



PARTNERS

Summer 2017 / Maryland State Department of Education / Division of Early Childhood Development

Emergency Preparedness:

PREVENTION • TREATMENT • RECOVERY



While children are in your care, you may be faced with various types of emergency situations. The development of an emergency plan and practicing that plan is essential to preparing for possible emergencies that may occur.

Maryland has the potential for different types of natural disasters, including blizzards, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, flash floods, etc. We've seen how a blizzard can bring the State to a standstill - businesses closing, power outages, impassable roads, people getting stranded; hospitals can be filled to capacity and relying on emergency power backup and asking for volunteers with 4-wheel drives to help get stranded staff to work.

Many of you may remember Super Storm (hurricane) Sandy in November 2012. The forecasters never predicted that the storm would do nearly as much damage as it did. We should never assume we know what is going to happen during any type of disaster. All it takes is one little twist to turn an event into something unexpected.

The key to effective emergency preparedness planning is to plan for all possible emergency situations and be prepared for different scenarios. Hurricanes bring strong, damaging winds, a lot of rain, flooding, the possible loss of utilities and numerous other challenges. If a hurricane happens in an area where there are large bodies of water and during high tide, flooding can be even worse.

Streets and neighborhoods can become flooded. Windows can blow out (or in), increasing the risk for injuries caused by flying glass and debris. Electric lines can go down because of the high winds, sparking fires.

Before It's Too Late

Just consider this possible event -

It is in the middle of the week and you are at work, caring for children. You hold the safety and security of any number of children in your hands and a storm is approaching. No one thought it was going to be as bad as it is turning out to be. Families took their children to child care and went to work as normal.

Then the storm hits! At first, there is just a lot of rain. There is more rain than usual, but the weather people said to expect that to happen so you aren't too worried. A few hours pass and the rain hasn't let up and it is pooling outside because the ground is already saturated and cannot absorb any more. Suddenly there comes the bright flash of lightning, followed almost immediately by an enormous clap of thunder, frightening the children and adults. Then you lose power. Someone notices water leaking into the building. Someone else tries to use the sink for handwashing and the water comes out murky brown, indicating that it is probably not safe for use. Now you have flooding inside, no power, no water and frightened children (and adults.)

Do you know what to do? Every child care provider is required to have an emergency and disaster plan. Everyone in the child care program must know the contents of the plan and their role(s) in implementing the plan.

Remember when creating your emergency and disaster preparedness plan to consider not only natural disasters but other threats you may face when caring for children. Consider the following:

- ◆ Human generated threats such as: disgruntled adults, proximity to areas of known gang-related activities, child generated threats, suspicious items
- ◆ Building security
- ◆ Proximity to utilities (power lines, power plants, etc.) and possible utility disruptions
- ◆ Vulnerability of your building to things such as flooding, trees, traffic
- ◆ Medical emergencies of children, staff and families
- ◆ Disruption in the vicinity such as car accidents or a nearby fire

Do you know how to contact your local Emergency Operations Center

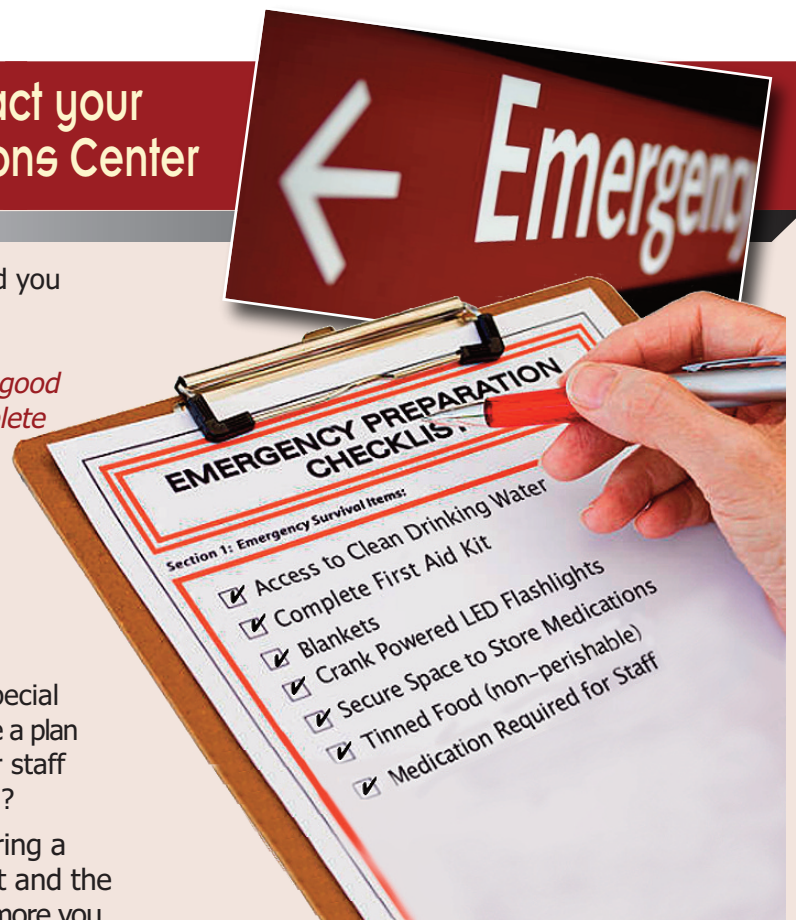
to let them know you are a child care facility and you have children on site?

<http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/LocalEOC.aspx>

Do you have crank powered LED flashlights in good working condition, a crank powered radio, complete first aid kit, blankets, food that does not require a source of power to store and/or eat, access to clean drinking water, a secure space to store medications required by children and extra medication required for staff?

Have you thought of how you will transport the children if you have to evacuate off site and the route to get there? Do you have children with special needs and a plan for those children? Do you have a plan for communicating with families? Do you or your staff have needs that may require additional planning?

