibilities. They want something that's not possible and don't understand, even when you explain it to them. "Last time I asked for crackers you gave them to me. Now, you are telling me no because you don't have any? I don't understand."
3. Lack of control or lack of choices about where to go and what to do. "I was having a great time playing but suddenly you pick me up and carry me out the door?"
4. Frustration. They want to do something that they aren't quite capable of yet. "You can

put the puzzle together but I try and try and can't do it."

5. Separation. Being away from familiar support systems is sometimes hard.
6. Fears. The world can be scary when you are small and still don't understand much about it and how it works.

When children are having a good day, they may be able to handle any of these things. But on a day when they're tired, hungry, not feeling well, too hot, too cold, or simply overstimulated, even a little thing can seem overwhelming. Also remember, if YOU are tired, hungry, not feeling well, too hot, too cold, or anything else, the way you react to them can cause you to miss little clues which in turn can then lead to a meltdown from the child.

## Preventing Emotional Meltdowns

Even if you are the perfect teacher, and doing everything perfectly right, there will still be times when a child melts down!! But there are some ways you can reduce the number of tantrums:

- Meet their physical needs: Children are less likely to melt down if they are rested, fed, and comfortable.
- Be aware of the child's capacity for stimulation. Children all have a different threshold where they overload.
- Be aware of triggers: Minimize things you know upset the child. Pick your battles!
- Set expectations: Tell them ahead of time what to expect, what behavior you're expecting of them, and what the consequences will be if they can't behave that way.
- Give choices where you can
- Watch for early cues: Notice when a child is reaching the end of their limit. Let them know that you've noticed – that helps them learn to recognize it themselves.
- Talk about meltdowns when they're NOT having one.

- Talk about and model, positive ways to manage feelings.

Sometimes, even with the best tips and tricks, we still can't avoid the tantrum from happening. If that's the case, there are still some ways to "manage" the tantrum.

1. Don't "over-respond". Keep your response calm and low key. You don't want to pay too much attention to the tantrum as you don't want to reward the behavior.
2. Stay calm. A tantruming child is often overwhelmed by the strength of his own emotions, and needs you to model emotional stability to help re-ground him.
3. Don't ask questions or try to talk the child down with a lot of words. If you need to talk to, change the child's behavior, or move her to a safer / more appropriate place, give very simple commands.
4. Stay close by. Don't hover or crowd, as this may provoke more anger – he may yell at you to 'go away'. But, staying nearby helps the child feel safer and tells him you're there when he's ready for comfort.
5. Don't let the child hurt herself, or anyone else. Keep her from damaging possessions. At times, you may need to hold an upset child in a firm, but gentle and supportive way. Sometimes they will resist the hold for a bit, then shift from anger to sadness in your arms.
6. Once the tantrum blows over, calm and comfort. Name and validate the emotions they were feeling.

Sometimes the child will calm down, but you will still be full of tension and stress from the experience! Think about self-care methods that help you release that tension and move on – a few deep breaths, a drink of water, taking a short break... Get support from other teachers or your director. It's OK to ask for help!

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Achieving Full Enrollment



Watch Dr. Deborah Bergeron, the Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start, give three long-term and five quick strategies programs can use to maintain full enrollment all year long.

Dr. Bergeron also highlights Museums for All.

It is an initiative that encourages families of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits.



The video is available at [acf.hhs.gov/ohs/news/achieving-full-enrollment](http://acf.hhs.gov/ohs/news/achieving-full-enrollment)

## Opportunities to for Advancing Your Child Care Career Online



Maryland Public Television (MPT) supports the professional needs of child care providers in Maryland by offering a variety of online courses in each Core of Knowledge area. Providers can build career-relevant skills in a flexible learning environment, and earn MSDE-approved clock hours from the comforts of home, or on-the-go. Choose from 10 self-paced courses designed for family and center-based providers. Each media-rich course includes engaging interactive activities, graded quizzes, and helpful online resources. Through MPT's self-paced courses, early educators build essential knowledge, skills and strategies they can immediately put to use in program settings.

### Pre-Service and Continued Training Clock Hours

Family Child Care Series:

- Understanding Child Development
- Curriculum Development
- Creating a Safe and Healthy Family Care Program
- Building an Inclusive Program
- Professionalism: Owing Your Own Business
- Building Community Connections

### Continuing Training Clock Hours

- Developmental Screening Overview
- Policies in Your Child Care Center
- Your Career as a Child Care Center Aide
- Child Care Director: Understanding Your Roles

Visit [ecourses.thinkport.org](http://ecourses.thinkport.org) to learn more and register!

