



PARTNERS

WINTER 2018 / Maryland State Department of Education / Division of Early Childhood Development

WELCOME



Welcome to Steven Hicks, MSDE's new Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of Early Childhood Development

Steven has had a long career in education, first as a teacher, then as a federal policy-maker and most recently an advocate. He left the position as Executive Director of Ready At Five to join the Maryland State Department of Education. While heading up Ready At Five, he advocated for improved practices and quality of early childhood education for the children of Maryland. As Senior Policy Advisor on Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education, his focus was to advance the national early learning agenda through the establishment of the agency's first Office of Early Learning and the development and implementation of the Early Learning Challenge and Preschool Development Grant programs. He was a teacher for 20 years for preschool level through third grade classrooms. While teaching, he founded the Reggio Emilia-inspired early learning center at his charter school, served the

workgroup that created and established Los Angeles Universal Preschool, and was the Los Angeles Prekindergarten Director for the California Reading and Literature Project. He was named a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and a member of the USA Today All-USA Teacher Team.

Mr. Hicks is a certified teacher in Early Childhood by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and he has taught family engagement coursework as an adjunct professor for the teacher preparation program at California State University, Los Angeles. He holds a Master of Arts with Option in Early Childhood and Primary Education degree and a B.A. in economics.

Steven currently lives in Washington, DC with his husband, David Holladay, and their dog, Duncan.
Welcome to MSDE, Steven!

Farewell to Liz Kelley, Dedicated Champion for Early Childhood Education Retires



Elizabeth 'Liz' Kelley, retired in December 2017 after over three decades of service to Maryland's children, families and the Department of Education.

Liz served as the Director of the Office of Child Care, as well as the Interim Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Early Childhood Development since the retirement of Dr. Rolf Grafwallner in the summer of 2016.

She is currently working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

On behalf of the Division of Early Childhood Development at MSDE...

we wish you the best in your next chapter.



Photo Credit: MSCCA.org
<https://twitter.com/MSCCATweets>



From the Desk of the Director of OCC

Dear MSDE Colleagues

I am very excited to join the Maryland State Department of Education, Early Childhood Division as the Director of the Office of Child Care (OCC) beginning on February 14, 2018. I spent all my career in Maryland until three and a half years ago when I moved to Florida to follow my sister and my two nieces. It was a tough move because I had worked so hard to establish a career in Maryland and served in many different

capacities throughout the State. After being in Florida, it was time for me to come back to Maryland and work alongside some of the best in our field.

One of the highlights that I think the community valued in Liz Kelley, the previous OCC Director, was that she started as a teacher assistant in a child care program. That is exactly where I started! I was a teacher assistant for a 2-year-old classroom while attending Towson State for my bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Once I graduated, I advanced over 3 years being a teacher of different age groups, creating and teaching a certified Kindergarten program within a child care center, became an assistant director and eventually became a director. My most recent position in Maryland was the director at Johns Hopkins Bayview Child Development Center, an employee-based child care program, where we achieved and maintained NAEYC accreditation. During my 14 years of working at Johns Hopkins Bayview, I had the opportunity to be the president of the Baltimore City Child Care Association and then moved to working at the state level with the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA).

During this time I also received my master's degree from Towson University in early childhood education. I was then elected as president of the MSCCA where I worked tirelessly on behalf of child care centers to assure early childhood programs had a seat at the table with MSDE, the Governor's Office and several other agencies in the State of Maryland. I remained president for 6 years where I served on several committees including, the quality rating and improvement system, MD EXCELS, revamp of the Child Care Credentialing system and training, and I worked with Public Policy to provide testimony in Annapolis on Universal Pre-k, to name a few. I also participated on various work groups such as, The Maryland Family Engagement Framework, Dispute Resolution and the Guide to Pedagogy.

I worked on public policy and was appointed as the Office of Child Care Advisory Council Co-chair and I was the first early childhood educator to be appointed to the P-20 Leadership Council through the Governor's Office. I was also adjunct faculty at Towson University, Howard County Community College and the Community College of Baltimore County throughout my career. Since moving to Florida, I was the leader of a local Tampa Bay early childhood institute and most recently traveled as a quality assurance validator/accreditation support specialist for a small early childhood company.

