

PARTNERS

Fall 2016 / Maryland State Department of Education / Division of Early Childhood Development

Finding New Information Just Got Easier...

We've added a "News and Announcements" page to the DECD website!

Updates and other useful information that child care providers, operators, and other consumers may need are listed on this page and easily accessed by clicking on the information or document title.

Get the latest Licensing Branch information, changes in child care regulations and updates to various forms and resource documents, in one place. All new information will remain on this page for 90 days, at which time providers will be able to access the information where it is normally housed under "Regulations", "Forms" or "Resource Documents".



What's Inside!

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The Licensing News and Updates page can be accessed directly at <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/news-announcements/licensing-news-updates>

It can also be accessed by clicking the Licensing News & Updates tab in the News & Announcements tab on the Menu Bar.

FAMILIES CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PRE-K-GRADE 2 TRAINERS **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Some of the recent news and updates available on the page include:

- ◆ 2016-17 Kindergarten Readiness Data
- ◆ The release of the Child Care Center Licensing Manual (Learn more about the manual on page 6)
- ◆ The Licensing Branch Summary
- ◆ The updated Guide to Regulated Child Care
- ◆ Updates to the Criminal Background Requirements and Process

First Annual Family Engagement Summit a Great Success

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Family Engagement Coalition held a Family Engagement Summit on August 3rd at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute. Over 300 early childhood educators, providers and parents from around the state registered for the one-day summit in Linthicum, Maryland. The Summit provided the Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD) with an opportunity to highlight the resources developed during the W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant period; MSDE was awarded \$494, 390 for 2015-16 to improve and expand on early childhood family engagement initiatives.



Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, served as the Keynote Speaker and spoke about the importance of family engagement in early childhood education, stressing research indicating that families' involvement in children's learning and development impacts lifelong health, developmental and academic outcomes. Jeff Cappizano, President of the Policy Equity Group, Inc., facilitated a panel discussion that included parents and representatives of Howard County and Baltimore City Head Start, CentroNia, and Carroll County

Elementary Schools discussed various perspectives of family engagement. Workshops supporting early childhood educators, providers and families around family engagement provided participants with an opportunity to work together with parents and other early childhood educators and providers to increase and improve their family engagement practices.

Hosted by the Family Engagement Coalition Chairs, Dorothy Stoltz, Programming & Outreach Manager, Carroll County Public Library, and Maryland Libraries ECAC Liaison and Louise Corwin, Executive Director, Ready At Five, hundreds of attendees took part in panel discussions and workshops. Linda Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development for the Administration for Children and

We are happy to announce that the redesigned Family Engagement Framework is available for download.



The Framework has received a "facelift"; the entire look and feel, including our new logo and color scheme has changed. The design ties in with the design of the soon-to-be released Family Engagement Toolkit.

The Toolkit is organized around the Family Engagement Framework. The Framework is the theory and the Toolkit puts the theory into practice. The complete Framework and Toolkit can be found on the MSDE Early Childhood website:

<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/family-engagement-framework>

Website for Parents and Families on Family Engagement and New Provider Module for Early Childhood Providers Are Unveiled

Ready At Five, in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD), and the Institute of Innovation and Implementation University of Maryland School of Social Work, developed a Family Engagement in Early Childhood website for parents and families titled "Maryland Families Ready To Connect." This website offers information to parents and families about what family engagement is, how to practice it and the benefits of building a partnership with providers and schools to support young children's school readiness. Website topics include school readiness, supporting transitions, partnering with providers, families as leaders and advocates, choosing quality child care, and learning from 0-3. The Family Engagement in Early Childhood website is available in both English and Spanish.

<https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/family-engagement/> (English)
<https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/family-engagement/es/> (Spanish)

With partners, Ready At Five also developed the Maryland Family Engagement Early Childhood Provider module. This online professional development module is based on the Maryland Family Engagement Coalition's Early Childhood Engagement Framework: Maryland's Vision for Engaging Families with Young Children. This self-paced online module orients providers through the process of moving from family involvement to family engagement. The module is divided into nine lessons; each will take between 15-20 minutes to complete and includes helpful resources for providers to obtain more information about each topic, as well as participate in a pre- and post-assessment. At the successful completion of the module, providers will receive a certificate for 2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).



The provider module is available in English:

https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/onlineTraining/programCategory.cfm?ottype_id=38

and Spanish:

https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/onlineTraining/programCategory.cfm?ottype_id=39

As an incentive, the first 35 providers who successfully complete the online provider module will receive professional development books and enriching books for their classrooms. Ready At Five co-chairs the Maryland Family Coalition with the Maryland Public Libraries.

Maryland School Age Child Care Alliance (MSACCA) Gets a New Name

You have known them for 20 years as MSACCA — now, in honor of their 21st anniversary they are taking on a new name, Maryland AfterSchool Association (MdAA). With a new name, they have renewed their focus on improving out of school time in Maryland through training and development of professionals, advocacy, and the promotion of quality care.



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"We are your leading organization for advocacy, training and professionalism in the state."

said...
Sharon Vance,
president
of MdAA.

"We are here to help you provide the best afterschool experiences possible for the children and youth of Maryland."

Maryland AfterSchool Association (MdAA) will continue to be the state affiliate of the National AfterSchool Association (NAA) and membership in MdAA includes an Ambassador level membership in NAA. Through MdAA, members will be connected to all of the latest state and national information on afterschool and youth development, public policy issues, professional development opportunities and resources.

Be sure to visit: <http://www.msacca.org> for more information.

One of the most exciting parts of their new plan is the opportunity for professionals in the various regions across the state to form regional chapters of MdAA. Regional chapters would serve as a local resource for professionals to network, obtain professional development, and address issues unique to the region. Anyone interested in developing a chapter in their county or region should contact Sharon Vance at MDAfterSchoolAssociation@gmail.com

"Maryland AfterSchool Association upholds the values of excellence, connections, trust, respect, and fun," added Vance.

