



IMPACT

COLLECTIVELY BUILDING MARYLAND'S FUTURE

A Year of Perseverance

By **Steven Hicks**, Assistant State Superintendent,
Division of Early Childhood

On February 18, 2021 at 3:55 p.m. EDT, the [Perseverance Rover](#) landed on the planet Mars and began its search for signs of ancient microbial life in an effort to advance NASA's quest to explore the past habitability of Mars. The new [president](#) made a

virtual call to congratulate the NASA team. "It's so much bigger than landing Perseverance on Mars," the president said. "It's about the American spirit. And you brought it back. You brought it back in a moment we so desperately needed." The scientists and engineers of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) showed extraordinary perseverance in making sure the tiny vehicle, launched into space atop a rocket ship last year, gently landed on the surface of the Red Planet.



How We Move Forward in the Wake of COVID-19

A Message from Jennifer Nizer, Director of the Office of Child Care

Child care has been at the forefront throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the issues providers and programs have faced have given a renewed direction for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) planning for 2022-2024. In the wake of this pandemic, we all must strive to ensure that we do better and are better for the families, the children, and the overall child care community.

It has now been a year since we closed child care



programs and schools, along with restaurants, theaters, malls, and bowling alleys. Perseverance and the American spirit of which President Biden spoke are no better exemplified than in the resilience of our child care providers and early childhood educators.

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(Continued on page 2)

Perseverance is quickly re-opening family child care homes and centers across the state; we've grown from 2,258 or 29% of licensed child care programs open in April 2020 to 6,600 or 89% today.

Perseverance is meticulously following the health and safety guidance, constantly cleaning, enforcing social distancing and wearing masks. Perseverance is maintaining a business with less than 50% capacity and closing and re-opening again due to a real or suspected case of COVID-19. Perseverance is waiting for basic supplies like toilet paper, milk and PPE, and the financial relief to stay afloat. Perseverance in supporting anguished and stressed families and traumatized children, while caring for your own children and family members. Perseverance is navigating through the real threat of eviction, homelessness and bankruptcy; in Maryland, we have lost over 500 child care providers since the pandemic began. Perseverance is waiting for the miracle serum – the COVID-19 vaccine – that seems so elusive to get even when child care workers and educators are prioritized. And yet, through it all, child care providers, educators, cooks, and other workers have persevered.



The other day, I popped into the virtual classrooms of two Montgomery County PreK teachers: Diana Styborski and Salma Waheed. Diana was leading a literacy lesson, and Salma was teaching counting math skills. For these and the thousands of

teachers throughout the state, this is true perseverance. With smiling and laughing four-year-olds spread across the screen, these two brave warriors battled against multiple distractions in each of the 20 different homes of their students, determined to assist each individual child in their trajectory toward success. In some instances, parents were nearby, acting as newly-anointed teachers' aids, helping to keep their child focused and armed with the tools for learning. In other cases, children seemed to be on their own, trying to



respond as the teachers muted and unmuted them one at a time to speak. After Salma had completed her lesson, she invited kids to stay on if they needed additional assistance. She reminded the students that for the afternoon class they needed to use the old Zoom link, not the one they were on. She held up a mock-up of the red "leave" button and reminded her students to click on that button at the bottom of their screens to end the session. One mother stayed on to let the teacher know they may be late for the afternoon session because she had a doctor appointment. Salma said that was fine, and the last remaining student screen signed off.

Not everyone and everything has been able to persevere. Since the pandemic, we have lost over 550 licensed child care providers in Maryland – about 7. This is devastating, but some states are reporting 15-25% of their programs have vanished. Over 500,000 Americans have died due to COVID-19.

(Continued on page 3)

We've lost nearly 8,000 Marylanders, including dedicated early childhood educators. You can find some of them on our [memoriam page](#), and even tell us about those not listed so we can include them. While the number of [COVID-19 cases and deaths](#) has fallen sharply, it still remains persistently higher than it was last summer. Even with a vaccine, we must still be vigilant mask wearers and socially distance and follow the [health and safety guidance](#). The [virus](#) also has perseverance.

But hope is here in the way of a third vaccine and billions of dollars in federal relief. President Biden has said, "...educators, school staff, child-care workers — get them vaccinated immediately. They're essential workers." [School Superintendent Dr. Salmon](#) requested that the Maryland Department of Health include teachers, school staff and early child care professionals as the first priority of COVID-19 vaccinations, and [Governor Hogan](#)

has put teachers and child care workers in priority 1b. A [third vaccine](#) is being rolled out, and many in our community are beginning to get their shots. Congress has passed a third relief bill – the biggest ever – that includes \$39 billion additional dollars for child care. Maryland expects to see about [half a billion dollars](#) for our child care industry through expanded child care assistance for parents and child care stabilization funds for family home and center-based child care providers.

The perseverance of the scientists and engineers that built the Mars 2020 rover took the rover 33.9 million miles away from Earth. Our perseverance will build back a better, more equitable, accessible, and affordable child care system in Maryland to meet the needs of our children, families, and early childhood educators. This is our Mars shot.

The Family Seed Challenge

By: Malkia "Kia" McLeod

Tomatoes, watermelon, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers, oh my! It's the spring planting season and the perfect opportunity to start a healthier lifestyle. Teach children the value of growing their food by planting a family or school veggie garden.

Teachers/Providers: [Start A School Garden - Here's How](#)

Parents and Families: [How to Start a Vegetable Garden With Your Kids](#)

What's for Dinner Tonight? Discover nutrition tips, fun and creative recipes, and more with The MFE Nutrition Collection on [the resources page](#). New resources are coming! So visit the nutrition collection often.

- [The MSDE Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Cook's Corner: Recipes for Healthy Snacks](#)
- [At-Home Smart Snacking for Children](#)
- [Fun Children's Books about Healthy Food](#)
- [This Summer, Eat Smart to Play Hard \(A Parents' Guide\)](#)
- [Tips for Teachers: Promoting Healthy Eating](#)



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DEVELOPMENT

Staff Updates

Welcome

Laurie Moran to the Office of Child Care as the Regional Manager in Montgomery County. She can be reached at

Laurie.Moran@maryland.gov.

Payal Jariwala to the Office of Child Care as a Licensing Specialist in Baltimore County. She can be reached at Ayal.Jariwala@maryland.gov.

Anna Trzos to the Office of Child Care as Licensing Specialist Trainee in Baltimore County. She can be reached at Anna.Trzos@maryland.gov.

Aura Melgar to the Frederick Regional Licensing Office as the Administrative Assistant. She can be reached at

Aura.Melgar@maryland.gov.

Vanessa Jones to the Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch as Head Start Program Specialist. She can be reached at Vanessa.Jones1@maryland.gov.

Farewell

Charlie Mitchell, Education Program Specialist is no longer with the Early Learning Branch.

Congrats

Keisha Maxwell has been promoted from Licensing Specialist to Administrator of Policy and Special Projects for the Division of Early Childhood.