I am very excited about the opportunity to come back and help make Maryland number 1 in early childhood education. I want Maryland to be the state that everyone wants to follow! I know many of you from my work in Maryland and those of you that know me can testify that I am a passionate, determined, hard-working person who wants the best for children, families and early childhood providers. With the amazing team we have already in place, the sky is the limit!

*With excitement and determination,
Jennifer A. Nizer, M.Ed.*

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MSDE News



Other Staffing Changes in DECD

Congratulations...

Louis 'Lou' Valenti was named as the new Licensing Branch Chief in December 2017. Lou stepped into this new level of responsibility from his position as Regional Manager for the Howard, Carroll, and Baltimore City jurisdictions.

Farewell...

Traci Verzi is no longer in the Division of Early Childhood Development and her last day was February 2, 2018. She is now in the Division of Career and College Readiness. Send Training inquiries to trainingocc.msde@maryland.gov.

Candy Miller is no longer in the Division of Early Childhood Development and her last day was January 31, 2018. She is now at the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Welcome...

Michelle Young to the Maryland EXCELS branch as the Community Outreach Specialist. She can be reached at michelle.young1@maryland.gov

Adele Bealefeld to the Credentialing Branch as the new Administrative Assistant. She can be reached at adele.bealefeld@maryland.gov



2017

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Data Released

Results from Maryland's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) reveals that nearly half of Maryland's incoming students in the fall of 2017 were fully prepared for learning.

However, the data reveal gaps in readiness: 39 percent of African-American students are fully prepared for kindergarten and 24 percent of Hispanic students are kindergarten-ready. In addition, students from low-income households start school at a disadvantage, and fewer kindergartners with identified disabilities demonstrate readiness.

The report, *Readiness Matters, Equity Matters!*, found that 45 percent of incoming kindergartners were fully ready to begin learning, compared to 43 percent in 2016-17. Another 37 percent were "approaching" readiness, while 18 percent were "emerging." The report provides insights into readiness and children's experiences with various forms of pre-K programs.

The KRA measures the skills and behaviors that children should learn before entering kindergarten. The KRA is an age-appropriate, assessment tool that relies on standardized performance tasks, along with focused observations of children's work and play, to best understand what each entering kindergartner knows and is able to do in four key areas: social foundations; physical well-being and motor development; language and literacy; and mathematics.

MSDE worked with local educators to develop the KRA, we have since engaged educators, including kindergarten teachers, to strengthen the assessment process.

This assessment is part of Ready for Kindergarten (R4K), Maryland's comprehensive early childhood assessment system. The KRA sets a baseline for tracking student progress in future years, aligned to Maryland's rigorous PreK through 12th grade college and career-readiness standards.

More than half of white and Asian-American children are entering kindergarten ready to learn — 57 and 55 percent, respectively.

The new KRA data can be found here:

<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/prek-grade-2/maryland-early-learning-framework/ready-4-kindergarten/2017-18-kindergarten-readiness>

Subsidy News



**GREAT
NEWS**

Parents and Providers!

Governor Hogan has lifted the **Child Care Subsidy (CCS)** Frozen Status (Wait List) for the state of Maryland effective February 1, 2018. If you know any parent that previously applied and received a letter stating their CCS applications were approved, but funds were not available, please have these parents reapply for Child Care Subsidy services. Likewise, please encourage other parents who need child care services and who work, attend training and/or educational activities to apply for CCS services. The application needed to apply or reapply for child care vouchers (English and Spanish),

along with other forms needed by parents and providers participating in the CCS program, can be found at <http://childhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/child-care-subsidy-program/subsidy-forms>

Providers, please encourage the parents you serve to tell those they work with or that participate in the same activity (*work training or educational programs*) to apply! Quality early care and educational components are the cornerstones of children ages 0-5 becoming life-long learners and arriving at school ready to learn!



Fingerprinting news, updates and information you need to know



The fingerprinting process is well under way and thank you to everyone for your willingness to hop on board with the new federal requirements! We **STRONGLY** urge you to visit the website <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/fingerprinting> to look for updates before you submit your reimbursement requests. We post any changes to the procedures there.

A proper submission includes:

- A properly completed W-9 that is signed (there must be only one – for a center this means one for your organization, for a family provider, this means one for the registered provider)
- Receipts that show the dollar amount paid to get printed and that are dated on or after September 21, 2017
- The CJIS Tracking Number for each individual printed
- The **CURRENT** invoice from our website (signed and dated) with the **TOTAL** amount you are requesting on page 1 of the invoice. You must fill out the invoice completely.