New Events Coming from Child Resource Centers of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties Project ACT

Child Resource Centers of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties Project ACT, a program of Abilities Network, had an exciting year becoming the newest resource and referral child care center in Maryland. Project ACT offers Early Childhood Mental Health services, special education advocacy, professional development opportunities and a family child care academy just to name a few. They will be kicking off this year with some exciting events including The "Gift of Play". As part of the event, providers can attend one (1) free training if they bring a new unwrapped toy or book which will be donated to Toys for Tots. Their newly created Infant and Toddler network will be meeting

regularly. Recently, they hosted their 7th Annual Early Childhood Conference in partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County and it was regarded as their best yet. Topics for the conference focused on using literacy to support social emotional development, including talking with children about death, race, and disabilities.

For more information about future and past events go to <http://www.crcbc.com> or <http://www.ccrhcc.com> and Like them on Facebook to stay current!



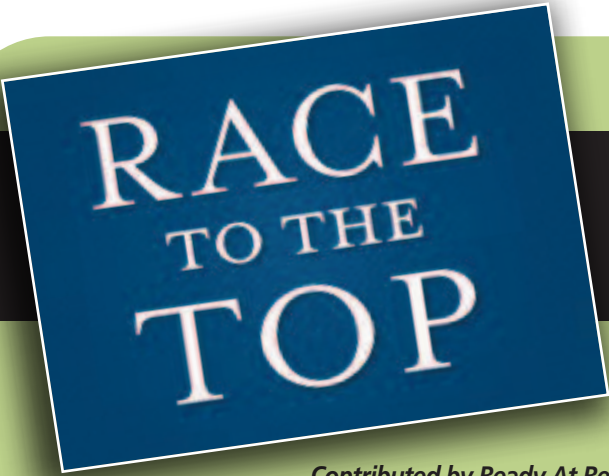
Ready At Five's New Strategic Plan and ELC Member

Ready At Five's Executive Leadership Committee (ELC) concluded its extensive and in-depth analysis of the current state of early childhood, trends and realities nationally and in Maryland to inform the development of its new 2016-2018 Strategic Plan.

Ready At Five is pleased to welcome our newest ELC member, Dr. Aaliyah Samuel,

Program Director of Education for the National Governor's Association. Dr. Samuel's participation provides them with a national and federal perspective on Early Childhood Education and will strengthen and broaden their work in early childhood education.





Early Learning Challenge Grant Closing

Contributed by Ready At Ready

As the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTTT-ELC) Grant ends, Ready At Five is pleased to share our accomplishments made possible by the grant and to share the results realized for Maryland's children, their

families and early childhood practitioners. The grant informed early childhood policy, strengthened the early childhood learning system and elevated the discussion and dialogue of the importance of early childhood as a pathway to school success.

VIOLETS

Vocabulary Improvement and Oral Language Enrichment through Stories (VIOLETS) - One hundred and fifty (150) child care and Head Start classrooms received professional development to implement the VIOLETS program. The VIOLET's language development curriculum, for 3 and 4 year old children, was implemented in 495 Maryland early childhood classrooms. An evaluation of VIOLETS was completed, demonstrating gains in receptive language skills for all children. Children who are Dual Language Learners (DLLs) tended to make greater gains to help close the gaps between DLLs and their English-proficient peers. Additionally, five VIOLETS New Teacher, Booster and Extension professional development trainings were offered regionally with a total of 73 early learning teachers participating. VIOLETS Extension bags, with four new books and VIOLETS scripts and activities were created and disseminated to 53 VIOLETS teachers.

PETALS - PETALS

A read aloud curriculum for children ages 2-3 who are DLLs or have low expressive language, is in its final development phase. Based on the successful VIOLETS model, extending PETALS to the younger age group will allow for targeted programming to begin even earlier in the process of a child's language development. The initial pilot of PETALS is planned for late 2016, with full implementation in 2017.

Learning Parties

Learning Parties were offered in 105 Title I elementary school communities reaching approximately 450 children and 350 adults in 13 jurisdictions. The program was offered by child care programs, public PreK programs, Judy Cen-

ters, libraries, and a homeless shelter. All seven domains of the Learning Party curriculum have been revised to align with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). Assessments indicate that families exposed to the Learning Parties have a greater understanding of the importance of early learning as the foundation for school readiness and success. Family Engagement is a critical component of school readiness, and Learning Parties are an effective tool for family engagement.

PEEP

One hundred (100) early childhood classrooms were involved in the roll out of PEEP and the Big, Wide World STEM curriculum under the RTTT-ELC grant. The evaluation component included implementing a control and a test classroom in each school setting. The evaluation data will be available in early 2017.

School Readiness Symposium

School Readiness Symposium - Six school readiness professional development Symposia were coordinated during the grant period and included a variety of topics that aligned with the projects of the RTTT-ELC grant and the data points from the annual kindergarten assessment results indicating where children were in need of support. Over 1,300 early educators, state and local policy and service providers and librarians from across Maryland participated in the Symposia and were exposed to topics that included Executive Functioning, Self-Regulation, Integrating the Arts into STEM, Supporting Dual Language Learners, Understanding Emotional Intelligence and Building Children's capacity in STEM.