Contacting the Division Branches

Division of Early Childhood	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Early Learning Branch	early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov
Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch	collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov
Office of Child Care	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Licensing Branch	licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov
Credentialing Branch	credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov or 1-866-243-8796
Child Care Scholarship Program	ccscentral@conduent.com or 1-866-243-8796
Maryland EXCELS	info@marylandexcels.org or marylandexcels.org

Connect with us!

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

Division of Early Childhood
twitter.com/md_early_ed
facebook.com/msde.earlyed

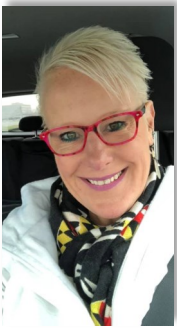
Assistant State Superintendent, Steven Hicks
twitter.com/stevenhicksmsde



Family Engagement
twitter.com/MDEngageEarly
facebook.com/MDEngageEarly

Maryland EXCELS
twitter.com/MarylandEXCELS
facebook.com/MDEXCELS
instagram.com/MarylandEXCELS

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Director's Dugout

How We Move Forward in the Wake of COVID-19? The 2022-2024 Child Care Development Fund Plan

By Jennifer Nizer, Director of the Office of Child Care

(continued from page 1)

To start off the renewed thinking about child care in Maryland, the Office of Child Care (OCC) held the first of two stakeholder meetings to gain input into the 2022-2024 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) plan. On February 12, 2021, over 50 stakeholders convened through a Zoom meeting that was coordinated with the IDEALS Institute at Johns Hopkins University. IDEALS was critical to this convening as they not only coordinated, but acted as discussion facilitators and provided note takers to gather the ideas and thoughts of each group. There were several break out rooms to enable focused discussion on each section of the CCDF plan. There were lively discussions about how to help families afford child care, targeting specific areas for increased support due to socio-economic impacts, how we can grow a highly qualified and diverse workforce, compensation and how to improve teachers' salaries through incentives and many other topics. After the convening, IDEALS compiled all the notes and recordings to help the OCC begin working on the plan that may support the ideas moving forward. There was an additional meeting that pulled the OCC Advisory Council and other stakeholders together to put the finishing touches on ideas and suggestions. The information for the CCDF, including the public hearing that will occur after the OCC has developed the majority of the plan will be posted at earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/2022CCDF

This is the time for change and taking a hard look at where we are as a child care community. The pandemic has shown us many areas that need to be supported for child care providers to be successful. Strengthening Business Practices training, now being conducted by Maryland EXCELS Quality Assurance Specialists (QAS), is helping prepare child care providers to run child care businesses. While best business practices have always been important, the pandemic highlighted the need for additional training and resources. We also confirmed many of the discussions we have had in the past where providers need more resources to understand regulation, gain knowledge about program specifics such as what is a "Provider ID" and a "License Number" and what is the difference. We also know that communication is difficult at times and many providers do not have computers or limited access to internet. In addition, we learned through the grant process that we need to provide training on what is a grant and the specifics of what a provider needs to do in order to be in compliance with the grant requirements. These are just a few thoughts and discussions we have had in the past and were confirmed over the last 13 months.

With that being said, we are creating the 2022-2024 CCDF plan with all these, and many other thoughts in mind. We hope that Maryland receives additional CCDF funding in the future to help us increase the programs we have in place to support the child care community. The OCC is committed to looking at each and every program and policy to ensure the 2022-2024 CCDF plan addresses the rebuilding of the child care community in Maryland. We are committed to being by your side as we move toward the future.



Access resources, documents and forms from the branches in the Office of Child Care by following these links:
 Child Care Scholarship Program
<https://bit.ly/2FZiNsz>
 Maryland Child Care Credential Program
<https://bit.ly/2vla6Tf>
 Licensing
<https://bit.ly/2DHABpO>
 Maryland EXCELS
<https://bit.ly/2S1basj>



The COVID-19 Training is Available

The COVID-19 training is available for all providers, staff and volunteers to complete. The training takes advantage of the latest technology tools for online learning. This required training prepares you to follow basic practices to keep children in your care healthy and safe during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Face-to-face training resumed on October 1, 2020. There is a maximum of 30 allowed in a training, which includes the trainer. Trainers must follow all of the CDC guidelines, which includes wearing a mask and social distancing of 6 feet.



Got 15 Minutes? Develop Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan using The Build-A-Plan Tool.

In just 15 minutes, the Build-A-Plan Tool can help overwhelmed center-based and family child care providers develop Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan to follow state regulations and guidance, use best practices to limit the spread of COVID-19, and make feasible decisions that work best for their individual program.

[Learn how to "Stay Open Safely with Confidence" and develop Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan.](#)

Consolidated Health and Safety Guidance for Child Care Facilities

The health and safety guidance for child care facilities is available in one convenient packet. It will be updated and available on the Division of Early Childhood website as new information becomes available.



Check the date on the first page of the document to make sure you're using the most up-to-date information.

Guidance includes:


- Guidance for Use of Cloth Face Coverings in Child Care Programs
- Exclusion, Quarantine, and Closure Recommendations for COVID-19 or COVID-19 like Illness in Child Care Programs
- Guidance for Temperature and Symptom Screening in Child Care Programs
- Frequently Asked Questions: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Child Care Settings

[Get the latest COVID-19 Guidance.](#)

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2021, the contact information for CCS Central will change. Beginning on May 1, 2021, use the following contact information when submitting child care provider payment and the Child Care Scholarship related materials :

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS			
	Where to Submit Forms	Where to Submit Forms	Where to Submit Forms
	Invoices	Signed Scholarships Provider Overpayments	Attendance Audit Documents
Fax	202-478-5117	202-478-2102	202-478-5117
E-mail	CCSInvoices@maryland.gov	CCSScholarships@maryland.gov	CCSAudits@maryland.gov
Mail	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346022 Bethesda, MD 20827	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346031 Bethesda, MD 20827	
Toll Free Number: 1-877-227-0125			

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP CUSTOMERS (PARENTS)		
	Where to Submit Forms	Where to Submit Forms
	Child Care Scholarship Applications Supporting Documents Parent Overpayments	Signed Scholarships
Fax:	202-478-2102	202-478-2102
E-mail:	CCSCentral2@maryland.gov	CCSScholarships@maryland.gov
Mail:	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346031 Bethesda, MD 20827	CCS Central 2 PO BOX 346031 Bethesda, MD 20827
Toll Free Number: 1-877-227-0125		

MARYLAND EXCELS

#EXCELSstrong—since 2013!

Maryland EXCELS helps programs deliver the high quality child care and early education all children deserve. As the state’s quality rating improvement system, Maryland EXCELS supports programs in their ongoing commitment to meeting the needs of children and families.

Let Maryland EXCELS know how we can help you!

Contact info@marylandexcels.org

Maryland EXCELS is <u>4,834</u> participants strong!	
Quality Rated Programs Statewide	
Percent of Quality Rated Child Care Centers	Percent of Quality Rated Family Child Care Homes
75%	47%
Participating Programs Statewide (as of March 2021)	
Total Number Participating	Percent of Eligible Child Care Programs
4,683	62%
Visit the data page of the Division of Early Childhood website and select Maryland EXCELS for reports and spreadsheets that detail quality ratings by county and program type.	

Where Are You in Your Program’s Journey?