■ Buildings and possessions are secondary during a disaster – the safety of all is what matters most and the more thought you put into your plan, and the more you practice it, the better the outcome is for everyone.



Partners is Moving to a New Digital Format



This summer edition of the newsletter is the last mass-mailed paper issue. Beginning with the fall 2017 edition, newsletters will be emailed and posted on the DECD website. **Here's why:**

- ◆ **Reduce costs.** The costs of production, printing and mailing the PARTNERS Newsletter have risen by almost 25% from 2016 to 2017.
- ◆ **Increase our reach.** Now any and every child care provider can subscribe to receive Partners.

Past and future newsletters can be read online at:

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/partners-newsletters

If you currently receive a paper edition of Partners and want to continue to receive your print copy please subscribe on the DECD website.

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The Basics of Health & Safety Training for Child Care Providers

Childcare Training



Health and safety training is critical for child care providers. Well-trained child care providers know how to reduce the risk of illness and injury in their programs. Recent federal requirements named eleven health and safety training topics that will be required for child care providers.

Congress passed the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG). This law includes new health and safety requirements for child care providers receiving funds from CCDBG. In September 2016, the CCDBG Final Rule was approved. The Final Rule made changes to the CCDBG Act of 2014 to best support the health and safety of children in child care as well as their parents and child care providers. The rule specifies certain health and safety topics (see below) on which child care providers must receive training. Each state determines what trainings meet their health and safety standards.

These training topics are important for all adults who wish to care for children. Other states may require child care providers to receive training in other topic areas as well. These topics include child development, physical activity, nutrition and caring for children with special needs. Anyone caring for a child or children is encouraged to seek training in these areas, whether or not it is required.

Looking for Face-to-Face Health and Safety Training?

Find local training courses that meet state requirements in the list of Approved Basic Health & Safety Trainers on page 4.

Visit <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/basic-health-safety-training> for Basic Health and Safety Training information and updates.

NEW DATE FOR COMPLETION: January 1, 2018

Required Health and Safety Training Topics for Providers

- Pediatric First Aid and CPR
- Prevention and control of infectious diseases (including immunizations)
- Safe sleep practices and Prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment
- Recognition and prevention of child abuse and neglect
- Medication administration
- Prevention and response to emergencies due to food allergic reactions
- Emergency preparedness and response for natural disasters or man-caused events
- Handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials
- Indoor and outdoor safety (identifying and protecting children from hazards, bodies of water, traffic, etc.)
- Safety measures in transporting children (if applicable)

Child Care Subsidy has a new email address!



Effective July 31st, any email addressed to @xerox will no longer work. Please use the contact information and methods below.

	Invoices	Signed Vouchers	Credential Applications
Fax	410-229-0010	410-229-0053	410-229-0145
E-mail	mailto:mdccsppinvoices@conduent.com	mailto:ccscentral@conduent.com	mailto:cccredential@conduent.com
Mail	PO Box 17543 Baltimore, MD 21297	PO Box 17015 Baltimore, MD 21297	PO Box 598 Baltimore, MD 21203

Health & Safety Approved Trainers

Approved Trainer	Phone	E-Mail/Website	Location
Cara Bethke (CKI-6504)	443-554-3262	senseofwonderecc@gmail.com	Baltimore
Mary Branch (CKO-30769)	410-730-4055	mbranch@klcorp.com	Columbia
Elaina Maness (CKO-30769)	410-730-4055	mhoward@klcorp.com	Columbia
Gerri-Lynn Ballard (CKO-30673)	301-772-6882		Chapel Oaks
Kathlene McClain (CKI-4686)	410-703-1323	kamtrainings@gmail.com	Odenton
Lauren Bond (CKO-154486)	240-222-2607	lauren@BESTforECE.com	Upper Marlboro
Linda Bratcher (CKI-153422)	410-688-3949	lbrathcer47@comcast.net	Aberdeen
Michele Herrold (CKO-1682)	410-484-6220		Baltimore
Monica Gwon (CKO-1762)	410-578-6918	mgwon@cjobaltimore.org	Baltimore
Gina Lugo (CKO-30410)	410-222-7856	rplugo29@aacounty.org	Annapolis
Stephanie Schaefer (CKO-4862)	301-593-6581		Silver Spring
Watasha Moore (CKO-5704)	410-922-2051	tasha.moore00@comcast.net	Windsor Mill
Maria Kirby (CKO-3265)	301-497-8610	sparkar@columbiaacademy.com	Fulton
Sandy Raynes (CKI-154348)	410-456-5280	sgraynes@gmail.com	Reisterstown
Joan Johnson (CKO-30733)	410-313-1923	jmjohnson@howardcountymd.gov	Ellicott City
Steve Rohde (CKO-30801)	410-752-7588	srohde@marylandfamilynetwork.org	Baltimore
Rena Dubensky (CKO-30831)	240-777-3217	rena.dubensky@montgomerycountymd.gov	Rockville
Jill Lyons (CKO-30831)	240-777-3217	jill.lyons@montgomerycountymd.gov	Rockville
Sarah Sutherland (CKO-30925)	301-290-0040	ssutherland@thepromisecenter.org	Charlotte Hall
Julie Lowthert (CKO-30925)	301-290-0040	jlowthert@thepromisecenter.org	Charlotte Hall
Kerry Hurley	240-840-3248		Gathiersburg
Deanna Tobin - Chesapeake College	410-822-5400	dtobin@chesapeake.edu	Virginia
Erica Buchholz (CKO-150280)	800-685-7610	statereg@carecourses.com	Baltimore
Phuong Hoang (CKO-2903)	301-257-7297	phuong@traineducational.com	Towson
Karen Grannas (CKO-340)	410-825-6300	kgrannas@opendoor.com	Germantown
Hwaida Hassanein (CKO-380)	301-237-1414		Ft. Washington
Amina Jones Law (CKO-30539)	301-203-7648	info@cms4training.com	College Park
Miriam Baldwin (CKO-150481)	301-982-1596		Princess Anne
Donna Satterlee (CKI-3761)	410-651-7997	donne.j.satterlee@gmail.com	Hagerstown
Heather Glass (CKO-30419)	301-733-0000	hglass@applesforchildren.org	Rockville
Valerie Raiotte (CKO-30828)	301-984-7687	valerie.raiotte@mccaedu.org	Rockville
Krista Engler (CKO-30828)	301-984-7687	krista.engler@mccaedu.org	Bel Air
Angie Robinson (CKO-7440)	410-652-8450		Columbia
Thelma Hayes (CKO-6902)	443-472-5649		Hagerstown
Megan Ganoe (CKO-30419)	301-733-0000	mganoe@applesforchildren.org	Salisbury
Dianna Aguirre (CKI-5710)	410-749-6365	aguirre_aguirre@yahoo.com	
Diana Taylor - Anne Arundel Community College	410-647-7100		
Judy Dzimiera - Anne Arundel Community College	410-647-7100		
Carol Hamblin - Anne Arundel Community College	410-647-7100		Clinton
Joi Woods (CKO-154084)	301-213-3168	elssconsulting@gmail.com	Bel Air
Crystal Ey (CKO-7440)	410-652-8450	cey@litebritellc.com	Bel Air
Sheila George (CKO-7440)	410-652-8450	sheilakgeorge@gmail.com	Bel Air
Renee Mentzer (CKO-7440)	410-652-8450	rmentzer@litebritellc.com	Bel Air
Penn State Better Kid Care - Spanish Version ONLY		http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/early-care/ccdbg	Pennsylvania
Marylands Resource and Referral Network		http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/programs-services/maryland-child-care-resource-network/maryland-child-care-resource-center-locations/	Statewide