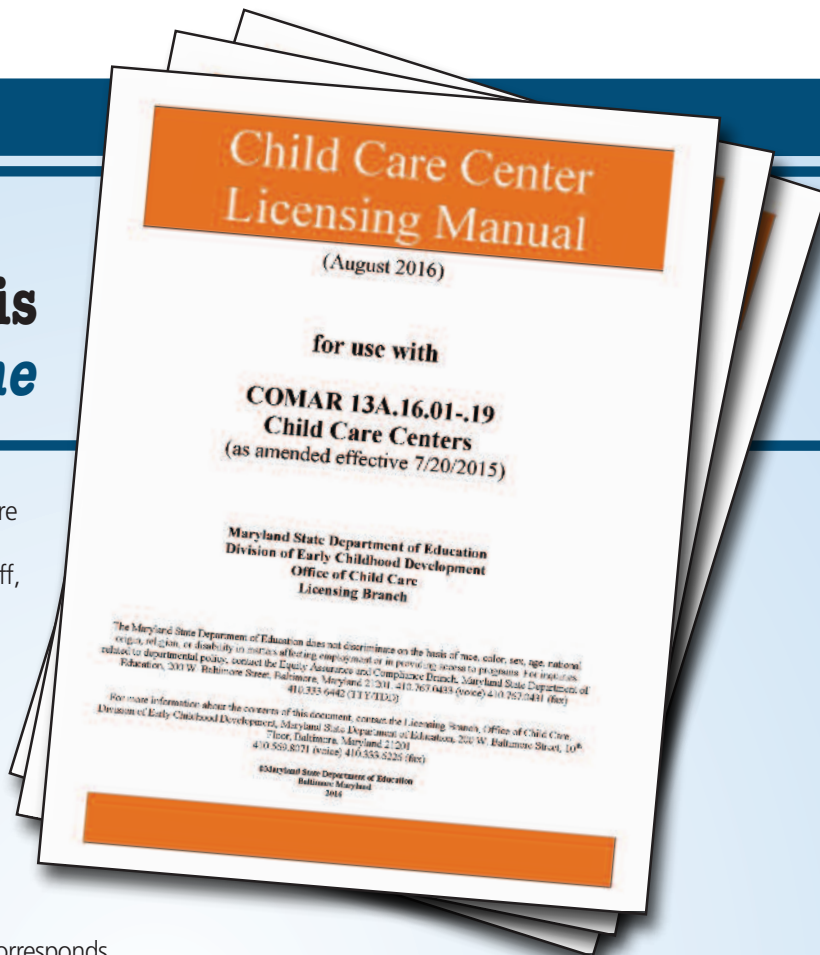
Ready At Five would like to thank all of the early learning programs that participated in these activities and helped make these efforts a success for Maryland's youngest learners.

Licensing Branch Updates

First of Four Licensing Manuals is Now Available Online

The Child Care Center Licensing and Family Child Care Home Registration Manuals (Manuals) are used as a reference for Office of Child Care (OCC) licensing staff, licensed and registered child care providers, and for those who apply to become child care providers. Each Manual primarily provides assistance in interpreting and applying Code of Maryland Regulation (COMAR) requirements when conducting compliance inspections of child care facilities. By providing a comprehensive set of interpretive guidelines, the Manuals enable licensing staff and child care providers to assess compliance in a consistent and equitable manner.

Each Manual is divided into chapters. Each chapter corresponds to the chapter number and subtitle of the related COMAR. Each chapter and subtitle includes the full text of the regulations found in that subsection of the chapter, the intent of the regulation, the method by which compliance with the regulation is assessed, and reference notes, as applicable. The text of each regulation appears in bold type. The guidance information appears in italics.



The Child Care Center Licensing Manual providing assistance for Chapters .01- .19 of the child care center regulations, COMAR 13A.16 is available in the Licensing section of the DECD website or can be accessed directly at: <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-careproviders/licensing/licensing-manuals/child-care-center-licensing-manual>.

The following Manuals will be available online in the future:

- ▼ Family Child Care Home Manual for COMAR 13A.15 - Chapters .01 - .15
- ▼ Letter of Compliance Manual for COMAR 13A.17 - Chapters .01 - .17
- ▼ Large Family Child Care Home Manual for COMAR 13A.18 - Chapters .01 - .16

Did you know ?

Anyone who is interested in starting a child care business in a home or center is required to complete an online orientation session as the very first step to getting a child care center license or a large family or family child care registration.

The virtual orientation session walks new providers through all of the steps required to obtain a child care center license or a large family or family child care registration. This training also connects providers with all of the forms that they will need to complete an application; it is available 24 hours a day.

For more information about Orientation or other Licensing matters visit:
<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Maryland EXCELS Announces New Partnership and Curriculum Give Away

Maryland EXCELS is thrilled to announce a partnership with Robert-Leslie Publishing, The Early Childhood Company®. Robert-Leslie is donating the Maryland approved and recommended preschool curriculum: The InvestiGator Club® PreK with STEAM, Maryland Edition. This fully integrated comprehensive curriculum is complete with all the literature, components, lessons, family engagement, and teacher support needed for a full year of culturally rich and science-based learning. The InvestiGator Club offers choices and creative tools for flexible teaching in every PreK classroom.

Purposeful inquiry, the heart of the InvestiGator Club, challenges young children to use their senses, ask questions, and find answers in an interactive, language-rich environment. The curriculum integrates content into science investigations that build upon children's curiosity and



creativity through language and literacy, physical activity, and STEM + art -- or STEAM. Children learn to reason and think like scientists, construct mathematical concepts, appreciate fine art and music, and engage in meaningful conversations.

At the end of November, Robert-Leslie is giving away The InvestiGator Club® PreK with STEAM, Maryland Edition to two lucky participating and published **Maryland EXCELS** child care providers.

Maryland EXCELS has given away over \$15,000 in curriculum and learning materials this year already. If you want to be automatically entered to be our next randomly selected monthly winner, all you have to do is be a participating, published **Maryland EXCELS** child care provider on the day of the

drawing – November 30, 2016. For more information, go to MarylandEXCELS.org today!

Meet Maryland EXCELS First Frog Street Winner!

Deborah Lee, a family child care provider in Baltimore County, was our first Maryland EXCELS & Frog Street curriculum giveaway winner. She won \$5,000 worth of bilingual curriculum from Frog Street.