- Need Help Becoming Part of Maryland EXCELS?
- Want to Increase Your Quality Rating?
- Seeking One-on-One Assistance?

Check out these valuable [Tutorials](#) for child care and public prekindergarten or contact your [Quality Assurance Specialist](#) – dedicated to assisting providers one-on-one.

How Can You Receive Emails from Maryland EXCELS?

Sign up at MarylandEXCELS.org near the bottom of the homepage under “Newsletter.”

Follow @MarylandEXCELS for valuable child care and early education information and tips.



See How Maryland EXCELS Supports Families

At home or in a child care program, engage the youngest learners with interactive and educational activities. Find hands-on fun at marylandexcels.org.



Here's another opportunity for fun learning. [Download](#) the new Kacey activity book.



Families! Looking for Child Care or an Early Education Program for your child?

Search with confidence at MarylandEXCELS.org to find the high-quality program your child deserves!



Excellence in Care and Education
MARYLAND
ACCREDITATION

Maryland Accreditation recognizes programs that meet the highest standards of quality to benefit children, families, and staff.

Follow the path to continuous program improvement with Maryland Accreditation. Sign up for a Maryland Accreditation orientation at: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org

Maryland Accreditation recognizes and validates child care centers and public prekindergarten programs that meet nationally accepted standards for high quality.

Seeking Accreditation Support Funding?

Use the following applicable link to apply for funding today:

Application for National Accreditation Support ([Google Account Holders](#))

([Non-Google Account Holders](#))

Application for Maryland Accreditation Support

([Google Account Holders](#))

([Non-Google Account Holders](#))

Number of Programs Supported by the Fund

October 1, 2019 through January 2021

Family Child Care Providers	89
Child Care Centers	44
Total	133

Get Technical Assistance Upon Request

As of January 2021, optional remote Technical Assistance replaced Program Improvement Visits. Your program can now request individualized Technical Assistance, which is provided by Quality Assurance Specialists.

Scheduling priority has been given to programs that had Program Improvement Visits canceled or declined due to COVID-19.

Contact accreditation@marylandexcels.org

Current Number of Maryland Accredited Programs Statewide	
Child Care Centers	228
Public Prekindergarten	131
Total	359

Current Number of Programs Participating in Maryland Accreditation Includes Accredited Programs	
Child Care Centers	332
Public Prekindergarten	170
Total	502



Are you a credentialed provider?

Need to contact the Maryland

Child Care Credential Program?

Have questions?

Maryland Child Care Credential Program applications should be sent directly to Child Care Central in one of the following methods:

Mail:

Child Care Central
PO Box 598
Baltimore, MD 21203

Fax:

410.229.0145

Email:

cccredential@conduent.com

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

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

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing

For additional updates, please refer to the FAQ-Credentialing Branch Programs Guidance for COVID-19 : <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credential-branch-news-during->

How to Submit Applications for Credentialing Branch Programs

Applications for the following programs should not be mailed to MSDE at this time. Until further notice, applications should be sent electronically to:

credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov

- ◆ Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF)
- ◆ Quality Incentive and Family Provider Grant
- ◆ Training Voucher and Training Reimbursement Applications

Note: Training Voucher and Reimbursement applications can also be submitted online.

Reimbursement applications: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/510

Voucher applications: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/node/511



Family Child Care Provider Direct Grant Fund Program



Family Child Care Provider Direct Grant Fund Program

Are you interested in becoming a family child care provider?

This Fund is available to reimburse registered family child care providers serving at least one child in Maryland.

Reimbursements will be awarded up to \$1,000 to meet the Office of Child Care licensing requirements.

Grants will be awarded quarterly, as long as the funding is available.

Covered expenses include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Toys
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Arts and Crafts
- ▶ Business Expenses
- ▶ First Aid Supplies

A complete list of eligible and ineligible items are available at:

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/fccpdgfp

Do you need assistance achieving or maintaining compliance with the requirements of the Office of Child Care, Licensing in Maryland?

The Family Child Care Provider Direct Grant Fund Program provides reimbursements (up to \$1,000) to registered family child care providers for expenses incurred to comply with the Office of Child Care licensing requirements.

The applicant must incur compliance related expenses. Applicants are eligible for a one-time award.

More information can be found at: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/fccpdgfp

The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

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

**COLLEGE
BOUND**

The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) is a tuition assistance program for child care providers to obtain a college education at

participating colleges/universities in Maryland. Funding is available for child care providers to earn a college degree in the following areas:

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

Eligibility Requirements

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

- * Participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at Level Two or higher
- * Work in a licensed child care center or be a registered family child care provider in Maryland at least 10 hours per week
- * 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
- * Maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA from the point of first entering the Program



Application Deadline

Thank you to all applicants who submitted an application for the 2021-22 school year. The next deadline to apply for the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund is **March 1, 2022**.

Helpful tips for preparing to apply for the CCCPDF:

- Review program information online: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/child-care-career-and-professional
- Apply to the participating college of your choice
- Continuing students must schedule a meeting with the CCCPDF Coordinator to review application before submitting to MSDE
- Apply for FAFSA (see college coordinator for more information)
- Ensure that your credential is up-to-date and current through application deadline

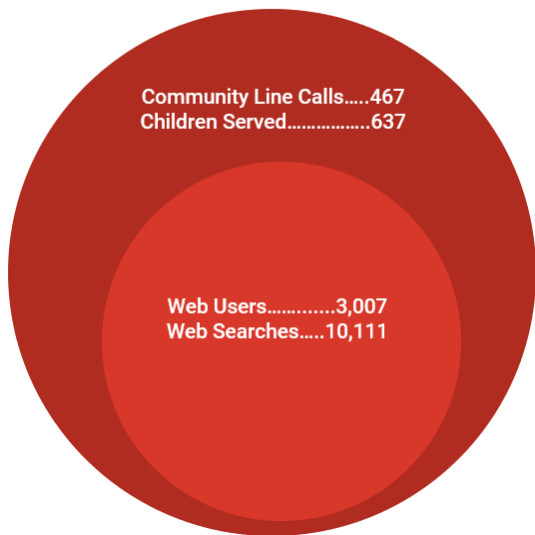
For more information about the application process and a list of participating colleges, please visit our website:

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/

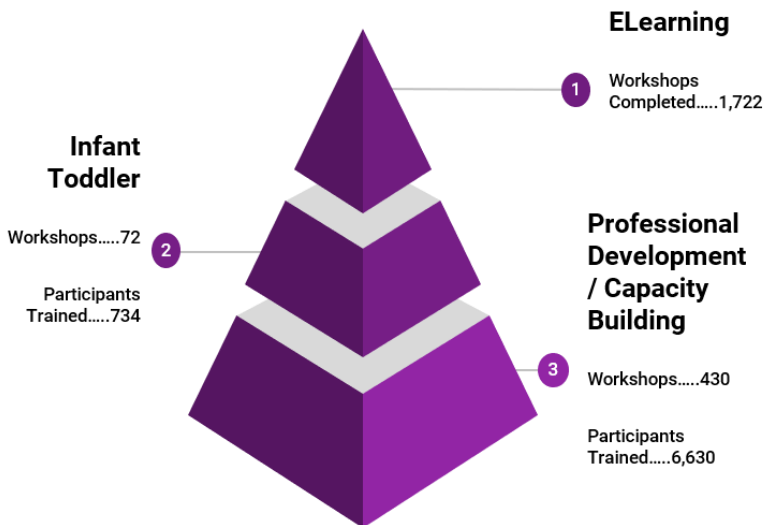


State Coordinating Entity and the Maryland Child Care Resource Center Network

LOCATE

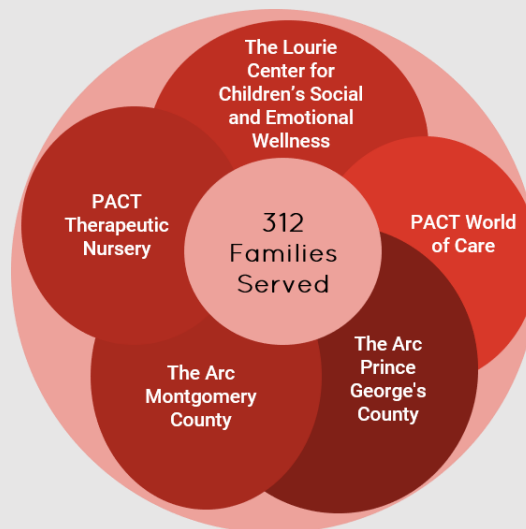


TRAINING



Child Care for Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five

The Child Care for Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five grant provides medically-based child care and early education services to children with medical diagnoses and those who have developmental delays, physical disabilities, and behavioral issues requiring specialized care.



The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood will provide funding to support child care providers with obtaining their Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ from the Council for Professional Recognition.

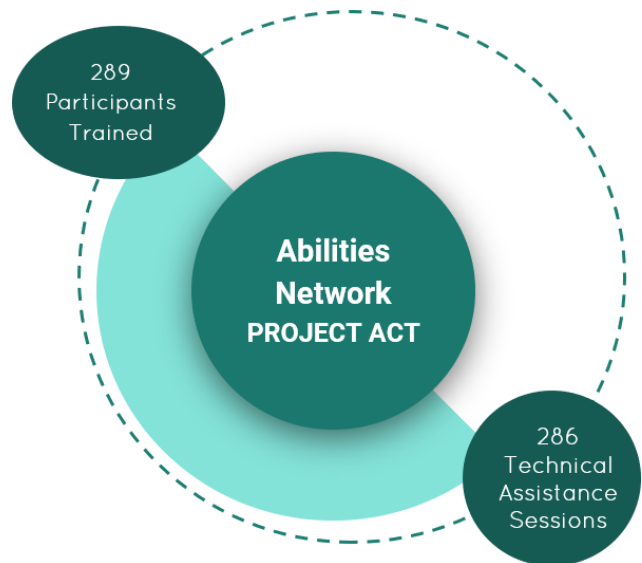
This initiative was funded through the PDG B-5 Grant and through the Governor's Office to enhance the early childhood workforce in career advancement.

For more information, visit: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/CDA>

Training for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers

The Special Needs Technical Assistance and Training for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers grant provides comprehensive statewide technical assistance and training for caregivers who are providing care services to special needs children, birth through 3 years of age.

These children must be enrolled in regulated family child care homes; licensed child care centers; and facilities operating under the Arc of Maryland Programs, and children in Foster Care are also included.



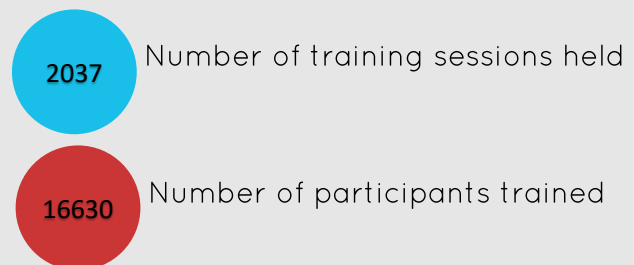
Training Updates and Highlights

Current Number of Trainers:



Due to COVID-19, face-to-face training is limited to 30 participants, virtual training will continue.

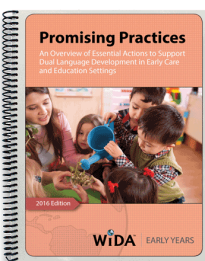
Training Conducted Between July 2020 - December 2020



Search for training:
Maryland Child Care Training Calendar

trainingcalendar.marylandfamilynetwork.org/Search

WIDA



Learn more about working with dual language learners by taking the free trainings from WIDA Early Years. WIDA Early Years is an evidence-based program focused specifically on the language development of young multilingual children, often referred to as dual language learners, in early care and education (ECE) settings.

Trainings are available at:
earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/wida

Strengthening Business Practices



Interested in improving your business practices as a child care center and family child care provider. Take the Strengthening Business Practices training

modules and learn how.

To find a trainer, visit:
earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/

Training Vouchers and Reimbursement Program

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



An application for training reimbursement can be submitted for:

- Approved Core of Knowledge Training (Note: training must be a minimum of 2 clock hours)
- Pre-Service training
- Registration at statewide and national child care conferences



An application for training voucher can be submitted for:

- Pre-Service training
- Registration at statewide and national child care conferences

Eligibility:

Child care providers participating in the Credential Program at level two or higher are eligible to receive up to \$400 each year as long as funds are available. Requests for training voucher or reimbursement must not

exceed \$400.

The following are not eligible for training voucher/reimbursement:

- Training that has not been approved by MSDE according to COMAR 13A.14.09
- Fees incurred for training
- Association membership fees
- CDA credential/CDA renewal fees

Application Submission:

There are two ways to submit a training voucher or reimbursement application to MSDE:

Online:
earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org

Email: Due to COVID-19, applications will also be accepted by email until further notice.

Please use the following email:

credentialocc.msde@maryland.gov

Note:

- Please do not mail applications at this time
- Applications faxed to MSDE will not be processed. *Applications submitted to Child Care Central will not be forwarded to MSDE and will not be processed.*

Training Reimbursement– National Virtual Conference Attendance

Applicants who apply to receive a training reimbursement for a national conference must provide documentation indicating the successful completion of each training attended. Either of the following forms of documentation will suffice for reimbursement and credentialing purposes.

- An email from the training organization indicating the session titles, hours completed, and a description of each session attended; or
- An email from each session facilitator with the session title, hours completed, and a description of the session.

Learn about some of Maryland's associations on page 20.

For additional COVID-19 updates related to the Training Voucher and Reimbursement Program, please visit:

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org

MSDE will accept training reimbursement applications beyond 180 days from the date of training completion. The 180 day deadline to submit an Application for Training Reimbursement will be extended to 240 days or until December 31, 2020. *This date will not be extended further. Regulations deadlines resumed as of January 2021.*

MSDE will accept voucher applications less than 60 days prior to an online pre-service training only. The 60 day deadline to submit a training voucher application for an online pre-service training will be extended to 30 days or until December 31, 2020. MSDE will accept a voucher application if the preservice training is being conducted online by a MSDE approved trainer or training organization. *This date will not be extended further. Regulations deadlines resumed as of January 2021.*



Congratulations Steve Rohde



An early childhood educator leaves indelible impressions upon the minds of young children. This is true literally in the ways that a child's

neurons and pathways change and develop as a result of quality early learning. It is also true figuratively in the memories and bonds that are formed.