Items you should NOT submit:

- Copies of your criminal background history.
- Copies of your Livescan form.
- Copies of your Non-Criminal Justice Applicant Privacy Rights form. These go to your Regional Office – not to Central office.
- The Comptroller of Maryland issues the reimbursements – *not MSDE or DECD*. That means the submissions must meet the Comptroller of Maryland requirements for payment. If we are asking you for something, it is because it is **REQUIRED** for you to receive your reimbursement. **Do not leave anything blank.**

Please be aware that if you owe the State of Maryland money, you will not receive a reimbursement. The Comptroller's Office will do an intercept on those funds and put them toward the debt.

Getting a Handle on the

FINGERPRINTING PROCESS



Incorrect Submissions: Return to Sender

We cannot make changes to submissions, and must return ALL incorrect submissions to the originator. Please visit the website <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/fingerprinting> before you submit your reimbursement request to ensure you have the latest updates.

No Phone Calls Please: Emails Only

If you have questions or need additional information about the fingerprinting process, please email TJ at tabatha.bennett@maryland.gov.

While we apologize for this inconvenience, we are required to keep a written record of anything related to this process. You may ask your licensing specialist to submit the questions on your behalf if you are more comfortable doing so.

If you email TJ regarding your returned package, be sure to include the reasons checked off on the letter with your returned submission in the email. She will be able to provide you with a more detailed explanation.

Mark Your Calendar: Up to 90 Days

It takes 45-90 days for us to get a CORRECT submission through the reimbursement process from the date we receive it (*not the date you were printed*). The timeline does not start until the package is in our hands.

Please be mindful of the fingerprinting deadlines posted on the website. If we receive reimbursement requests postmarked after the deadline for your assigned letter of the alphabet, we may not be able to reimburse your expenses.



Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program



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

Child Care Central PO Box 598, Baltimore, MD 21203
Fax: 410.229.0145 Have Questions? Call 1.866.243.8796

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

2018 Credential Program Application

Be sure to use the revised Maryland Child Care Credential Program Application. You will notice that the fax number is now on the upper left hand side of the application and the revised date is August 2017. As of January 1, 2018 Child Care Central no longer accepts the old version of the application.

Note:

When you call the Interactive Voice Response (IVR), please provide your personal phone number and not your center phone number.

Process for submitting the Subsidy Survey to be awarded 1 Professional Activity Unit (PAU)

Center

Please note that only one center staff will be awarded a PAU for completing the survey.

Center staff must sign and date Survey and make a copy before submitting to Child Care Central.

If Credentialed, center staff must submit a copy of the survey and a letter from the Director to verify that the survey was completed by the individual submitting the survey with the Credentialing application.

Family Child Care Provider

If Credentialed, submit a copy of the survey with your credential application packet. Please note that the original survey form must be sent to Child Care Central – Subsidy

5 TIPS TO COMPLETE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING QUICKLY

We want you to find answers to questions and to resolve your concerns promptly but it may take up to two business days to receive a response depending on the volume of emails. Most of your questions can be answered from information already available in the training or on the Health and Safety Training web page. Here are five ways you can receive help without having to wait to receive an answer. Before sending an email to DECD:

- 1** Review the **START HERE** page of the training – it provides instructions on the Course Timeline, Grades and Certificates, "No Content to Be Displayed", Videos Not Playing, and Username or Password.
- 2** Review the FAQs at http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/health_and_safety_faqs.pdf
- 3** Review the emails and correspondence sent to you.
- 4** Review the Health and Safety Training web page, <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/basic-health-safety-training>.
- 5** For inquiries regarding training requirements, please contact your Regional Licensing Office or Specialist directly.

MARYLAND EXCELS
is sponsoring a giveaway of



\$2,400
in free
registrations

to the Maryland State Child Care Association
Annual Conference by the Sea 2018—

C.A.M.P.
(Children Are My Passion)

May 3 – 6, 2018

Clarion Hotel and Resort, Ocean City, Maryland
Six (6) Maryland EXCELS participating
and published providers will
receive free registration to this event.

For more information, visit <https://mscca.org>.