If you saw a sign that read "Buyer Beware!" would you think twice before buying? Would you look at the product from every angle before investing a penny? Would you move forward with the transaction as if your very life or financial livelihood depends upon you "tying up your ducks" with the hope that if anything went wrong the potential catastrophe would be minimized? When it comes to enrolling children, child care providers need to develop program Sign-In and Sign-Out Sheets with the same precaution a person would enter into a financial arrangement with a big red bold "buyer beware" at the top of each page of the document and before the signature line.

Licensing regulations state, "The operator shall: Create and maintain, for at least two (2) years after their creation, records of program: attendance, by groups of child, which indicate and are verified by each child's parent of that child's recorded daily attendance in care."

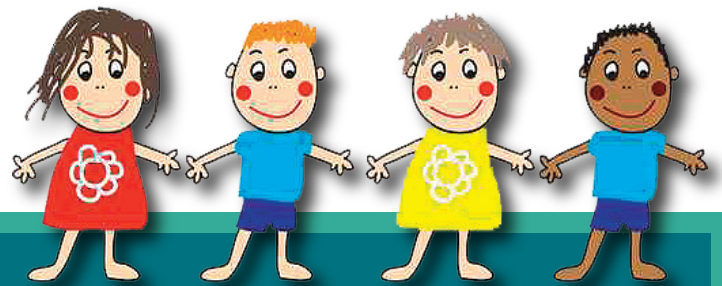
Child care providers should create the most thorough Sign-In and Sign-Out sheets possible and establish daily procedures that ensure:

- ◆ *Children cannot enter or leave the center without an authorized representative signing the log;*
- ◆ *Records are maintained where the document clearly links the parent with the appropriate child; and*
- ◆ *At any given point the original documents can be provided to Licensing, Office of Child Care Subsidy, legal authorities, etc.*

Why? If the discussion of where child abuse or neglect occurred, what document would be the best legal defense for the provider? If the question of whether or not the child care provider released a child to the appropriate authority or who could have potentially delivered an injured child to the child care program and at what time, what document would be the best legal defense for a child care provider? If the question of which provider actually is entitled for child care payment or a parent states that the provider is seeking payments for which they did not render and are not entitled, which document would be the best legal defense for the provider?

Providers Beware: Taking a few moments to construct quality Sign-in and Sign-Out sheets and devising procedures that ensure the sheets are completed daily in accordance to licensing regulation may be the best defense, if a problem should ever arise within your facility.

When it comes to whether or not Sign-in and Sign-Out sheets are really important and whether or not child care programs need to maintain sheets that document what is really occurring within the child care facility, Providers Beware: "It is better to have and not need than to need and not have."



Early Learning Assessment

The Early Learning Assessment (ELA) is aligned with the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. Child care programs, Head Start and public school systems are using the ELA for children 36 to 72 months of age. The provider/teacher can select and administer observational items that best support the children and curricula needs of the program with the number of assessment items being flexible. Comments and student work samples can be added to any item by the provider/teacher.

Benefits of the ELA

- Can be given using a desktop, laptop, tablet, or by paper/pencil
- Type of formative assessment that can be used to help qualify for Level 5 in Maryland EXCELS and/or meet accreditation requirements
- Reports can be printed and shared with parents to note the progress of children
- Minimal cost for training and the use of the ELA is free
- Can be administered multiple times during the year

The current enrollment window for child care programs interested in receiving training on the ELA is August 16 to October 15, 2017. Programs must sign up by completing the online Interest Survey no later than October 15 to be eligible for training beginning in November. Visit the following link to complete the survey: <http://bit.ly/elainterest>

Trainers, approved by MSDE, are available to provide training to child care programs. Participants will receive a list of trainers that can provide the training. A free ELA kit will be given upon successful completion of the 12-hour training. Reimbursement for the training is available through the Office of Child Care - Credentialing Branch.

Join us for an Online Webinar for ELA: Tues., Oct. 3, 2017 (2 - 3:00 p.m.) by calling 1-888- 651-5908 and entering participant code 15223587. You will be placed into the call (press *6 to mute your phone). Next, open a web browser or access the Adobe Connect app on your phone or tablet (free to download) 'Enter as a Guest' and type in your name. Click 'Enter Room'.