Steve Rohde's indelible impression has also been made not only on his colleagues over the past four decades but also on the children whom he served directly and indirectly. His lasting impression is also marked for all time on the regulations and policies that have been created and improved over those years to make sure children in Maryland have strong and healthy starts in life.

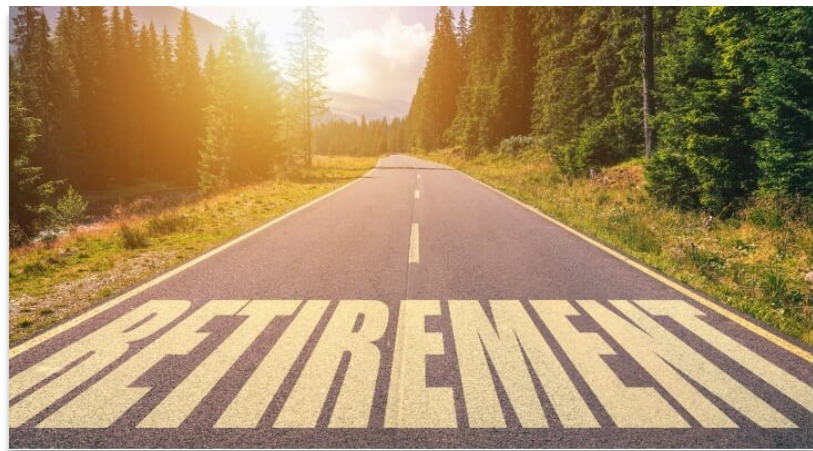
Join Maryland Family Network in congratulating Steve Rohde on his retirement. He spent much of his most recent professional life at MFN. But as a mentor, a teacher and a friend, everyone who works with young children across our state and beyond rightly claims him as their own.

Steve started his career as a classroom teacher and a program director before moving into several roles in licensing, including the Head of Licensing at the Maryland Department of Human Resources. He then joined Maryland Committee for Children (MCC) in 1995 as the Director of Training and Technical Assistance. In 2007, he was promoted to the Acting Executive Director of MCC until the merger in 2009 with Friends of the Family establishing Maryland Family Network. Here he has served as the Deputy Director of Resource and Referral Services ever since and

oversees the operation of the Maryland Child Care Resource Network.

Steve contributes to numerous workgroups and committees. He served as the national Board President of Child Care Aware of America, taught at Villa Julie College, and has received several post-graduate certificates, including one in Transformational Non-Profit Leadership. He has been part of workgroups and independent work which established a multitude of programs in Maryland which are still in place today, including child care training, the Maryland Credential and licensing regulations.

Throughout his career, Steve has helped prepare hundreds of individuals to become MSDE-approved trainers through the Responsive Training Symposium and Advanced Training of Trainers. As a result, thousands of child care professionals have benefited from his wisdom.



Early care and education will always be a part of who Steve is but during his retirement, he is looking forward to relaxing, reading more, spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren, and taking long walks in nature.

Therapeutic Nursery Program Superhero Story



Hellos and goodbyes are treated with care in the Therapeutic Nursery Program (TNP). In our therapeutic preschool, many of our students have histories of unpredictable hellos and goodbyes, whether it be due to a foster care placement, a death in the family, or a new caregiver after a parent's divorce. It was no surprise that the children had a hard time in their virtual group when saying goodbye to our social work intern, Mr. Carlos. Our staff returned to familiar traditions to structure the group. The children drew pictures of memories for Mr. Carlos, ate a snack, and Mr. Carlos read a book entitled "I Hate Goodbyes." As the virtual session drew to a close, the children showed their feelings with tears, leaving the screen, or complaints. The realization was becoming too hard to hold in their young minds. One student was moved to anger and punched her computer to the floor. The TNP social worker, Ms. Arielle, immediately spoke to these feelings of sadness and anger and how unfair it felt that they could not say goodbye in person. This helped the young girl stop punching, but her furrowed brow and tense body showed that she was not yet calm. Ms. Arielle reached out to this student and asked what she would like to do for her last memory with Mr. Carlos. The girl shouted at the top of her lungs, "I want to draw a sunshine!" Ms. Arielle asked the group to draw suns and share them with each other. The session ended calmly, and the students were able to say, "Thank you." and "Goodbye."

In these times of "social distancing," we are all searching for closeness and community. In moments like those above, we are grateful for the times when we can shorten the distance and continue to build connections with our students.



Child Care Choices (CCC), a program of the Mental Health Association (MHA) has been very busy during the past year securing direct grants to child care programs, funding to purchase critical cleaning supplies, PPE and money to subsidize training for child care providers in Carroll and Frederick Counties.

Early in the pandemic, one family child care provider in each county volunteered to be a distribution point for cleaning supplies and PPE that CCC has either purchased or arranged for delivery. For months, Patti Jo Green and Gussie Houser gave up significant portions of their garages to house large quantities of cleaning supplies, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and paper products. They arranged schedules to allow child care providers to come pick up necessary items. Providers let us know how extremely helpful this was because despite the fact that once items slowly became available on the open market, the reality for child care providers is that most of the items were expensive and difficult to find, particularly when they needed multiple packages.

CCC was able to secure funding to provide several hotspots to staff to increase remote working capability as well as support child care programs by lending WiFi hotspots to those who have no internet or less than adequate internet. This funding also allowed MHA to pursue technology to provide hybrid training now that in person training is allowed by MSDE. Significantly, this funding also served to reduce almost all training to just \$5.00 per workshop as providers seek to maintain their licensing requirements as well as maintain their Maryland Child Care Credential.

The most exciting news, though, was the awarding of just over 2 million dollars to Frederick County child care programs. CCC staff worked closely with the Frederick County Executive's Office,



the Office of Economic Development, Finance and Information Technology to create a grant program designed to provide financial assistance to licensed Frederick County in-home and center-based child care providers that have experienced a negative financial impact and that have incurred costs of cleaning, disinfecting and social distancing caused directly or indirectly by the COVID-19 public health emergency. In order to qualify for the grant, programs had to be open, operating and in good standing. During the initial one week grant application period, open or re-opened child care programs went from 72 to 87, much higher than the state average of 76 at the time. The county structured this grant with the providers as beneficiaries so as to limit the burden of documentation that was placed on providers. They only needed to complete the application and upload a copy of their license to Child Care Choices who verified with MSDE that programs were open and in good standing. This entire process from inception to money in the bank was only 7.5 weeks! Here is just one of the comments providers sent after the funds were awarded: "I have been open throughout the whole process of the pandemic and it's been a blessing to know that as a child care provider, we can have help when needed. Thank you!"