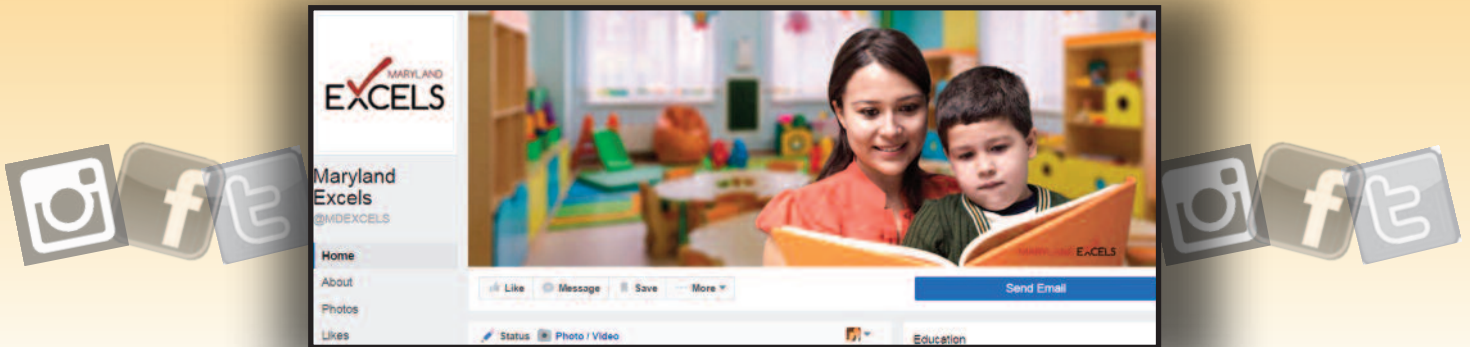
She's been a provider for almost 10 years and has also been the guardian for more than 12 children. She decided to become a child care provider because she felt she could make a difference in young children's lives. Ms. Lee is really looking forward to all of the new activities and beginning to implement Spanish into her lesson plans.

If you want to be automatically entered to be our next monthly winner, all you have to do is be a participating, published Maryland EXCELS child care provider.

For more information, go to MarylandEXCELS.org today.



Maryland EXCELS on Social Media!



Did you know that Maryland EXCELS is now on social media? Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to find out the latest tips, updates and information about high-quality child care and early childhood education in the state of Maryland. We are excited to connect with our families, providers and community members in a real-time

way, so feel free to ask questions, share content and let us know your thoughts!

Do you have content or a story you would like us to share on social media or the Maryland EXCELS website? Email social@marylandexcels.org for more information.

NEED HELP WITH MARYLAND EXCELS?

There are training and work group sessions in your area. To find out more, go to MarylandEXCELS.org and click on the "resource" page



If you still have questions or to learn more, contact your Quality Assurance Specialist **TODAY**.

Registration required. You can attend a group in the county of your choice by contacting the Quality Assurance Specialist of that county directly.

"Do I Need A Work Group Or A Training?"

Here's the difference: A Maryland EXCELS Work Group provides programs and providers participating in Maryland EXCELS the opportunity to work directly with Quality Assurance Specialists on the development, revision, and submission of documentation

for meeting Maryland EXCELS standards.

Maryland EXCELS Training has been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education's Office of Child Care to award Core of Knowledge hours to participants who have met the requirements of the class. Participants will receive a certificate which can be used to meet the requirements of ongoing professional development and Maryland State Department of Education Child Care Credential training requirements.

Unsure...when in doubt, reach out. There are Quality Assurance Specialists near you waiting to help.

Meet the New Officers of MSFCCA

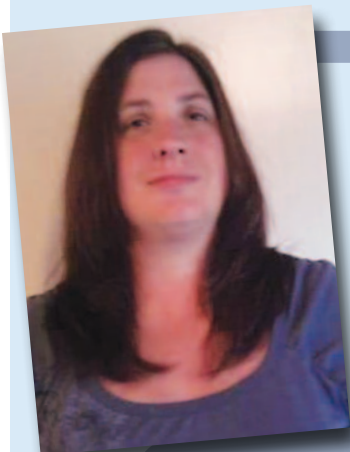
The Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) represents Registered Providers in Maryland and membership is available through one of the many local Family Child Care Associations. Benefits of membership include:

- Being part of a collective voice on child care issues.
- Access to legislative updates on regulatory and policy issues.
- Discounted cost to the annual Conference in Ocean City
- Frequent opportunities to network with peers
- An annual Legislative Rally in Annapolis
- Group access to AFLAC insurance coverage
- Opportunities to volunteer and earn PAU's for Credentialing.



Jacqueline Grant is the 2016/17 President of MSFCCA and has pledged that our member's voices will continue to be heard. She has spent the first two months of her term attending multiple meetings to strengthen the relationship with the partners that affect our businesses. Jacqueline is a Registered Family Child Care Provider in Montgomery County, committed to representing the needs of all Family Child Care Providers in Maryland. She understands the issues facing family child care providers and will

be working side by side with the new Board of Directors to keep the association moving forward. Jacqueline has a deep appreciation for the many mentors past and present that help guide her in the important role of representing the members.



Kathy Embly is the newly elected Vice President of Public Policy. She graciously stepped up to fill a vacant position and has done a great job, keeping the board and the members informed of the issues that may influence the field of early childhood educa-

tion. She is constantly asking for input and feedback from the members to effectively represent family child care providers. Kathy has diligently read through documents and registries to keep the members informed.

The goal of the MSFCCA is to remain the professional organization that has been serving early childhood professionals since 1983.

The association relies heavily on the expertise and experience of the family child care providers that have devoted their careers to the awareness of quality Family Child Care in Maryland.

MSFCCA strives to keep Family Child Care the unique environment for learning that children and families seek to grow. **Join MSFCCA to make a difference!**

Credentialing Branch

U P D A T E S

Child Care Credential Program Application Basics



All Maryland Child Care Credential program and applications are to be mailed to Child Care Central.