Find out who won in the next edition of
Partners newsletter.



Ready at Five Welcomes New Leadership

The Executive Leadership Committee is pleased to welcome **Susan Foulds** as Ready At Five's Interim Executive Director. Ms. Foulds is a dynamic results-oriented leader with more than 25 years demonstrated success in producing revenue, executive management, governance, marketing, and strategic planning in both not-for-profit and corporate sectors. Foulds began her career in advertising on the Grey, New York account management team, where she co-produced an award-winning trade campaign for the National Dairy Board. Acting as Development Director for GLSEN, and a catalyst for change and innovation, she initiated and successfully completed the process for GLSEN to become a sponsored campaign of the Ad Council (ThinkB4YouSpeak).

She began her independent consultancy in 2007, and has focused on interim senior management assignments supporting clients through critical transition periods, and involving resource development, strategic planning and marketing. She holds a BS in Communications from the University of Tennessee.

Additionally, we are happy to announce that **Robin Hopkins** has been promoted to Deputy Director of Ready At Five. Ms. Hopkins has been the Senior Program Director at Ready At Five since 2015. She holds a Master's Degree in Educational Studies and graduate certificates in Teaching Reading and Leadership in Technology Integration from Johns Hopkins University, and an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Towson University. Robin has extensive knowledge and experience with Ready At Five's programs and services, and has an excellent reputation in the early childhood community. She will work with Ready At Five's committed staff to provide continuity while a full search for a permanent Executive Director takes place.

With guidance from our Executive Leadership Committee, we will ensure that Ready At Five continues to be a strong partner and leader in Maryland's early childhood community, supporting educators, families, and children with a thoughtful plan for leadership transition.

Ready at Five Introduces NEW LEARNING Curriculum: The Parent Leadership Learning Party!



This **Learning Party**, developed in collaboration with experts at EPIC (**Every Person Influences Children**), 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 school, early learning programs, and local communities. Parent Leadership Learning Parties support growth and development in four areas:

- Trust and Conflict
- Communication
- Advocacy
- Idea Implementation

<http://www.readyatfive.org/programs/learning-parties.html>

Continued on Page 8



The Parent Leadership LEARNING PARTY has been designed to meet Goal 7 of the **Maryland Family Engagement Framework:** <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/family-engagement-framework>

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

There are opportunities for every jurisdiction in Maryland to receive training in Parent Leadership Learning Parties - please contact **Robin Hopkins** robin@readyatfive.org **if you are interested.**

Ready At Five Spring Schools Readiness Symposium



Our next School Readiness Symposium will take place on May 17, 2018 at the BWI Airport Marriott and will feature Dr. Stephanie Jones, Council of Distinguished Scientists, National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development at the Aspen Institute.

Dr. Jones is the Marie and Max Kargman Associate Professor in Human Development and Urban Education. Her research, anchored in prevention science, focuses on the effects of poverty and exposure to violence on children and youth's social, emotional, and behavioral development. Over the last ten years her work has focused on both evaluation research addressing the impact of preschool and elementary focused social-emotional learning interventions on behavioral

and academic outcomes and classroom practices; as well as new curriculum development, implementation, and testing. Jones is a recipient of the Grawemeyer Award in Education for her work with Zigler and Walter Gilliam on *A Vision for Universal Preschool Education* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and a recipient of the Joseph E. Zins Early-Career Distinguished Contribution Award for Action Research in Social and Emotional Learning. Check our website soon for registration information.

<http://www.readyatfive.org/programs/upcoming-events/event/28/Supporting-the-Whole-Child---Social-and-Emotional-Learning.html>



Counting Our Losses

Maryland Family Network announces the release of the landmark report **Counting Our Losses: The Hidden Costs to Marylanders of an Inadequate Child Care System**. Support for early childhood education programs in the United States has gained strength as mounting research continues to demonstrate the economic,

social, emotional, and intellectual benefits to children and society. **Counting Our Losses** calculates the enormous cost to Maryland families, companies, and our economy of an inadequate child care system.

Visit marylandfamilynetwork.org to read the report.