Wicomico County Judy Center Care Carts



The pandemic has proved to be a difficult year for so many families in Wicomico County. While we continue

to learn to navigate through uncharted territory, the need for food has never decreased. Wicomico County Family Service Coordinators, Michelle Twilley and Brooke Farmer found the opportunity to meet the needs of more families by creating "Judy Center Care Carts." In partnership with our area childcare providers and Head Start, these carts will be placed near the entrances of the facilities. Our "Judy Center Care Box," is the same concept, but will be placed in the homes of our family childcare providers. Our care centers are stocked with simple meals, canned goods, snacks, baby formula, baby food and wipes. Our Judy Center team will work closely with child care and Head Start programs to restock the care carts as needed. We are so pleased to work in conjunction with these partners to decrease food insecurities in our community.



The Council for Professional Recognition, the nonprofit that administers the globally recognized competency credential, the Child Development Associate® (CDA), is making thousands of Maryland early childhood educators aware of a professional opportunity that will benefit them,

students, families and communities.

The Maryland State Department of Education has awarded a grant to the Council that will cover the cost of credential fees and books so early childhood educators in the state can earn CDAs; eligible candidates are registered family child care providers and licensed child care center staff.

Currently, about 2,300 Marylanders hold a CDA, and supporters think this initiative will greatly increase this number. The Council is also working with Maryland Family Network (MFN) to provide information on funding and how to apply. Eligible early childhood educators can learn more at: marylandfamilynetwork.org/CDA.

R E S O U R C E S

What does it take to become a strong reader?

Print awareness: understanding what print is and the parts of a book

Print awareness is the understanding that print carries meaning and that in English it reads from left to right. It also means learning that books contain letters and words, have front and back covers, and are handled in a certain way.

How to promote print awareness:

- Use big books; to help children notice and learn to recognize words that occur frequently, such as a, the, is, was, and you.
- Label objects in your classroom and home with index cards.
- Encourage preschool children to play with print. They can pretend to write a shopping list, construct a stop sign, write a letter, make a birthday card, etc.
- Teach and reinforce print conventions such as print is written and read from left to right, word boundaries, capital letters, and end punctuation.

Teaching Tip: To assess print awareness, give a student a storybook and ask her to show you:

- the front of the book
- the title of the book
- where you should begin reading
- a letter
- a word
- punctuation marks
- a capital letter
- a lowercase letter
- the back of the book



Excerpted from: Guidelines for Examining Phonics and Word Recognition Programs, Texas Reading Initiative, Texas Education Agency (2002); Tips for Teaching Kids to Read; by Ed Kame'enui, Marilyn Adams, & G. Reid Lyon

CDC Development Milestone Tools for Your Families



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/actearly
1-800-CDC-INFO

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is promoting their Learn the Signs, Act Early (LTSAE) program to inform parents about developmental milestones and monitoring their child's development. Included on this website (CDC's Milestone Tracker App | CDC) is a link to a phone app called "Milestone Tracker App" parents can use to track their child's development from birth through age 5. As an early childhood advocate, you are a valuable resource to parents! They look to you for information about their child, and they trust you. You cannot only share the developmental milestones with your families, but you can also use the website for professional development! CDC's LTSAE has FREE research-based, parent-friendly resources on child development to help you boost family engagement and your professional development. Learn more about the milestones that children should reach from 2 months to 5 years of age, plus interactive tools for parents and staff to help keep track of them. Most materials are available in English and Spanish, many in simplified Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean, some in other languages.

For more information, visit cdc.gov.

CDC's FREE Milestone Tracker App

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Learn more at cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker

RESOURCES

Join Us for a Virtual Parent Cafe



MARYLAND FAMILY NETWORK Join Maryland Family Network for the next Strengthening Families Maryland Parent Cafés.

These are safe spaces where parents and other caregivers can talk about the challenges and victories of raising a family. Through individual deep self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning, participants explore their strengths and create strategies from their own wisdom and experiences to help strengthen their family and support others.

Cafés are structured discussions that use the principles of adult learning and family support. They are highly sustainable with training reinforcement, institutional support, and a commitment to an approach that engages and affirms parents as leaders. Participants leave Parent Cafés feeling inspired, energized, and excited to put into practice what they've learned. Register now for the next virtual Parent Cafés. <https://marylandfamilynetwork.org/>

New Free Resources Available for Programs

MARYLAND EXCELS Maryland EXCELS developed the following two self-assessments to help participants achieve Quality Rating 3 requirements.

- [Maryland EXCELS Self-Assessment: Infant and Toddler \(6 weeks up to 36 months\) – PDF](#)
- [Maryland EXCELS Self-Assessment: Preschool \(3 to 5 years of age\) – PDF](#)

Why Are Teacher-Child Interactions Important?



A child's success in school is impacted by interactions with teachers during child care and early education experiences. These teacher-child interactions are the focal point of CLASS®. Find out what the expanded use of CLASS means to Maryland EXCELS programs at the following link: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org



Young Audiences of Maryland's Early Learning Video Portal is a fantastic collection of over 50 videos that feature engaging arts experiences with their Wolf Trap teaching artists. Geared towards young ones ages 0-6, each 5-10 minute video contains an easily replicable arts strategy that you can do with your children. Thanks to the support of MSDE's Division of Early Childhood and Ready At Five, the portal is *now accessible for FREE to any parent, caregiver, or educator in the state of Maryland through June 2022!*

To Access the Portal: Visit <https://www.yamd.org/programs/early-learning/portal-registration/> to create your FREE portal account.

A S S O C I A T I O N S



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Membership in the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAAYC) is open to any interested individual. As a proud affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, MDAAYC is here to help YOU on the journey to improve educational opportunities for all young children.

mdaeyc.org | [@mdaeyc1](#)

The Leading Men Fellowship is Looking For Applicants

The **Leading Men Fellowship** is helping to diversify the teacher pipeline by engaging young men of color (ages 18-24) in exploring a career in Early Childhood Education. Fellows are placed in a PreK classroom in Baltimore City and implement daily literacy interventions with their students. Through this year-long, residency-style program, Fellows become role models and change agents in their communities who support the growth of young students, while transforming the trajectories of their own lives. [Find more information and our application.](#)



If you know a young man who would be a great fit for the program, please encourage him to apply! To make a referral, ask any questions, or have The Literacy Lab visit your school or organization to present this opportunity, please email Nick Picciotto at npicciotto@theliteracylab.org.

MSFCCA Mission:

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



MSFCCA Vision:

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

msfccca.org | contact@msfccca.org | 240-994-0292

Professional Membership. Professional Development. Advocacy for the Profession.

The **Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA)** is the premiere professional association for licensed child care and early learning centers operating in Maryland and for associated businesses, individuals that support the mission of the Association.

Why Become a Member?

- ◇ Pay one affordable center membership fee and gain Professional Activity Units (PAUs) for your full staff
- ◇ Receive continuous, cutting edge communication through social media and emails



- ◇ MSCCA members have dedicated, registered state lobbyists
- ◇ Receive discounts on training and conferences
- ◇ Grant opportunities offered for members only

mscca.org | info@mscca.org | 410-820-9196 | Christina Peusch, Executive Director

The Importance of Being a Member of MSFCCA and Local Associations

Dear Family Child Care Providers and MSFCCA members,

I am writing to you as a fellow family child care provider and President of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association. Prior to the COVID Pandemic, family child care providers preferred to own and operate their small businesses quietly and independently. Since COVID, it has become extremely important for Providers to receive updated real-time information to enable them to open and operate safely for themselves and the families they serve. MSFCCA stepped up their efforts to fill that need and has been helping providers understand and navigate safety precautions and the resources available. They also began offering free online training to help providers reach training requirements when face-to-face training was not safe. Prior to the pandemic, we often heard from providers, why should I join a local or state association?