**Please do not mail your application packet to MSDE. Applications received at the Maryland State Department of Education for the Maryland Child Care Credential program will be returned.*

Attention: Credential Participants - Using the IVR

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) is available for you to get the information you need in regards to your credential being processed. **Please take advantage of it.**

Participants can receive information about their application process using the IVR system. Please listen to the entire recording and select option '4' for credentialing. The IVR will prompt callers to enter the following information: home phone number as indicated on the cre-

credentialing application and date of birth. This will allow participants to hear information about their individual application process and also the option to talk to a live customer service representative.

Another way to contact Child Care Central to get all your credential questions and inquiries resolved is through email: CCCredential@xerox.com

Four Things You Need to Know

■ Applicants applying for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program for renewal, update or upgrade will be allowed to list only the last four (4) digits of their social security number on the application. *(New applicants must provide the entire number.)*

■ Until further notice, Care Courses remains an approved training organization. Any training taken from Care Courses is accepted for training credit. Any information concerning the approval status of Care Courses will come from the Central Office in writing.

■ The numeric grades listed below are equivalent to a letter grade if the grade legend on a transcript does not indicate the letter grade. If the college grade legend is different than the list below, MSDE will use the college grade legend.

70-79 - C • 80-89 - B • 90 - 100 - A

■ Child Care Central will no longer return incomplete application packets. If an application packet is incomplete, Child care Central will send out an incomplete letter to the provider.

Training Voucher and Reimbursement

Training Voucher and Reimbursement Applications can now be submitted online! Participants must be able to upload required documents for each application. Incomplete applications will not be processed. For more information, visit: <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/>

Original hard copies of Training Voucher and Reimbursement applications and documents are to be mailed to:

MSDE-Credentialing Branch
200 West Baltimore St. 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

Judy Center News

Allegany



Allegany County Judy Center Briefs Board of Education on Early Childhood Initiatives

Deb Kolb, Coordinator of the Allegany County Judy Center, updated the Allegany County School Board on various early learning initiatives and events occurring within the school system. A breakdown of what was included in her update can be found below:

- The Judy Center has received nearly \$23,000 over an eight-year period from the Community Trust Foundation to aid families in need of financial assistance in paying for childcare.
- All of Allegany County's child care centers participate in Maryland EXCELS, a quality rating and improvement system that awards ratings from 1 to 5 to child care and early education programs based on nationally recognized standards and best practices.
- Successful summer camps were held this year at both Beall and South Penn Elementary Schools, serving approximately 90 newly enrolled students. These camps are an opportunity for students to establish a routine, meet friends and teachers, and begin work on curriculum before they enter public school.
- The Judy Center is working collaboratively with local agencies and PNC Bank to provide an early childhood conference in Allegany County in April that will host free Family Fun Nights, as well as offer workshops for educators.
- The local Lions Club will be providing vision screenings to all Pre-K students in Allegany County beginning in October.
- Playgroups are currently taking place at both Beall and South Penn Elementary Schools for children ages birth to three. These playgroups are held in conjunction with the county's Infants and Toddlers Program. Family Literacy Nights continue to be held regularly at Jane Frazier Village and Benjamin Banneker Gardens.

Dan Snyder, Service Coordinator for the Judy Center at South Penn, updated the school board on the implementation of the school's first full-day Pre-K program. The program is filled to capacity with 20 students, and offers an opportunity for extended field trips for the group. This year they are planning trips to see plays, the Evergreen Heritage Center, and Brookedale Farms. Additionally, Mr. Snyder spoke about a growing gardening program at South Penn that is housed in the school's greenhouse. Thanks to the generous donations and time of several community partners, including the Western Maryland Health System, the Evergreen Heritage Center, and the University of Maryland Extension, the program provides wonderful opportunities for students and families as well as professional development for staff.

Anne Arundel



Anne Arundel Judy Center Gets a Visit from Local Meteorologist

During summer playgroup, meteorologist Jonathan Myers from Fox45 (WBFF) Baltimore visited the Judy Center at Belle Grove Elementary School in Anne Arundel County to talk about weather in the community. Mr. Myers also performed a few science experiments with the children and parents. It was a great time for all and the staff thanks him for his kindness and the information he shared!



Judy Center News

Dorchester



Dorchester County Judy Center Gets Visit from State Senator during Learning Party

The Sandy Hill Judy Center in Dorchester County welcomed State Senator Addie Eckardt, District 37, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico Counties, to a Judy Center Learning Party on August 15. Senator Eckardt (left) is shown with Chareka Harris, Sandy Hill Judy Center Coordinator. Senator Eckardt actively participated in all the activities.



Children in the Lincoln Little Learners Playgroup learn about gardening.

Frederick



Frederick County Judy Center Hosts Lincoln Little Learners Playgroup

Throughout the school year, September to June, the Frederick County Judy Center collaborates with many of its formal partners as well as community organizations to run weekly Lincoln Little Learners Playgroup gatherings. This past spring,

a playgroup was sponsored to encourage the love of discovery of science in nature and the food we eat. The book *Bugs, Bugs, Bugs* by Bob Barner was read, followed by song singing and a fantastic nature walk.

Children were provided with a "science bag" which contained a magnifying glass, tweezers, eye dropper, magnetic wand, science journal and pencil. Lincoln Elementary is fortunate to have a resident Master Gardener, Mr. Curtis, with Maryland Extension, work with the Judy Center on many projects including the Community Garden at Carver Community Center (Housing Au-

thority of the City of Frederick). Mr. Curtis gave the playgroup a tour of the garden while the children explored with their new science tools. They searched for crawling bugs in the compost heap, saw mushrooms growing on logs, and learned about all the wonderful vegetables being grown by Lincoln Elementary students and community members. Families were even allowed to take home some of the harvest! After the tour, the children drew or wrote about the things they saw, heard, smelled, and felt. They were also given a nature walk scavenger hunt to take and work on at home.