For questions about the ELA contact Robert Wagner at MSDE: robert.wagner1@maryland.gov

For more information on the ELA, go to: <https://connect.johnshopkins.edu/p13p9bqp64a/>

Credentialing Branch Updates

Child Care Credential Program Application Basics



Child Care Central

PO Box 598, Baltimore, MD 21203
1.866.243.8796
Fax Number: 410.229.0145

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

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

We are still receiving credentialing applications at MSDE monthly. **These applications are returned to sender immediately upon receipt.**

Have a credentialing question? Be sure to access the credentialing webpage for all information at <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing>.

What's New!



Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) is now participating in the CCCPDF program. We encourage child care providers currently enrolled in the Credentialing program at a level 2 or higher to apply. Please contact Lorraine Mason, the CCCPDF Coordinator at BCCC before submitting your application. Learn more about the CCCPDF Program on page 7.

Xerox is Now Conduent

Same vendor with a different name.

The new email address is ccccredential@conduent.com

It Pays to be a Credentialed Provider



Some of the benefits for participating in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program are:

- Achievement Bonuses
- Training Voucher/Reimbursement up to \$400.00 yearly if credentialed at level 2 or higher
- Tuition Assistance - We will pay for your tuition, books and college fees if you are enrolled in an ECE degree program if credentialed at level 2 or higher
- Career Pathway
- Professional Development

The Credentialing Branch encourages family child care providers and center staff to apply for the Maryland Child Care Credentialing program.

Applications are accepted all year-round.

Providers who previously participated but whose credential has expired are encouraged to submit new applications.

We Want You Back!

Continued on Page 7

Training Voucher and Reimbursement Program

Receive up to \$400 each credential year for Training and Professional Development!

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 and professional development. **Funds can be used for:**

- ◆ Core of Knowledge Training
- ◆ Pre-Service Courses
- ◆ Registration at local, state and national child care conferences

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/>

Training Voucher and Reimbursement Applications can also be mailed to:
MSDE-Credentialing Branch
200 West Baltimore St. 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

- ◆ Current fund participants must submit a continuation application by June 30, 2018.
- ◆ The next deadline for submitting new applications is March 1, 2018. Interested participants are encouraged to submit a credential application 30-60 days before the deadline for submitting the CCCPDF application.

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 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/>

Farewell to

Ruby Wilson

Credentialing Administrative Officer

The Credentialing Branch bids farewell to Ruby Wilson as she starts the next chapter of her life, retirement.
We say thank you and wish her well.

Training Voucher/Reimbursement application materials or inquiries should be sent to Levette Trusty-Woodrum.

We are Four!

Maryland EXCELS Celebrates Four Years of Quality Improvement

July 1, 2017 marked four years since Maryland's Quality Rating and Improvement System launched for statewide participation. Participation has grown from *330 programs in 2013 to 4,457 programs in 2017. Over 71% of all licensed child care centers in Maryland are participating and 40% of all family child care providers have joined the program.* Maryland's child care and early education workforce welcomes the opportunity to 'show their quality' by having their ratings public on the MarylandEXCELS.org website and mobile app.



Families who are eligible for assistance with the cost of child care from the Child Care Subsidy program choose **Maryland EXCELS** participating programs to use their vouchers, ensuring that their children will be in quality child care programs attentive to their individual needs.

Come join us! Participating in **Maryland EXCELS** is easy. Visit our website and join your colleagues who are committed to continuous quality improvement.

DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY® \$1,000 WINNERS! CONGRATULATIONS TO DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY WINNERS!

Maryland EXCELS partnered with Discount School Supply in June and randomly selected five participating and published programs; each won a \$1,000 gift certificate. Happy shopping to these child care programs and thank you for participating in **Maryland EXCELS!**

Dee Dee's Place at Fairland
Rebecca Ascencio, Director
Montgomery County

Ekene Anofienem
Family Child Care Provider
Prince George's County

Wise Early Learning Center
Sharon Winter, Director
Baltimore County

Grannie Annies Child Care & Learning Center
Ruth Claytor, Director
Anne Arundel County

Gloria Tellez
Family Child Care Provider
Montgomery County



Need Help with Maryland EXCELS?

Quality Assurance Specialists in your area are here for you! This team of 15 professionals provide training and individualized support to help you with **Maryland EXCELS**.

Do you accept Child Care Subsidy vouchers? Did you know that you can be paid 10% to 44% more per child by publishing a Quality Rating at Level 3, 4, or 5? Get paid for the high quality you provide! Contact your Quality Assurance Specialist, if you need assistance.



Find a **Maryland EXCELS** work group or training in your area by visiting **Maryland EXCELS** and search for work group or copy this link into your browser <http://marylandexcels.org/about-us/professional-development/>

Maryland EXCELS in Your Neighborhood!

Summer may be coming to an end, but the fun isn't over! **Maryland EXCELS** participates in community events to raise family awareness of the importance of choosing quality child care and early education. We hope you'll join the fun and help us spread the word about the incredible programs and providers who participate in **Maryland EXCELS!**

Minor League Baseball

Maryland EXCELS has partnered with minor league baseball teams throughout the state.

We have free tickets to games, special advertising opportunities for child care programs, and a presence at many minor league games throughout the season. To learn more, visit

www.marylandexcels.org/baseball.

Baltimore Orioles

During the coming months, the Oriole bird will be visiting two lucky programs participating in **Maryland EXCELS!** The bird will greet the children and be available for a photo. Announcements about the winners of these Oriole bird visits will be coming soon. Be sure to sign up to receive the **Maryland EXCELS** eNews to be the first to hear! <http://www.marylandexcels.org/enews-archive/>

ICYMI: We gave away tickets to the September 3rd Orioles game that included a pre-game picnic! The September 3rd game took place during Fan Appreciation Weekend when children in attendance received giveaways and had the opportunity to run the bases after the game. *Go O's!*

Did you know that Maryland EXCELS is on social media?