MSFCCA advocates for the family child care profession by providing Regulatory and Legislative representation in Annapolis as well as at the Federal level. MSFCCA reaches out to local County Executives and Legislators to help local child care associations and providers get resources and support. Local association Presidents and Directors represent their members by speaking and voting on their behalf, as well as actively sharing what is happening locally with other county associations. When new funding streams, Grants or pilot programs become available, MSFCCA works to gather information, give input and offer help to all registered providers. It is an all-volunteer association whose mission is to be the voice of family child care in Maryland.

Networking is so very important in child care, I cannot stress enough the importance of connecting with fellow providers through your local associations. Reaching out to become a member is an exceedingly small investment and

a business expense that can help you improve your business and your skill set. There is no substitute for colleagues to help keep you grounded and moving forward, especially in the tough times.

Many leaders in the profession have blossomed from their volunteering efforts in local and state associations. If you think you might have the qualities of a leader, then get involved and use your skills to better the profession. We are ALWAYS looking for the Leaders of tomorrow! MSFCCA and your local associations will welcome you with open arms.

Respectfully yours,



Ruby Daniels
President
Maryland State Family Child Care Association
www.msfccca.org

There are perks to being an active member of a local, state, or national child care professional organization. Many organizations host early childhood conferences and offer discounted registration fees for members.

Discounted training = more money available for training vouchers/reimbursements!

Credentialed providers are also offered one (1) Professional Activity Unit (PAU) for membership to a local, state or national child care professional organization!

Check the credential booklet for PAU documentation requirements.

Get your membership today!

Many child care associations in Maryland offer training as a benefit of becoming a member. While we understand that there is a cost to membership, training included within the association membership fee is not eligible for training reimbursement. Membership fees are non-reimbursable.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE Financial Assistance Now Available

If you have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, you can apply for a Howard Community College scholarship that covers tuition and fees, for a select group of classes. Courses eligible for Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding include:

- CDA Capstone: Portfolio, Application & Exam Prep
- Child Care Administration
- Child Growth & Development 45 Hour
- Communications Skills for Child Care Professionals
- Engaging Children with Remote Learning
- Pandemic and Infectious Diseases: Reducing Risks in Child Care
- Preschool Curriculum & Activities 45 Hours
- Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence-Preschool

Keep Kids Safe and Engaged in Learning Pandemics and Infectious Diseases: Reducing the Risk in Child Care

In this course, led by a professional nurse educator, you will gain a foundation of knowledge about COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. You'll learn the Maryland child care health and safety protocols guiding the response to these challenges.

\$64 (includes \$40 in fees)

Online: You may begin this class anytime from Jan 4 until May 14.

Engaging Children with Remote Learning

Learn how best to engage children in remote learning, and help parents work with their child (ren) outside of the online learning environment. We will teach you the best methods for effectively engaging children of all ages including supportive strategies you can share with parents.

\$64 (includes \$40 in fees)

Online: You may begin this class anytime from Jan 4 until May 14.

Visit howardcc.edu/childcare for more details.

Are You Interested in Ways to Earn Professional Activity Units (PAUs) during COVID-19?

Staff that worked in an EPSA or EPCC program will be awarded two PAUs.

Documentation:

Providers must submit a written letter on the center letterhead from the director.

Here are some examples of PAUs that will be awarded automatically to providers:

- ◆ 10 years of working in child care - One (1) PAU
- ◆ 20 years of working in child care - Two (2) PAUs
- ◆ 30 years working in child care - Three (3) PAUs

Here are some examples of Professional activities providers can submit with a credential application:

- ◆ Board member - Two (2) PAUs
- ◆ Child care committee member - One (1) PAU
- ◆ Membership in a recognized child care association - One (1) PAU
- ◆ Newsletter - Two (2) PAUs
- ◆ Professional child care book club - One (1) PAU
- ◆ Judy Center partner - Two (2) PAUs

Here are some examples of PAUs providers can participate in virtually:

- ◆ Child care learning activities with children - Two (2) PAUs
- ◆ Participate on a committee in planning a virtual conference - One (1) PAU
- ◆ Conduct a child care training - Three (3) PAUs
- ◆ Attend a virtual national conference - Three (3) PAUs
- ◆ Peer support group - One (1) PAU
- ◆ Formal mentor for a student - Three (3) PAUs

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MFN Ends 2020 with Enhanced Training Calendar Experience



MARYLAND
FAMILY
NETWORK

Maryland Family Network is thrilled to announce the launch of the redesigned Maryland Child Care Training Calendar. This service, a program of Maryland Family Network with funding from the Maryland State Department of Education, offers all child care providers in Maryland with a tool to search for and identify MSDE-approved trainings, trainers, and organizations to meet their professional development needs. This redesigned website features easy search options that will allow providers to find in-person and virtual live training workshops, e-learning/online training opportunities, and conferences, as well as trainers and organizations available to provide instruction onsite at the program (virtually or in-person). Additionally, local community colleges and other institutions of higher education are utilizing the website to share information about credit and non-credit courses appropriate for the child care provider community. All trainings and professional development advertised on the website are approved by MSDE to satisfy the requirements of Maryland Child Care Licensing, the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, Program Accreditation, and Maryland EXCELS. If you need assistance in participating in any of these programs and initiatives, including accessing Training Vouchers and Reimbursements through the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, [contact your local Child Care Resource Center today.](#)

Already, trainers and providers who have used the Training Calendar have shared rave reviews including one user who said it is “just

like shopping on Amazon, it was super simple to find what I wanted.”

To access the website, [visit this link](#). For assistance or questions, please contact Maryland Family Network at Training-Calendar@marylandfamilynetwork.org.

Sign Up for Free Monthly Training

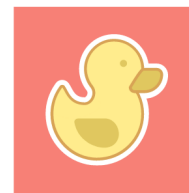


Near the end of each month, Maryland EXCELS participants receive an email to sign up for virtual training for the coming month. Training slots are limited and fill up quickly. Training is

provided by Maryland EXCELS Quality Assurance Specialists and offers Core of Knowledge hours (except Google Meet training). Strengthening Business Practices and There is an “I” in Quality are among the 9 training topics available.

Over 1,200 Maryland EXCELS providers have attended virtual training from June 2020 through February 2021. Maryland EXCELS programs should be on the lookout for the training email to sign up.

Special Needs Technical Assistance and Training for Caregivers of Infants and Toddlers



[Abilities Network]
PROJECT ACT

SPECIAL NEEDS TRAINING

Low-cost Training for Programs
Serving Infants & Toddlers

This publication was produced as a work for hire for the benefit of
and with funds from the Maryland State Department of Education.