MFN's 2018 Skolnik Lecturer Announced

This year's Maryland Family Network Sandra J. Skolnik Lecture on Early Childhood Education & Advocacy lecturer will be Richard V. Reeves, senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, where he co-directs the Center on Children and Families. His Brookings research focuses on social mobility, inequality, and family change. Reeves also teaches at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

He writes for a wide range of publications, including the Atlantic, National Affairs, Democracy Journal, the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times. Reeves is the author of the book *Dream Hoarders: How the American Upper Middle Class Is Leaving Everyone Else in the Dust, Why That Is a Problem, and What to Do About It*. Visit marylandfamilynetwork.org for more information.



MARYLAND
FAMILY
NETWORK

MFN: Supporting Families and Transforming Lives

Congratulations to Amy Hugel of Our House Early Head Start in Baltimore! Amy is the first place winner in Maryland Family Network's Parent Essay Contest. Each year dozens of parents from across MFN's Network of Family Support Centers submit emotional testimonials detailing their personal and positive journeys through participation in the Network. Every essay contains insights into the transformations these parents experience as a result of their hard work and the dedication of the staff at each Family Support Center. Amy has a two-year-old daughter and was pregnant with twins at the time she wrote her essay.

We are pleased to share an excerpt from Amy's story: "I am becoming stronger as a single mother and empowered to not only be proactive in taking action in my own life but also very effective in helping myself and my family grow...Our House Early Head Start has proven to be a cornerstone for strengthening our surrounding communities and providing not only a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment for our children but also an outlet of accessible resources that are extremely helpful in daily life...It is clear that the success and growth of every child, every family, every parent matters."

Judy Center News

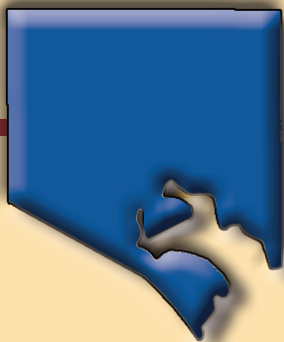
BIG Toys for BIG Boys & Girls



On November 8, 2017 the **Allegany County Judy Center at Beall Elementary** held a family engagement activity that targeted getting fathers involved with their child's school. The Big Toys for Big Boys and Girls event was a community effort. The event allowed children and their parents to explore dump trucks, big rigs, fire trucks, police cars, and tactical police trucks. The hope for this type of evening event would be that it interested men and fathers would be more likely to attend. Local law enforcement officers from the Frostburg City Police Department and the Cumberland Police Department Tactical Unit were on hand, and representatives from the Allegany County Sheriff's Office brought a drone and police dog. Families were also able to tour trucks from the Frostburg Volunteer Fire Department, Dotson Construction

and J. and C. Wilhelm Transportation. Many of the children climbed into the driver's seat and blew their horns. It lit up the Frostburg cityscape. Families were also able to tour Frostburg State College's new security building. Other activities included an opportunity for parents to get their child's fingerprints, voice recognition, height and weight all recorded on a CD that they took home for free. Meanwhile, several activities for kids included a snack building workshop, free construction and fireman hats, truck crafts, a book give-a-way, and an obstacle course located in the school's gymnasium.

The event was a significant success, including having a 75% father participation rate.



Mommy, Daddy & ME

The **Liberty Judy Center** held a very successful Mommy, Daddy & Me program in Fall 2017. Led by the Judy Center's Educational Consultant,

Anana Kambon, participants met for eight consecutive weeks and learned about a range of developmental topics.

Each week, children ages 0-4 and their mom, dad, or grandparent met for three hours for hands-on, guided activities that were designed to be fun and to promote social, emotional, physical, and language development. Each session started with time for free play in theme-based centers setup around the room so that children could explore a variety of toys and manipulatives and parents could receive tips on, and practice with, supporting child-directed play. Throughout the session, children and caregivers were guided through song and movement activities, using books given to participants to take home at the end of the session, and a hands-on art activity.

While children played in guided games and activities outside,

parent discussions involved a review of the activities from that morning with an emphasis on how activities supported developmental milestones and oral language development. In addition, parents were asked to make observations on what their children enjoyed during the activities and how they can engage in similar activities at home. Participants ended each session with a healthy lunch provided by the Judy Center.

The Mommy, Daddy & Me program also offers an opportunity for participating children to be screened for developmental delays. Recognizing the importance of early intervention services, the Liberty Judy Center provides developmental screening using the Ages and Stages assessment tool. The results of these screenings served to guide several intervention activities which were created for children showing any slight delays. Through this process, some children were referred to the Baltimore Infants and Toddlers Program (BITP) for further assessments.