Be sure to follow us to stay up to date on the latest early childhood information, activities and **Maryland EXCELS** news.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mdexcels
Twitter: www.twitter.com/marylandexcels
Instagram: www.instagram.com/marylandexcels



Maryland Accreditation Roadmap to Continuous Quality Congratulations to 88 Programs that achieved Maryland Accreditation in June!

There are 314 Maryland Accredited programs that have met the standards for high quality and are committed to continuous quality improvement. This number includes Child Care Centers, Head Start, Public School Prekindergarten and Kindergarten programs.

Accredited programs with a **Maryland EXCELS** Quality Rating can be found on the **MarylandEXCELS.org** website on the **Find A Program** page. Look for this Accreditation Badge to find programs that are state or nationally accredited.

Maryland Accreditation is committed to assisting programs enhance quality. Continuous quality improvement may look different for each program. However, the goal is the same – programs are constantly pursuing excellence by assessing their strengths and areas for improvement and implementing policies and practices to support high quality.

Key Indicators of Quality Programs:

- Are safe and provide the best opportunities for development and learning;
- Have experienced and trained staff members;
- Offer opportunities for meaningful family involvement; and
- Offer opportunities that promote and enhance children's success and school readiness skills

Who is responsible for Quality?

Everyone is responsible, from the owner to the volunteer. Quality applies to the service you provide, the policies and procedures in place, the practices of the staff – how good is it, is it good enough, how can we make it better? You don't need a quality manager, quality specialist, or director of quality – you need to ensure that all team members understand their role in achieving quality. It's important that each team member is invested and dedicated to protecting and strengthening the program by making sure stakeholders' needs are met and expectations are exceeded. Our most important stakeholders are the children.

Are you ready to pursue Maryland Accreditation?

Attend an orientation session for additional information and an opportunity to ask questions. Contact your local Child Care Resource Center or **Maryland EXCELS** Quality Assurance Specialist for an upcoming session. Learn more by visiting the MSDE Division of Early Childhood's web page and search 'Accreditation' <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/>



New this Fall: Ready At Five Introduces New Learning Party Curriculum: *The Parent Leadership Learning Party!*

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 Communication
- Problem Solving and Conflicts
- Meeting Management
- Advocacy

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.

For more information, please contact Robin at robin@readyatfive.org.



Parents and Families are Looking for You!

Maryland Family Network's LOCATE: Child Care helps parents of

over 6,300 children who call to find child care that is just right for them. Another 45,600 searches are conducted through the LOCATE: Child Care online service.

Will these eager parents find you?

Make sure your information is current. LOCATE: Child Care has made updating your program information even

easier. Visit <https://locate.marylandfamilynetwork.org/Provider/login> now and review your profile and make necessary changes.

SUCCESS STORY:

Maryland Family Network Helps to Create a Solid Foundation

Susanna and her son, Omar, have been attending Maryland Family Network's (MFN) Carroll County Family Support Center for two and a half years. During that time, Susanna has learned English and typing; she is preparing to take her GED exam. She has also been taking classes at the Center to improve her parenting skills and make nutritious meals for her family.

"I like to try everything," Susanna says about what she's learning. "I'm trying to get more education so I can help my sons."

Susanna adds that she can now read her older child's report cards and get him extra help at school when it is needed. This is something many parents take for granted but for Susanna, who was born in El Salvador, the skills acquired at the Family

Susanna and Omar learning together at Carroll County Family Support Center.



Support Center have created the foundation for her and future generations of her family to succeed.

Meanwhile the skills Omar is learning in the Center's state-of-the-art child care setting will help to make sure he reaches all of his developmental milestones: social, emotional, cognitive, and physical.

Over 3,000 families a year find success at MFN's 25 Family Support Centers around the state. They are funded by a variety of public and private organizations, including the Maryland State Department of Education. The Carroll County Family Support Center is operated by Human Services Programs of Carroll County.

"Education is life," says Susanna wisely. "And I feel like I have a new life."

Judy Center News



Fresh Produce for Allegany County Families

The Allegany County Judy Center had a busy spring! Dan Snyder, the Service Coordinator at South Penn, worked with Judy Center students and planted vegetables and flowers in the green house in early spring. When the weather warmed up, the plants were transplanted into the raised gardens at the school. The plants grew quickly and harvesting began. In the first week of July they cut kale, and picked cucumbers and zucchini. Mr. Snyder also wrote and received a grant to expand the outdoor garden program. The extra funding and materials will allow students to plant more and develop a better understanding of where food comes from and how it's grown. The students will also get to try some fresh vegetables that they might not have had an opportunity to try. In addition to the grant, Mr. Snyder reached out to a local plant nursery and received a donation of fruit trees, pine trees and other deciduous (leafy) trees.

The South Penn Principal, Scott Sisler, invited local police officers to the school to help the students plant the trees. It was a wonderful collaboration and the students enjoyed interacting

with the police officers. Coordinator Deb Kolb received tomato plants for the South Penn Judy Center. Staff planted them in hopes of giving the fruit to parents and the food pantry. They are excited to be able to share fresh fruits and vegetables with their families.

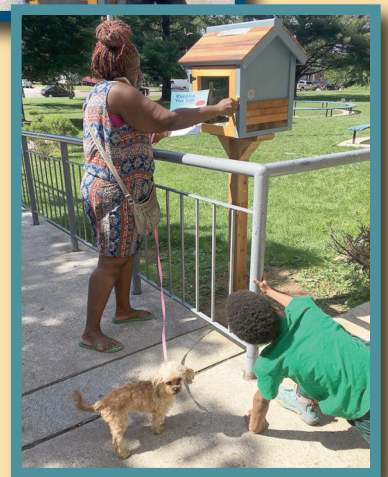
The South Penn Judy Center serves an area where there is a food desert. A food desert is an area where there isn't an availability of fresh fruits and vegetables within walking distance for most families. The Judy Center community garden will help the neighborhood families acquire free, fresh produce.