The science bags and materials were purchased through a grant the Judy Center received last year from the Community Foundation of Frederick. Its purpose is to provide important readiness materials for young children, their families, caregivers, and family childcare providers who partner with the Judy Center.

The Frederick County Judy Center loves its community and the wonderful opportunities that are available for its families!

Judy Center News

Garrett

How Does Your Garden Grow?

The vision of a school-wide garden has become a reality at Grantsville Elementary, one of five Judy Center schools in Garrett County! This past spring, Grantsville staff met with Kristin Spiker from the University of Maryland Extension - Food Supplement Nutrition Education to prepare for the coming growing season. The University of Maryland Extension program provided financial support for the raised bed gardens, as well as professional development for the staff.

In April, students broke ground, while working with volunteers to build the raised beds. As a result, Grantsville has four raised beds full of vegetables, as well as 20 bucket planters with tomatoes and peppers. Each grade level is responsible for their section of the garden. In addition, Grantsville Elementary School has several partners including the Early Head Start Center, Partners After School, Garrett County Community Action, the Judy Center, parents, and community members. All partner groups had students participating in gardening activities over the summer months and will continue through harvesting this fall. The Grantsville staff

is excited about the opportunity to continue teaching healthy habits through the garden project!

There are similar garden projects at three other Judy Center schools - Broad Ford, Crellin and Yough Glades Elementary Schools - which were also developed with the University of Maryland Extension - Food Supplement Nutrition Education Program over the past few years. The Friendsville Elementary School PTO, another Judy Center school, has planted a pumpkin and sunflower garden. All five Garrett County Judy Center schools are involved in gardening.



(left to right): Lily Brenneman, Gabe Greaser, June Murphy, and Aiden Brown help to build the raised gardens at the Judy Center at Grantsville Elementary in Garrett County

Wicomico

Wicomico Judy Center Sponsors Summer Prekindergarten Academy



Learning all about the Blue Crab with the Assateague State Park Ranger at the Wicomico Judy Center.

The Summer Prekindergarten Academy at the Wicomico Judy Center is a five-week experience designed to introduce students entering prekindergarten to the public school system. Sixty-nine children from the partnership schools, Charles H. Chipman, Pemberton Elementary, West Salisbury Elementary and the Wicomico Early Learning Center attended school from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Breakfast, lunch and transportation were provided.

Academy teachers from the Judy Center Schools collaboratively planned theme-based lessons that emphasized readiness skills and establishing schedules. Children enjoyed hands-on learning opportunities with each other and the center staff.



Amiyah Hudson shared a big hug with the Blue Sky Puppet at the Wicomico Judy Center.

Continued on Pg. 14

Judy Center News

Continued From Pg. 13



Ms. Monroe and friends at the Wicomico Judy Center enjoying playgroup time!

Additionally, music, art, physical education and a FREE field trip each week were included. These activities serve to foster positive social and emotional skills while enhancing prior knowledge for the upcoming school year and beyond.

Children and staff attended assemblies provided by Blue Sky Puppet Theatre, the Kinderman, Mr. Mike with Reptile World, and Percussion Discussion with Uncle Devin of Maryland Young Audiences. Weekly field trips included visits

to the Pocomoke Discovery Center, swimming at the Elks Lodge in Salisbury, Assateague State Park and Port Discovery in Baltimore, MD. Additionally, families and partner childcare centers with children ages birth to four were invited to attend playgroups that were held on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. At the end of the summer program, each student received an "Our Summer Adventures" book as a keepsake of memories with amazing pictures.

PAST EVENTS



FCCAMC Celebrates their Fabulous 40th Birthday

The Fabulous 40th was exactly that, fabulous! It was a wonderful evening of glitz, glamor and reminiscing for all of the attendees of the Family Child Care Association Montgomery County, Inc., (FCCAMC) celebration of 40 years. All but a few past presidents attended and each President shared a few words about their term in office. Attendees shared their "where they are now" stories and

updates on their children and families. An amazing slide show of past and present photos of family child care providers and their children was another highlight of the evening.

One message was evident throughout the night; FCCAMC is passionate about quality care for our children and families and we support each other when advocating for ourselves as family child care providers.



(Pictured from right to left: Demetrias Brown, Maria Payso, Kim Grant, Carol McLellan, Hanna Patyk, Maria Eid, Marianne Schwenz, Maryanne Lazarchick, Roxanne Fus, Sybil Philip, Karen Martin, and Joyce Devilbiss.)

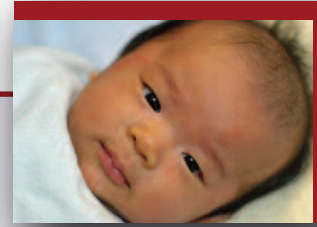
Math and STEM Institutes for Early Educators a Great Success!

The Institutes focused on helping child care center, Head Start, and PreK teachers enhance their instructional practices for supporting foundational math skills and STEM skills for children ages 3-5, prior to entering kindergarten. Thirty-seven participants attended the Math Institutes and 25 attended the STEM Institutes.



Institutes are typically held on Saturdays at a local elementary school for 20-50 participants one to three times during a school year.

RESOURCES



LOCATE: Child Care Is Not Just for Parents

Maryland Family Network's (MFN) LOCATE: Child Care is a free referral service that has benefits for both child care providers and families.

The service helps parents identify and choose child care best suited to their needs, preferences, and ability to pay.

LOCATE: Child Care maintains a database of all regulated center-based care facilities, family child care, nursery schools, kindergartens, and Head Start programs in Maryland. **LOCATE: Child Care** also provides information to parents on a program's participation in Maryland EXCELS and individual participation in The Maryland Child Care Credential Program.