Judy Center News



Judy Center Backpack Program

Combats Hunger

Community volunteers at the **Campfield Judy Center**

have made the difference in its efforts to combat childhood hunger. The Judy Center in Baltimore County is fortunate to have found a community group that helps sponsor their Weekend Backpack Program. Judith Miller, Toby Leven and Arlene Shamber, along with other neighbors of the 2700 and 2800 block of the Quarry Lake Bluff Condominiums, saw a need and stepped up.

After hearing about the mission of the Judy Center and the number of students in the community who go hungry, the group decided to help by donating items, providing funds and volunteering time to ensure that children do not go hungry when they are not in school.

Their outreach efforts to the Judy Center began by collecting toiletries. Bags of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and more, were donated to the Judy Center. These items were shared with families as they visited the food bank through the year. The neighbors asked



what they could do next and embraced the idea of supporting the Weekend Backpack Program. The Judy Center was invited to speak to the group in October 2017 at which time the community agreed to donate items and pledged \$2,000. At present, the neighbors have donated \$1,200 and continue to donate monthly. The funds have helped purchase non-perishable food items that are kid friendly and easy to prepare.

In addition, the group has donated items such as storage containers and cabinets to help store the food. One volunteer, Roni Jolley, goes above and beyond by visiting the Judy Center every Thursday to pack the twenty backpacks in preparation for Friday's delivery to students.

The Judy Center families are grateful for the backpacks. One pre-kindergarten student said *"I am happy. I love the applesauce cause it has apples in it."* The community volunteers, along with the Judy Center staff, are fighting to end childhood hunger and ensure students come to school ready to learn.



Hawthorne Judy Centers Offers Infant Massage Training Series



The **Hawthorne Judy Center** in Baltimore County has started a series of four-week infant massage training programs for parents and caregivers of infants. In the first five months of life, 80 billion neurons are created. Brain development that

occurs during the first year of life will lay the foundation of learning for the rest of the child's life. Positive bonding with adults is needed to help infant brain growth. The Hawthorne Judy Center created a partnership with a local massage therapist that

specializes in infant massage to support baby growth and development. Parents or caregivers sign up for a four-week series of one hour classes and learn how to massage their infant. The researched benefits of infant massage include decreased crying, increased development, and increased bonding. The massage therapist brings all supplies and materials while helping the adults learn massage techniques and how to respond to the infant's communications. Both moms and dads have expressed how much this has helped increase bonding with the new baby throughout their entire family.

Judy Center News



The Adelphi Judy Center and Prince George's County Memorial Library System Literacy Partnership



The Prince George's County Memorial Library System has been a long standing partner with the **Adelphi Judy P. Hoyer Center**. The public library staff members host and participate in onsite programs at the Adelphi Judy Center including: the lending library, a Pop-up public library location at the Adelphi Judy Center, Storytimes, and a Library Café.

The Library Café is an event where parents and children ages birth to age four, are engaged in a one hour literacy activity to support early literacy development.

Library staff members also participate in most literacy events held at the Adelphi Judy P. Hoyer Center. While the Hyattsville Memorial Library undergoes a

renovation, the Adelphi Judy Center is the host Pop-up site for everyone in the community to receive a majority of the library services they need twice a week. Families are able to participate in story time, borrow books, and receive other library services including access to technology programs such as Rosetta Stone. The Adelphi Judy Center is partnering with the library to offer adult Spanish literacy classes.

The partnership between the Adelphi Judy Center and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System is advantageous to Judy Center families, as well as the entire Cool Spring Elementary School community.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Online Professional Development to Advance Your Child Care Career



Child care providers around the state are earning their MSDE-approved clock hours online with Maryland Public Television (MPT). Visit ececourses.thinkport.org today and advance your career with convenient, low-cost courses. Choose from 10 media-rich, self-paced

courses that are designed for both family and center-based providers, and feature interactive activities, quizzes and online resources. Log-on to any computer to earn pre-service and continued training clock hours in several Core of Knowledge areas and print your certificate.

Enroll Today!

Family Child Care Series Courses

Complete all 6 courses to satisfy the family child care pre-service training requirement for a total of 24 clock hours.