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

★ YOU COULD WIN! ★
Book a training and be entered to win an inclusion prize pack!
www.anprojectact.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Conference Library is now available!



Deepen your learning in...

- Equity-Informed Practice
- Reflective Practice
- Professional Development
- Supporting Parents and Families
- Pediatric Practice
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Early Learning and Development
- Early Intervention
- Policy and Advocacy

[Access the learning here.](#)

Over 40 hours of high-quality recordings on the topics you want for the professional development and CEUs you need, available anytime in a self-paced mobile-friendly online format.

All offerings are aligned to the [ZERO TO THREE Competencies for Prenatal to Age 5 Professionals™](#) to help you grow core knowledge, skills, and attitudes to support your work with young children and their families.

Zero to Three Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators



The Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators 45-hour course is now available. These in-depth training modules

were developed to fill the gaps for infant-toddler educators and cover Social Emotional Development, Cognitive Development and Language/Literacy Development. It provides a diversity, inclusive, and fairness lens that can, and should be, applied to all practices and services aimed at supporting our children and families.

Providers credentialed at a level 2 or higher are eligible to apply for a training voucher to attend the 45-hour Critical Competencies training.

For more information and to find a trainer, visit: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/criticalcompetencies



The Division of Early Childhood's Preschool Development Grant Initiative is excited to announce a new collaboration with MAEC, INC: A Train the Trainer on Equity (TOTE) series for Early Childhood professionals looking to build their training capacity in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work. The TOTE series is designed to nurture a community of trainers who want to work together to support and strengthen their shared commitment to building early childhood systems in which differences no longer determine child outcomes and family well-being. This four-part series will explore the intersections between early childhood education and equity. It introduces participants to philosophical and sociological questions and asks participants to critically examine their role in Maryland's early childhood system. Participants will develop an awareness of race, bias, culture, class, gender, language, disability, sexual orientation, and other lines of difference.

For more information, please join us for an informational webinar on April 21st from 3:00 - 4:30. [Register here.](#) For questions, contact Claire Ruhlman at claire@maec.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



VIRTUAL TRAINING 2021 APRIL TO JUNE

CLASSES

G FEELING GOOD, FEELING GREAT: STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING CHILDREN'S SELF-ESTEEM MONDAY | APRIL 12, 2021 | 6:30PM to 9:30PM

Trainer: Linda Bratcher | COK: 3-hour Child Development

Positive self-esteem is critical for happiness and success. It is shaped by children's own perceptions and those of significant people in their lives. This workshop gives teachers the strategies they need to help children develop positive self-esteem.

H CRADLING LITERACY: EFFECTIVE TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LITERACY WEDNESDAY | APRIL 21, 2021 | 6:30PM to 8:30PM

Trainer: Lauren Bond | COK: 2-hour Child Development

In this session, teachers will define social emotional competence, discuss its importance to learning, and explore ways to support social emotional literacy in young children.

I MATH BY THE BOOK - USING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE TO TEACH MATH SKILLS MONDAY | MAY 10, 2021 | 6:30PM to 9:30PM

Trainer: Linda Bratcher | COK: 3-hour Curriculum

Bringing math to life through books adds an extra dimension to both the story and the child's ever expanding world. Children learn when they are having fun! Teachers enjoy hands-on learning with books, some familiar and some not so much!

J ENRICHED LEARNING CENTERS WEDNESDAY | MAY 19, 2021 | 6:30PM to 8:30PM

Trainer: Lauren Bond | COK: 2-hour Curriculum

This workshop will provide participants with the necessary information to set up well defined learning centers that will enhance their curriculum, increase classroom management, and provide children with adequate material to stimulate their overall educational experience within their classrooms.

K TAKING LEARNING OUTSIDE MONDAY | JUNE 14, 2021 | 6:30PM to 9:30PM

Trainer: Linda Bratcher | COK: 3-hour Curriculum

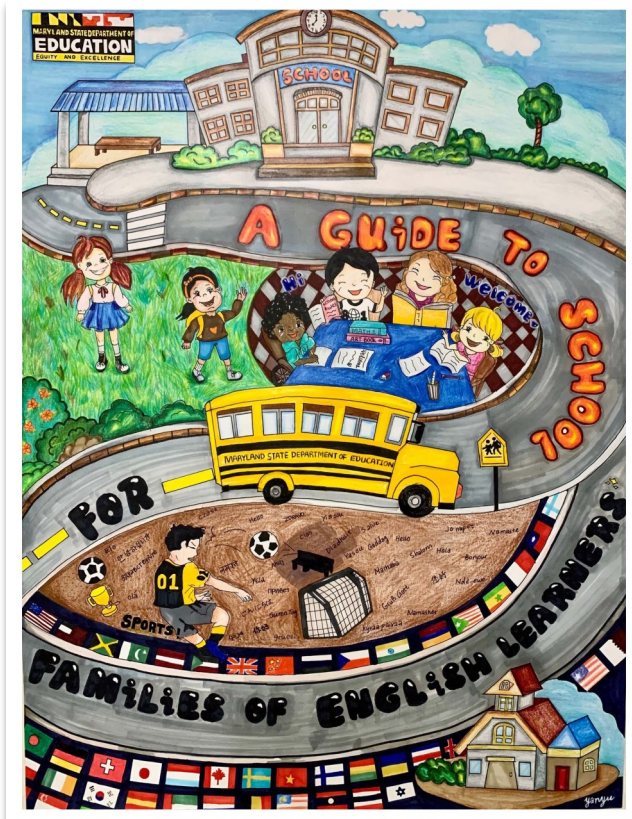
Learn how outdoor environments encourage learning and develop strategies to plan for intentional learning. Lots of "take it outside" hands-on fun in all domains.

L COACHING FOR GROWTH WEDNESDAY | JUNE 16, 2021 | 6:30PM to 9:30PM

Trainer: Lauren Bond | COK: 3-hour Professionalism

We all have the desire for our teams to grow professionally but we must learn the method of coaching rather than coaxing. Just as children need individualized support to learn, teachers need that same type of support and that can be accomplished with effective coaching. Coaches help teachers analyze their teaching and its impact on children. You want to be a coach that cultivates a habit in the teacher of continuously assessing and reflecting on what they can do to support children's learning through promoting continuous self-assessment, developing new skills and improving existing knowledge. We will review the characteristics of coaching to include joint planning, observation, action, reflection and feedback. We will examine reflective practice strategies such as open-ended questions, interviews, self-assessments, observations, and videotaping. This workshop will grow you as a coach so you can better support the professional growth of the adults in your program.

WWW.MSFCCA.ORG



A Guide to School for Families of English Learners

In partnership with MSDE's Title III Office, the Maryland State Advisory Council for English Learners has released *A Guide to School for Families of English Learners* for families new to the country and families of English learners. This guide, which provides resources for families beginning in early childhood, has been developed to help families understand the school system and offers suggestions for how to support children's learning and family engagement. This guide provides information about Maryland's early childhood system, including how to enroll a child in early childhood programs, support transition to school, and connect parents and families to additional supports.

Available in Spanish and English.



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IMPACT

A publication from the
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www.MarylandPublicSchools.org