Dads Honored with Breakfast for Father's Day

The Judy Center at Arlington (Baltimore City) is strengthening relationships with its parents and utilizing their versatile skills to bring special services and programs to the school and community. Father's Day was the perfect way to celebrate and highlight the amazing dads that volunteer at the school. On June 2, 2017, The Judy Center honored them with a "Men Behaving Dadly" Parent Breakfast, complete with delicious food, father-related resources and programs, and guest speakers. After breakfast

and receiving helpful information, the dads then worked together to build a "Little Free Library" for the Park Heights Community, which is located in the front of the school. Children and parents can walk up anytime of the day and treat themselves to FREE books or may leave a book for someone else. This wonderful gift would not have been possible without the partnerships and relationships established throughout the years with the Judy Center and its parents.



Judy Center News

U. S. Senator Ben Cardin Visits Federalsburg Judy Center

On Monday, June 5, U. S. Senator Ben Cardin, D-Md. made several stops in Federalsburg, one of which was the Federalsburg Judy Center. Senator Cardin had the opportunity to visit the Early Head Start classrooms and the Preschool classroom, which are housed at the Federalsburg Judy Center. Senator Cardin

shared that he has been a strong supporter of the Judy Centers since their conception and has worked with Congressman Steny Hoyer to maintain funding support. He also shared that the partnerships and support provided to Judy Center families are extremely valuable. Tearesa French, the Director of Caroline County Early Head Start and Caroline County Judy Centers in Greensboro and Federalsburg, described the center's many programs for children, adults and families, including Head Start and Early Head Start school readiness for children from birth to five, Adult Education through GED and English as a Second Language classes for adults.

Senator Cardin asked Ms. French about the biggest challenges that she faces. Ms. French shared that at the top of her list are finding qualified bilingual early childhood education staff and needing more staff and space to meet the updated federal operating guidelines for Early Head

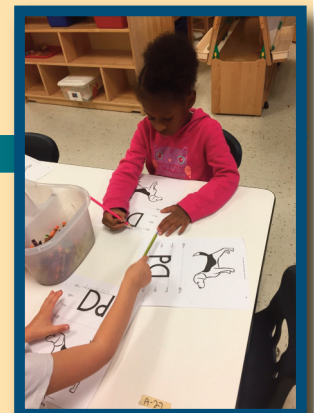
Start. During the visit, he also had the opportunity to visit with some of the adult immigrants from Haiti who were engaged in a Citizenship Class taught by a Judy Center Partner, Matthew Peters, Director of Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center. Mr. Peters is conducting a 12 week course for Haitian immigrants at the Federalsburg Judy Center and for the Hispanic immigrants in Marydel to prepare them for taking the U.S. citizenship test. Senator Cardin listened to the concerns shared regarding the Department of Homeland Security's announcement regarding a six-month extension for the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Haitians, which will directly affect hundreds in the Federalsburg area. Senator Cardin responded to the concerns, "America has always grown its industry because of immigrants coming here to work," he said, adding that many business leaders support immigration. Senator Cardin emphasized that programs such as those offered at the Judy Center are extremely important and he promised to work to ensure continued federal funding.



Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten!

A big yellow school bus pulls up to the front of Robert Moton Elementary (RME). The doors open and a shy five-year-old is warmly greeted by her summer camp teacher Samantha Havighurst, "Hi Liberty! Welcome to kindergarten camp! We are so excited you are here!" Relaxing immediately, stepping gingerly down the steps, Liberty joins a group of already waiting incoming kindergarten students who are all ready to begin their kindergarten readiness camp adventure. For the past 16 years, the Carroll

County Public Schools Judy Center Partnership at RME has invited all incoming kindergarten students in the catchment area to attend a four-week long, half-day kindergarten readiness camp. Each day the students arrive and are served a nutritious breakfast provided by a grant through the USDA. During the course of the morning, children participate in literacy, math, and art activity centers with a certified teacher and an instructional assistant. Kindergarten



Continued on Page 13

Judy Center News

Continued from Page 12

Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten!

readiness camp not only supports children academically, but also helps them to learn the schedule and routines they will encounter in the Fall. The camp is staffed by RME staff members so the children have an opportunity to get to know the staff who will be working with them the upcoming school year. Mrs. Havighurst has been teaching at RME for six years and has worked at the kindergarten readiness camp for the past two years. According to Mrs. Havighurst, "The biggest benefit for

the children is that they get used to routines, and develop the independence needed in kindergarten." Families who live within the RME school district love what the kindergarten summer readiness camp has to offer. Mary Clark, whose son Harrison also attended camp this summer stated, "Thank you for making Harrison's experience so great! Two of my kids have been through camp and we have LOVED the opportunity. Thank you!"



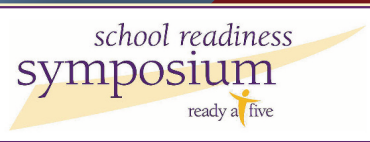
Family Engagement Goes to a New Level at Charles County Judy Center

The Charles County Judy Center works hard to provide enriching opportunities for family engagement. They are always looking for ways to build family capacity, in all areas, and were elated to learn a group of parents representing all four of the Judy Center supported schools (Barnhart, Mudd, Ryon & Turner) have been meeting weekly outside of regularly scheduled Judy Center programs. The parents all met during Judy Center Playgroups, Learning Parties or other Judy Center sponsored events and credited the Judy Center with the founding of the group. Mrs. Charlene Cook, one of the leaders of this parent group shared that the families have a family style potluck lunch together. The families give updates and catch up with each other. After eating, parents and children participate in an exercise routine, followed by a craft with their young children. Building upon some of the activities sponsored by the Judy Center, the families sought to create additional opportunities to connect and focus on building community.