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

Continuing Professional Development

Courses are organized into 6 easy-to-navigate segments and offered with on-going enrollment.

- ◀ Wellness Policies in Your Child Care Center
- ◀ Developmental Screening Overview
- ◀ Your Career as a Child Care Center Aide
- ◀ **Child Care Director:** Understanding Your Roles and Responsibilities.

To learn more about MPT's rewarding learning opportunities, visit ececourses.thinkport.org



NEW WEBINARS from **MFN!**

Maryland Family Network has scheduled three different webinars, each two hours in length, to help new and experienced trainers better understand adult learners and improve training techniques.

April 4, 2018 Brain and Learning Based Training

Research is helping us better understand how the brain works, and the kinds of strategies and techniques that can help trainers better assist learners in their classes to understand

and retain knowledge and skills. This webinar will give trainers tools and techniques to use in their planning, and in their training sessions.

May 23, 2018 Helping Ourselves and Others to Work through Change

Though it is a constant in everyone's life, many adults don't cope well with change. This webinar will look at techniques to help

us understand our individual resistance to change and give techniques for use personally and professionally.

June 20, 2018 Structuring Training for More Experienced and Knowledgeable Participants

A frequent request in many trainers' evaluations is training for more experienced/advanced participants. This workshop will look at Bloom's Revised Taxonomy, and MSDE Knowledge and

Competency Standards to explore ways to make training more appropriate for more experienced caregivers.

Successful participants will receive a two-hour continued training certificate (applicable to MSDE Trainer Renewal requirements), as well as access to materials. Each webinar is \$20. Register for each by contacting Consuelo Dailey, cdailey@marylandfamilynetwork.org, or 410.659.7701 x274. Register online at marylandfamilynetwork.org.

Family Child Care Professionals

NEEDED!!!



Maryland State Family Child Care Association (MSFCCA) needs Registered Family Child Care Professionals to serve in various volunteer positions

within the association. A few seasoned volunteers are retiring and we would love to train new volunteers to take over important positions within the association prior to them leaving. Credentialing

PAUs can be earned for your service. MSFCCA will be celebrating its 35th anniversary soon and everyone's help is needed to keep MSFCCA strong and advocating for best practices and high quality in Maryland family child care homes. The 2018 MSFCCA Elections are coming in July; now is the time to get involved and make your voice heard. Please contact Jacqueline Grant, MSFCCA's President, with any questions at jacqueline.n.grant@gmail.com or email us at contact@msfccca.org

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.
- ◆ Opportunities to volunteer and earn PAUs for Credentialing.

Check out our website at www.msfcca.org



**GET
Involved:**



Maryland Early Childhood Professionals (MECP)

The **MECP** mission aligns with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (**NAEYC**) 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.

MECP, in conjunction with Partners across Maryland, continues to offer:

- ▶ **Professional development opportunities**
- ▶ **A chance to connect with other professionals in your community**
- ▶ **A voice in early care and education policy issues**

MECP Values:

- ▶ Support for the best interests of the child, particularly all of Maryland's children and especially those in non-parental care, through accessible high quality and developmentally appropriate programs and practices.
- ▶ Improve public and governmental understanding, appreciation, and respect for the early childhood professionals who teach and care for Maryland's children.
- ▶ Competency, continuity, and enthusiasm of those professionals educating and providing services to children and their families, through equitable, high quality and accessible education, skill development, and compensation.

Look for their new website this summer and go to www.naeyc.org for more info on membership!