Providers credentialed at a Level 2 or higher can be reimbursed for taking trainings with an approved trainer.

P R O V I D E R  
P R O F I L E S

## What Early Childhood Education Means to Me

By: Claudia MCLain-Spencer



Children are a unique group of individuals that are gifts in the present and hope for the future. Children are little people with their own personalities, talents, and abilities that need to be encouraged

and supported. Additionally, children have an absorbent mind, possessing the ability and ease with which to unconsciously learn from their environment. A teacher, therefore, should act as a guide and allow the child to discover how to adapt in a prepared environment. The prepared environment is “an atmosphere created to enable the child to be free to learn through his own activity in peaceful and orderly surroundings adapted to the child’s size and interests,” National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of early cognitive education is to provide children with practical life exercises through which they can learn to take care of themselves. Instructive materials used in classrooms should aid in the child’s self-teaching. The goal of early childhood education, therefore, includes teaching children how to think inquisitively and independently, by overcoming obstacles and dependence on others in their attempt to gain freedom and self-development. As an educator it is my responsibility to provide children with opportunities to be the best that they can be in school while equipping them with learning tools and a love for learning that they can use for a successful future.

Being a quality early childhood educator means a lot to me because it is my belief that children are the future and children are a heritage from the Lord, (Psalm 127:3). It is my philosophy that the role of the teacher is to provide an environment, which includes language, a positive attitude, and learning materials, that are conducive to a child’s learning. I have

adopted several education theories in my daily instruction. I agree wholeheartedly with Dr. Montessori’s findings that “the greatest gifts we can give children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence”. Moreover, children learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process, “The first essential for the child development is concentration,” M. Montessori. Quality education requires the use of natural observation in a prepared environment by an objective teacher. It is the teacher’s job to provide specialized materials to demonstrate for the child and then allow them to practice and master the same skill. More specifically, it is the idea that children learn from doing and discovering their way to independence in order to be able to successfully adapt to the practical world around them. “Play is the child’s work” and a “Education is to foster independence, preparing not just for school, but for life,” M. Montessori. My overall educational approach identifies that early sensorial activities, and positive reinforcement and encouragement, lay the foundation for later intellectual activities. Dr. Montessori also believed that, “The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn,” and “Education is a natural process carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words, but by experiences in the environment”. Thus, while students are freely choosing what they explore, the teacher, or guide, is still mindful of the materials placed in each prepared environment. This student-driven approach is unlike the traditional teacher “lectures and then corrects” method. Another theory that I have adopted in my early childhood teaching style is that children learn from one another as seen in inclusion classrooms, where a child with exceptionalities can have opportunities to learn and share fun experiences with their classmates, who may or may not have similar or different exceptionalities. The sensori-motor approach to learning is especially effective in special education. Moreover, the diversity in the inclusion classroom raises awareness and acceptance of differences. Children can feel comfortable in their own skin knowing that they are loved and accepted, even if they feel different and they can also be friends to classmates who are different from them. Author Paula Polk Lilliard wrote, “If young people are to meet the challenge of survival that face them today, it is imperative that their education develop to the fullest extent possible their potential for creativity, initiative, independence, inner

Continued on page 21

discipline, and self-confidence”. Ultimately, it is my belief that a successful approach to early childhood education strives to put each child more in charge of his or her own learning. This approach has been shown to cause a greater retention of information and more passion in learning. Furthermore, it is also imperative to connect with children as well as their families to support each child’s interests and natural abilities. The link between family and school is paramount for the child. It is important to involve parents in assessment of the child’s learning objectives, as well as the learning process.

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*Claudia McClain-Spencer is currently a Pre-Kindergarten teacher for Joy in Learning in Howard County. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Spanish along with a Masters degree in Elementary Education K - 8. Prior to coming to Maryland, she was a family child care provider in Washington State as well as in California. With over 10 years of experience, we are happy to have her as an educator in Maryland and excited she has chosen to join thousands of Early Child Professionals by participating in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program.*

# A Parent, Advocate, Teacher, and Trainer

By: Malkia “Kia” McLeod



There is no “j” in family engagement. In other words, it’s a “judgment-free” community. Many members of the early childhood community are parents first. They have studied the various aspects of early childhood education and served in several leadership roles. Most importantly, they are dedicated advocates for school readiness, positive parent-child relationships and the benefits of family engagement.