This was the first school year for the "We Met at the Judy Center Parent Group". This new enterprise even culminated with the event dubbed, The 1st Annual Judy Center Olympics. Although the Judy Center does not have a social media account the parents in this group make sure Center events are highlighted along with their advertised weekly meetings. In the 2017-2018 school year, Charles County Judy Center hopes to partner with Mrs. Cook's parent group to offer additional supports as identified by the group members.

The Judy Center staff members are humbled by the praise given from the Judy Center family group and hope this networking continues to grow. The staff is excited to have parents that are willing to take the initiative to say they like what the Judy Center is offering and want more. It is invigorating to know the parents not only discussed the idea of creating their own parent group but they put this idea into action.

Winter School Readiness Symposium



On December 14, 2017,

Maryland State Department of Education, in partnership with **Ready At Five**, will hold the Winter School Readiness Symposium. Offered two times each year, the School Readiness Symposia cover a wide range of topics that support high-quality early learning programs and showcase cutting-edge and innovative research on early care and education that inform program content and enhance state and local policy development to support our youngest learners. Over 250 early childhood practitioners, state and local policy makers, and community leaders from Maryland's 24 jurisdictions attend the Symposia. In attendance are infant, toddler, pre-school, and early elementary school teachers from diverse settings – schools, child care, Head Start, and faith-based settings.

The December 14th Winter Symposium, Equity in Literacy Must Start Early, will feature Dr. Nell Duke, professor in literacy, language, and culture and in the combined program in education and psychology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Duke's award-winning research focuses on early literacy development, particularly among children living in poverty.

Dr. Duke has been named in EdWeek as among the 50 most influential scholars in education. Among her current roles is serving as an expert for the NBC News Parent Toolkit and as an advisor on children's television and other media for the Public Broadcasting Service/Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Ready to Learn program. Dr. Duke is author and co-author of numerous journal articles, book chapters, and books. Dr. Duke will speak on the critical need to provide rich language and literacy experiences for children, beginning with infants and toddlers and extending through the early years, to ensure equitable opportunities later in school and in life. Of particular importance is addressing the specific needs of our most vulnerable children, including English learners, children with disabilities and children from low-income families. Through large-group discussions and in-depth breakout sessions, the Symposium will focus on methods to cultivate early language and literacy skills proven to lead to later school achievement; provide developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate practices to support children from birth to age five; and develop strategies to strengthen home, school, and community partnerships.

Check readyatfive.org in October for registration.

Join the Maryland Head Start Association

Here's WHY



The Maryland Head Start Association (MHSA) assists Head Start and other early childhood learning programs through education and training opportunities; advocating on behalf of children and families across the state of Maryland; and by educating the community at large on the developmental needs of low-income children and families.

As Association members, individuals and organizations have an opportunity to participate in children's advocacy on local, regional and national levels through workgroups, planning committees, and events. We ensure individuals are ready to advocate by providing resources, networking, and training.

Here's what we do:

Each year, MHSA organizes a day in Annapolis to meet with legislators and a day on Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress. We monitor Senate and House Bills relating the needs of children, families, and early childhood staff across the state, submitting testimony that expresses the views of

our members. The Parents as Leaders Training and Parent Rally on Capitol Hill is set for September 26-27.

MHSA organizes two conferences to promote opportunities for professional development of early childhood staff; one in the Spring and one in the Fall. **MHSA** has developed a strong partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education to increase the level of professional development, increase participation in Maryland Excels, and create comprehensive learning and resource sharing environments for educators. The **MHSA** Fall Conference at the Radisson Hotel Inner Harbor, Downtown Baltimore is set for November 7-10.

The conferences are great learning and networking events that are attended by early childhood leaders from across the state.

Learn more about MHSA by going to www.md-hsa.org. For more information please contact Simeon Russell at: execdir@md-hsa.org

Get Involved...

Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Membership has its privileges! Become a member of the MDAEYC to take advantage of professional opportunities available to MDAEYC members.

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
- Professional Activity Units (PAUs) for membership in a professional association and PAUs for attending a national, state or local conference!

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



Becoming a member is easy! Visit: www.naeyc.com or www.mdaeyc.org and complete the online registration to become a member of **NAEYC** and **MDAEYC** simultaneously. For more info LIKE their Facebook page or contact: marylandaeyc@gmail.com via email or call **410-820-9196**.

TOP 5

Reasons to join the Maryland State Child Care Association

Did You Know?

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.

Many of the **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 PAUs for attending our statewide conferences, facilitating classes at our conference, contributing to our semi-annual newsletters and attending our Advocacy Night in Annapolis.)*

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.

MSCCA provides continuous, cutting edge communication emailed to members about relevant child care issues and topics.

There are discounts on quality training conferences and a new annual MSCCA/Jennifer Nizer Grant/Scholarship opportunity 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**





ARE YOU Passionate About Children and Family Child Care?



If so, the Maryland State Family Child Care Association needs **YOU!**

- ▼ Support Professional and Best Practice.
- ▼ Support family child care as an essential component to the child care delivery system in Maryland.
- ▼ Support Advocating on all Legislative and Regulatory Issues concerning children and Family Child Child Care Providers.
- ▼ Support MSFCCA'S goal of providing communication, involvement and support to early childhood community.
- ▼ Believe Providers are **STRONGER** with **ONE VOICE!**

www.msfccca.org | Contact@msfccca.org | 240.994.0292 | Jacqueline Grant President, MSFCCA

How can I get involved?

Email contact@msfccca.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 now! Some face-to-face meeting obligations are

no longer necessary and you can work on your own. There are many areas where help is needed. Contact us soon to get started and help make **MSFCCA** the Family Child Care Voice of Choice.

RESOURCES



DON'T MISS OUR BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES!

Check our website at readyatfive.org to find out about the programs we offer and for our Back To School 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. Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter.

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LOOKING FOR RESOURCES TO SHARE WITH PARENTS?

Visit **Zero to Three** to find eight tips to help children to develop confidence, an essential ingredient for future success. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/226-tips-on-helping-your-child-develop-confidence>.