For the child care industry, providers make available important data to **LOCATE: Child Care** by updating rate and vacancy information annually or whenever changes occur. The rate information is important because

LOCATE: Child Care provides aggregate data on child care costs to the State. This helps to determine market and subsidy rates. If they prefer, providers can confidentially make available their rates to **LOCATE: Child Care** and ask that those fees not be shared with parents. Download the

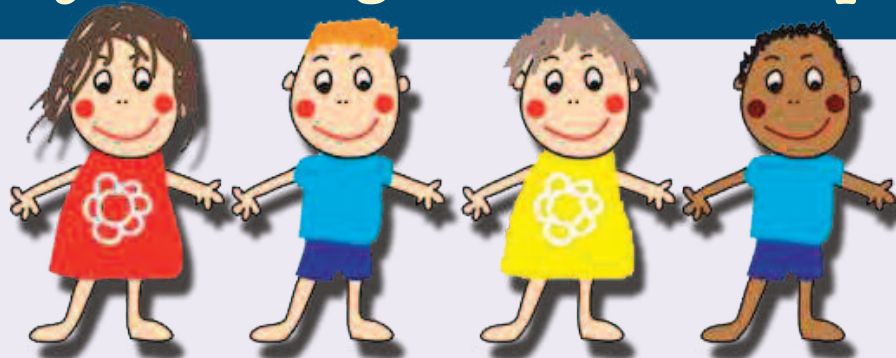
update form today at: <http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/resources/additional-resources-child-care-providers>. We are excited to announce that beginning in November, child care providers will be able to update information online at marylandfamilynetwork.org. The more information we have, the better we can serve providers and families.

MFN'S LOCATE: Child Care has a personalized service to help families with children who have special needs.

LOCATE: Child Care referral specialists often reach out directly to child care providers to find the best fit for these families. If you have experience serving children with special needs, please indicate that on our questionnaire. If you don't have experience with this population, MFN is ready to help. For medically fragile children, we offer a Special Needs Nurse Consultant to give you support and to answer your questions. Or enroll today in one of MFN's online learning opportunities. The future of our children depends on the work we all do together.

<http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/programs-services/locate/>

Early Learning Assessment Update



The Early Learning Assessment (ELA) has been generating a lot of interest with child care programs across the state. If you missed the September 22 webinar on an overview of the ELA, please visit the following link for the recording: <https://connect.johnshopkins.edu/p13p9bqp64a/>

Training opportunities for the Early Learning Assessment will begin as soon as November 11, 2016. Visit the following link for the sign-up form:

<http://bit.ly/elainterest>. Programs not able to sign up in 2016 will have another opportunity for training after the beginning of 2017.

Please contact Jennifer Lentz at Maryland Family Network (jlentz@marylandfamilynetwork.org) for information about training opportunities. Robert Wagner (Robert.wagner1@maryland.gov) is the contact person at MSDE.

STEM in a Backpack: Teaching Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in the Great Outdoors



Through a generous grant from the W.R. Grace Foundation, the Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center has developed an outdoor STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) education curriculum. Currently, fifteen participants are visiting three parks in Baltimore City (Clyburn, Herring Run, and Gwynns Falls) where staff are teaching the participants how to incorporate STEM activities and using

the great outdoors as a classroom. Child care providers learn to build STEM backpacks filled with the tools needed to explore nature. The backpacks include items such as prisms, bug keepers, magnifiers, and a mortar and pestle. Additional training opportunities are available at <http://www.bccrc.org/>.

Top Five

Reasons to join the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA)

Did you know ?

- 1** MSCCA membership is the ONLY association providing a full staff, comprehensive center membership, not an individual membership! All staff members employed at the center will be considered MSCCA members when your center joins.
- 2** Many of MSCCA Member Benefits are directly related to Maryland EXCELS and Credentialing! Pay one affordable center membership fee and gain Professional Activity Units (PAU) for your full staff! Members of a state association receive a PAU for becoming a member of a professional organization. (Also accumulate additional PAU's for attending our statewide conferences, facilitating classes at our conference, contributing to our semi-annual newsletters and attending our Advocacy Night in Annapolis.)

- 3** MSCCA members have a dedicated, registered state lobbyist along with an active MSCCA Board of Directors who monitor Senate and House bills each legislative session related to your professional interests and submit testimony on behalf of our members to advocate strongly for children, teachers and families.
- 4** MSCCA provides continuous, cutting edge communication emailed to members about relevant child care issues and topics.
- 5** There are discounts on quality training conferences and a new annual MSCCA/ Jennifer Nizer Grant/Scholarship opportunities offered to members only.

Visit www.mscca.org to join MSCCA. For more info contact Christina Peusch, Executive Director at mscca1@comcast.net or call 410-820-9196.

New Members Welcomed: Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC)

Our mission is to empower those who care for and educate young children and our vision is to promote high quality early childhood education standards and to improve the status of the profession through education and compensation.

MDAEYC offers members:

- Professional development opportunities
- A chance to connect with other professionals in your community