“When I was in graduate school, I interned at Ready At Five,” said Brigid Cook. “Then I started working with Baltimore City Public Schools because my heart was in teaching.”

Early in her career, Cook experienced the best of both worlds: teaching for Baltimore City and implementing the Learning Party curriculum from Ready At Five. Learning Parties are interactive, hands-on, parent/child events that build parents’

knowledge of school readiness skills so they can best support their child’s healthy growth and development. Ready At Five offers Learning Party curriculum in seven domains of learning: Language and Literacy, Math, Science, Social Foundations, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, Social Studies, and Fine Arts. Over the past 11 years, Cook has

implemented learning parties in Language and Literacy.

“Each time they come out with a new one [Learning Party], I want to start implementing it,” said Cook. “Now I am here with one that I feel is the biggest need—

especially now that I have transitioned out of the classroom.”

For the former kindergarten teacher, the stakes had become higher. In March, Cook joined other early care and education professionals from across the state for Ready At Five’s new Parent Leadership Learning Party Train the Trainers training session. The goal of the two-day workshop is to build a cadre of local trainers who can provide sustainability for the learning parties and expand the reach to ; but I think back to those days when I would stand in front of parents and thought I knew what I was talking about,” said Cook. “I learned a lot from working in early childhood and at Ready At Five. Now as a parent, I feel more of a connection because I am living and learning it first-hand and in the trenches.”

## MSFCCA's NEW Mission & Vision Statement!

### Our Mission:

The mission of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) is to educate, unify and advocate to strengthen the profession of family child care; enriching the lives of providers, children, families and communities.



### Our Vision:

We envision MSFCCA as leaders and experts that empower and support family child care providers with continual professional growth, networking opportunities, and collaborative relationships with stakeholders in order to enrich Family Child Care.

Email [contact@msfcca.org](mailto:contact@msfcca.org) and we can help you find the best place to volunteer and earn PAUs for the Maryland Child Care Credential. Many meetings are now held online! For some meetings, face-to-face obligation is no longer necessary and you can work on your own. There are many areas where help is needed. Contact us soon to get started.

**Work with us to make MSFCCA the Family Child Care Voice of Choice!**

[msfcca.org](http://msfcca.org) | [contact@msfcca.org](mailto:contact@msfcca.org) | 240-994-0292 | Jacqueline Grant, President, MSFCCA

## Professional Membership Professional Development Advocacy for the Profession



The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is the premiere professional association for licensed child care and early learning centers operating in Maryland

and for associated businesses, individuals that support the mission of the Association.

### Why Become a Member?

- \* Pay one affordable center membership fee and gain Professional Activity Units (PAUs) for your full staff
- \* MSCCA members have dedicated, registered state lobbyists
- \* Receive continuous, cutting edge communication through social media and emails
- \* Receive discounts on training and conferences
- \* Grant opportunities offered for members only

*Join Today!*

[mscca.org](http://mscca.org) | [info@mscca.org](mailto:info@mscca.org) | 410-820-9196 | Christina Peusch, Executive Director, MSCCA

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

# SAVE THE DATES!

## Maryland State Child Care Association



Caring For Maryland's Most Important Natural Resource™

### 2019 Conference By The Sea

May 2-5, 2019

Registration opens December 2018

#### Keynote:

Science Superstar, Steve Spangler

For updates and details visit [mscca.org](http://mscca.org)



## Maryland Head Start Association Conference



Maryland Head Start Association

### 2019 Spring Conference

May 7 - 9, 2019

Ocean City, MD

For updates and details visit [md-hsa.org/2019-spring-conference](http://md-hsa.org/2019-spring-conference)

## Western MD Early Childhood Conference



WESTERN MD early childhood conference

### Annual Conference

September 21, 2019

Registration opens July 2, 2019

Hagerstown Community College

[wmdeconference.com](http://wmdeconference.com)

## Ready At Five



### School Readiness Symposium

*The Surprising Importance Of Early Math*

Keynote: Douglas H. Clements

December 5, 2018

Turf Valley Conference Center

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

[readyatfive.org](http://readyatfive.org)



P A S T E V E N T S

The Licensing Branch held its annual statewide meeting for all Licensing Specialists, Supervisors and Regional Managers on October 24th at Maritime Institute in Linthicum. Check out some of the photos from the day.



Photo Credit: Jennifer Nizer



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**IMPACT**

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