Healthy Adventures Video Series for Caregivers

Maryland Family Network's (MFN) Healthy Adventures video series was developed to give caregivers of very young children great ideas for creating lifelong habits that keep the child and the whole family healthy. The effort primarily supports preschool teachers who want to model and engage with their students in physical activity and nutri-

tious eating routines. Videos in this series are made possible thanks to funding from Maryland Department of Health. Check out MFN's Healthy Adventures videos today and get moving with your kids! Visit www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/healthyadventures to see the videos and for updates on the program.

PAST EVENTS

Second 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 to continue its work to improve and expand on early childhood family engagement initiatives.

Hosted by the Family Engagement Coalition Chairs, Dorothy Stoltz, Programming & Outreach Manager, Carroll County Public Library, and Maryland Libraries ECAC Liaison and Steven Hicks, Executive Director, Ready At Five, hundreds of attendees took part in panel discussion and workshops.

Lisa Guernsey, Deputy Director of the Education Policy Program and Director of the Learn-

ing Technologies Project at New America, served as the Keynote Speaker and spoke about **"How to Bring Early Learning and Family Engagement into the Digital Age"** and new approaches to family engagement in the Digital Age.

Jeff Cappizano, President of the Policy Equity Group, Inc., facilitated a panel discussion that included parent ambassadors and Danitza Simpson, Director of a Family Support Center in Prince George's County discussed family engagement from the parent perspective. 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.

Summit materials, including presentations and handouts, are available at <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/2017-family-engagement-summit>



Chesapeake Children's Museum



**25 Silopanna Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21403
Phone: 410-990-1993**

**Admission \$5
for ages 1 & up**

Tucked away in more than five acres of land at the head of Spa Creek, this hands-on museum teaches kids all about the Chesapeake Bay. Peek at wildlife through the Bay Window or build a city

in the Hard Hat area. The Underground Railroad Trail explains how runaway slaves depended on nature to survive in their quest for freedom.

School Age & Toddlers

Creek Critters

Thursdays, 10:30am

Parents and children alike will enjoy learning about the local environment with indoor and outdoor activities (weather per-

mitting). See what critters live in our woodlands and creek.

Share stories, songs, games and crafts.

Fridays, 10:30am - 11:30am • All Ages • This program is FREE with Admission.

Art and Story Time

We are eager to share the passion for great children's literature and creative visual expression with our youngest visitors. Children ages two to five-years-old and their accompanying adults can share books, flannel board stories, puppets, and act out stories along with related art and craft activities. **Free with admission.**

CCM Workshops To Go
Instead of arranging a field trip, you can

have the museum come to you! Call or email to inquire about workshops for your class, youth group, birthday party or community event.

**Telephone: 410-990-1993 or
email: info@theccm.org**



Teaching, Learning, Caring: Carroll Student Selected as Newman Civic Fellow

From a young age, 20-year-old Westminster resident Danielle Burnham knew she wanted to teach young children. She's currently working toward that goal by attending Carroll Community College (Carroll) part-time while working full-time split shifts at Celebree Learning Center, but it's her heart of service that's part of the reason she was recently selected by Campus Compact as a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow.

The 2017 fellows represent member institutions in 39 states and Washington D. C. Burnham is one of 273 students around the United States who make up the 2017 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows. The fellowship is for one year, and the nominees are individuals who have demonstrated the willingness to find solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country and abroad. It honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders and a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. It is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman's Own Foundation.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of one thousand colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. As the only national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic



Carroll Community College student **Danielle Burnham** was recently awarded a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow and a Maryland State Department of Education grant.

engagement, Campus Compact enables campuses to develop students' citizenship skills and to forge effective community partnerships.

Currently in her fifth semester at Carroll, Burnham said she expects to graduate with her Associates degree in Early Childhood Education in the spring of 2019. "Receiving the Newman Civic Fellow was a shock at first because I didn't know I was recommended to receive it," she said.

Burnham uses a grant from the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund to pay for the rest of her college education. The Maryland State Department of Education offers a grant to pay for a student's schooling if they are currently working in the field and are credentialed at a level 3 (Danielle has a 3.6 grade point average). If awarded, the student must commit to work in the field for at least two years.

Burnham is involved with many projects with her students at both work and with her mom's students, organizing many community projects such as collecting for the food locker at Carroll and for the Westminster Cold Weather Shelter. She has helped organize many college campus and community-wide events including the annual Penguin Random House Book Fair, the Little Free Libraries March, and statewide Childcare Training Day.



Division of Early Childhood Development
 Office of Child Care - J1014 / 200 West Baltimore Street
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Upcoming Conferences

Save the Date

DECEMBER 14, 2017

Winter School Readiness Symposium:

Equality in Literacy
 Must Start Early

**Turf Valley
 Resort Ellicott City, MD**

Hosted by Ready At Five
 Register at
readyatfive.org.

Save the Date

OCTOBER 12, 2017

MSCCA Leadership Symposium

Ten Oaks Ballroom
 Clarksville, MD

Earn 7 hours of MSDE
 approved, quality training!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

VISIT: **www.mscca.org**
 or call **410-820-9196**

Maryland State Family Child Care Association

25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 13-15, 2017

Strong Foundations Build Bright Futures

Join us for a fantastic conference filled with education, networking and friends. Don't miss out on this fun, refreshing, inspiring weekend where you can receive excellent training.

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 and Condos - Ocean City, MD

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 State Superintendent of Schools

Andrew R. Smarick
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Larry Hogan
 Governor

Elizabeth Kelley
 Acting Assistant State Superintendent
 Division of Early Childhood Education

Alexis D. Washington
 Editor-in-Chief

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For more information about the contents of this document, contact:
 Maryland State Department of Education
 Division of Early Childhood Development
 200 West Baltimore Street
 Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-767-0335 • Toll Free: 1-877-605-1539
 410.333.6442 (TTY/TDD) • Fax: 410-333-6226
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