- A voice in early care and education policy issues
- Accreditation support

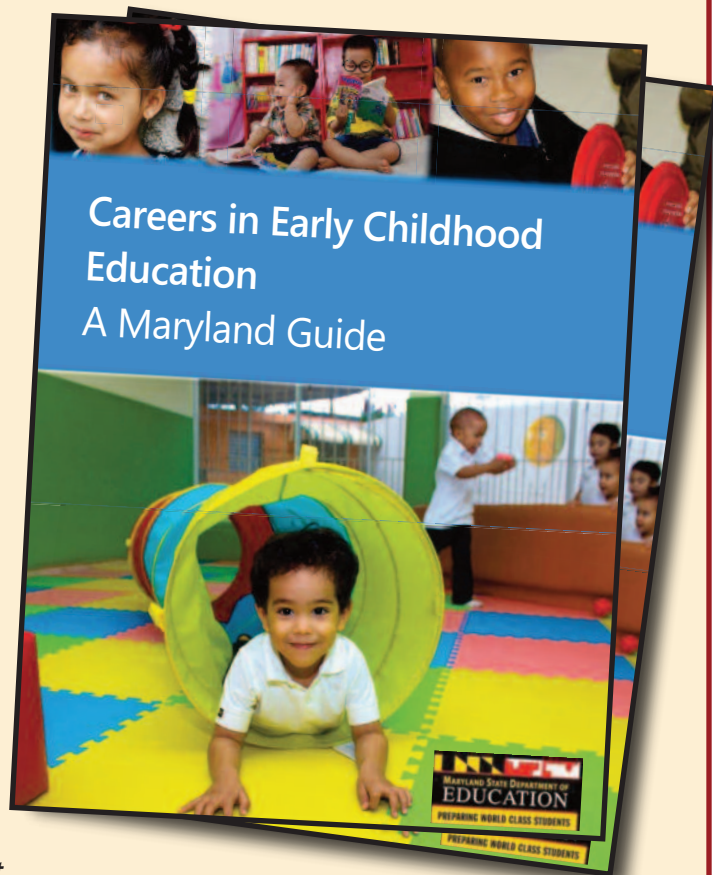
Visit www.marylandaeyc.org to become a member!



MSDE Publishes Career Guidance Manual for Early Childhood Education

The Division of Early Childhood Development at MSDE published and released **Careers in Early Childhood Education: A Maryland Guide** for students, parents, counselors, faculty, and career changers interested in early childhood education. The guide provides an overview of careers in early childhood education in Maryland. The Direct Services and Supportive Services sections of the guide describe specific jobs, including lists of job responsibilities, recommended or required educational requirements, and potential job settings. In the Education Options section, there is information about two- and four-year degrees, training, and other preparation programs and options. Finally, the Grants and Scholarships section explains some of the financial assistance that is available in Maryland to support your career in early childhood education.

The complete guide is available on the DECD website at http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/4/careersinec_ed_april_14_2016_final.pdf



E-Learning is For Everyone ...Including You!

Family Network's newest eLearning workshop, Supporting Children with Developmental Disabilities in Child Care, will change your mind. An ongoing survey of successful Maryland participants

Do you think that eLearning is not for you? Maryland

of this new eLearning workshop has some interesting findings.

E-Learning is appropriate regardless of your age: we have successful participants of all ages, including 32% who are 56 years through 65 years of age, and 28% who are 46 years to 55 years of age.

Continued on Pg. 18

E-Learning is relevant regardless of your role and setting: 44% of participants are family child care providers and 32% of participants are center based providers.

E-Learning is appropriate whether you are a first time user or have more experience: Although slightly more than 70% of participants in our e Learning had prior experience using the platform, not quite 30% were first time users.

E-Learning is interesting, interactive, or engaging: almost 95% of users of our e Learning indicated they are more likely to take more online training!

E-Learning is good for adding to your skill and knowledge level: 81% of participants indicated that our e Learning gave them a more positive perspective in caring for children with special needs.

Funded by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, **Supporting Children with Developmental Disabilities in Child Care** is available online 24/7. Once you sign up for our eLearning: you have one (1) year to complete the course; the learning platform will remember your place when you return to continue your eLearning session; upon completion, you will be awarded not only three (3) core-of-knowledge clock hours in Special Needs but also 0.3 CEUs. Unlike other eLearning platforms, when you complete the online workshop you can download and print your certificate immediately.

You can receive more information on **Supporting Children with Developmental Disabilities in Child Care** by going to your local Child Care Resource and Referral website or by going to MFN's learning link at <http://www.smarthorizons.org/nac-crra/mfnb/> or MFN's training landing page at <http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/training/for-child-care-providers/>.

As an added incentive, participants who complete our on line survey before the end of December 2016, will be entered into a monthly drawing to win a gift certificate.



The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF)

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 and work at least 10 hours per week
- Fulfill entrance requirements at the participating college of your choice
- 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
- Maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA from the point of first entering the Program

For more information about the application process and a list of participating colleges, please visit our website: <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/>

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Ranked among the
top 10
children's museums
in the U.S.
by *Foder's Travel!*

PORT DISCOVERY
Children's Museum

STEAM For Early Childhood

Jam packed adventure through the world of STEAM science, technology, engineering, art, and math.



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Dedicated days for ages 2 – 5!
Special programming!
October – April

Limited grant \$ for field trips.

Exhibits include:

Tot Trails: Science, Music, Dance

Tiny's Diner: Math, Dramatic play

Wonders of Water: Technology,
Engineering, Science and Math

Percussion Garden: Music, Math

BGE Studio Workshop: Fine Arts

And don't miss:

**Here
We
Grow!**

Explore the rich world of agriculture and Maryland's farms! Meet five local farmers and hear their stories through interactive videos; sort eggs in the egg factory; practice your veterinary skills in the Vet Clinic; compete in a cow milking challenge; and more!

For details call
Kristie Gulick
Education Specialist
at 410.864.2664
or groupsales
@portdiscovery.org



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Upcoming Conferences

Ready, Set,
STEM
December 6, 2016 / 8:30am - 3:30pm

Turf Valley Hotel
Ellicott City, MD
Fee \$145

Featuring Keynote
Heidi Schweingruber, PhD

More info and registration at
www.readyatfive.org

MSCCA CONFERENCE BY THE SEA

May 5 - 7, 2017

**Maryland State Child
Care Association (MSCCA)**

Mark your calendars and plan your Professional Development around the opportunity to earn more than 17 hours of Core of Knowledge MSDE approved, quality training at the beach! MSCCA offers one stop shopping for your continued education and credentialing needs!

**Registration opens in
December 2016.**

**NEW FOR 2017...
A LARGER VENUE**

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A publication from the
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