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



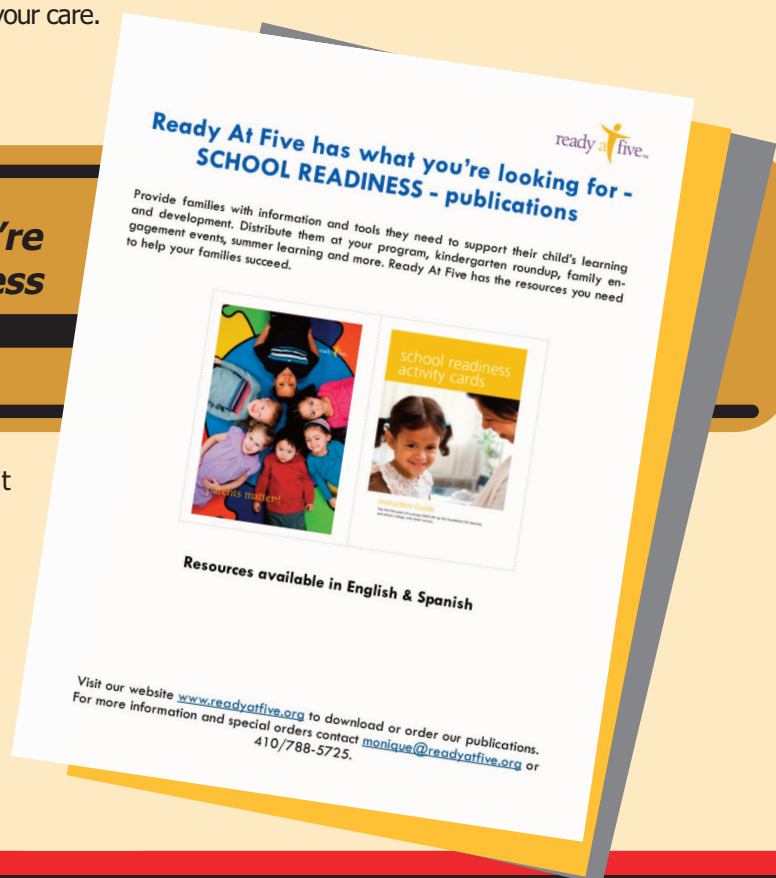
Moving loving loving from Family Involvement to Family Engagement

Family engagement is a shared responsibility of families, schools, and communities for student learning and achievement. It is continuous from birth into the school-age years, and it occurs across various early child care and learning settings. As providers, you play a role in building relationships with your families to support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships, and the ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike. By actively engaging families in your program's learning community, you will create a culture of respect, collaboration, and a shared vision to provide the best educational foundation for each child in your care.

For more information on family engagement, and for strategies to help you reflect on and enhance your current family engagement practices, visit <https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/family-engagement/> to take a self-paced two-hour online module that will walk you through the process of moving from family involvement to family engagement in your child care program. By the end of the module you will understand how and why family engagement benefits your program and the children in your care, and you will learn practical strategies to get started.

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

Please click here for the [order form](#) or visit our website at www.readyatfive.org to find out about the programs we offer and for our Family Engagement Resources and our Parents Matter publication (available in English and Spanish). Sign up for our newsletter to keep updated on Ready At Five's activities and free resources. Like us on [Facebook](#) and Follow us on [Twitter](#). www.readyatfive.org.





PORT DISCOVERY
Children's Museum
Play with a Purpose

Countdown to Kindergarten

Saturday, April 21st
10am — 5pm

Admission is free with museum entry, which is \$15.95 for individuals two and up. Members and children under two enter free.

Join us on National Kindergarten Day as we join with a variety of partners from around Baltimore to prepare young children for their first school experience! Countdown to Kindergarten is an annual community-wide event that encourages school readiness skills in children about to enter kindergarten while providing

parents with information and resources, including health care screenings and free books. Special performances and partners join us for this incredible day, designed to support efforts to ensure children are ready for Kindergarten by the age of five!



NOTE:

Port Discovery distributes approximately 10,000 free admission tickets so that children and families preparing to enter Kindergarten can enjoy this educational event. Please contact Port Discovery for more information about accessing free tickets.

35 Market Place, Baltimore, MD 21202 www.portdiscovery.org



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Upcoming Conferences

JULY 26 2018 **MSDE's Annual Family Engagement Summit**
The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute - Linthicum Heights, MD
More details coming in the Spring

Register NOW!!!

May 4 - 6, 2018
C.A.M.P.
(Children Are My Passion)

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) is hosting the annual Conference by the Sea 2018 at the Clarion Resort and Hotel in Ocean City, MD.

Special GUEST Speaker:

Award Winning
Pete the Cat Author,
Eric Litwin

Registration is OPEN!
Visit www.mscca.org to register!
Phone: 410-820-9196
Email:
msccaconferencebythesea@gmail.com

Ready At Five

Spring School Readiness Symposium

Featuring
Dr. Stephanie Jones

May 17, 2018
BWI Airport Marriott
Register at readyatfive.org

PARTNERS

A publication from the
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