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Collectively Building Maryland's Future

SPRING | ISSUE 3 | 2019

Making a Great Birth through Five System Even Better

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

"... A child's access to quality experiences and the positive outcomes that result will no longer be contingent on income, race, zip code, disability status, nor English language proficiency."

-Vision statement from Maryland's PDG B-5 Application

We are at a time of incredible support in Congress and in our State for early childhood education. Thanks to increases from Washington for the Child Care Development Fund, together with expanded child care subsidy income eligibility

levels and increased provider reimbursement rates in Maryland, twenty percent more children are accessing child care scholarships than were this time last year. That means more families are able to work or go back to school, and more children are getting the great start they need for later success in school. The Governor's budget this year includes additional increases for provider reimbursement and sustained funding for our mixed-delivery [Prekindergarten Expansion Grants](#) this fall. And we are anxiously waiting to see what additional opportunities will come out of the recommendations of the Kirwan

Commission's two years of deliberations.

Maryland has been nationally recognized for our efforts to support young children. Last December, our state was ranked first in the nation, along with the District of Columbia, by the [Bipartisan Policy Center](#) for creating a successful, integrated and efficient early care and education system. While a great achievement, the Center also recommends two areas where we could improve. The first is to include licensing as the entry level for Maryland EXCELS to promote higher program quality for all settings.



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I'd be curious to hear your thoughts on this. The second is to ensure our State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) fulfills its required activities, including conducting a statewide needs assessment on the quality and availability of early childhood care and education programs. Fortunately, our state has been awarded a \$10.6 million Preschool Development Grant - Birth through Five (PDG B-5) initial grant to address this second recommendation.

As stated in our winning PDG B-5 application, Maryland's vision is "a well-coordinated and integrated system of programs, supports, and services where every child in the state has the opportunity to access a high-quality early childhood experience, arriving at school with a healthy body, healthy mind, and the foundational knowledge and skills needed to succeed; and that every family has access to the resources needed to be effective as their child's first and most important teacher and advocate. A child's access to quality early childhood experiences and the positive outcomes that result will no longer be contingent on income, race, zip code, disability status, nor English language proficiency."



The grant will produce system improvements that move Maryland closer to its vision. While supporting all children in the state, the grant will have a specific focus on promoting equity for children who are vulnerable or underserved, including dual language learners and children from low-income families. We will also work to increase access to high-quality inclusive settings for children with disabilities or developmental delays.

Over the next few months, working with the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, we will review the multiple needs assessments conducted in Maryland over the years across various programs and organizations, hold focus groups with diverse stakeholders, and co-sponsor 9 Regional Town Halls across the state with our sister state agencies and Ready at Five. These gatherings are a way for parents, early

childhood educators, child care and school administrators, policy makers, advocates, and other stakeholders to come together to discuss the future of early learning in Maryland. You can register for either a morning or evening session [here](#). Out of the needs assessment, a comprehensive strategic plan will be co-constructed with the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) to coordinate, align, and improve the quality of early childhood programs, resources, and services for young children and their families.

One of the ways in which we plan to accomplish this is through supporting all 24 local ECACs with quality improvement grants. Each local ECAC will respond to the findings and recommendations of the needs assessment and strategic plan with activities that are tailored for their areas.

Grant funds will be provided to meet professional development needs that may be revealed, strengthen community engagement activities to increase provider quality, or support quality improvement in other areas including transitions, establishing communities of practice, and initiatives that are most needed in the community. We are also partnering with the Annie

E. Casey Foundation to implement Results Count to help local leadership achieve and sustain positive, measurable outcomes for children and families.

Some of the specific activities include modernizing Maryland's early childhood data system, allowing for the development of an early childhood provider portal to allow for unique identifiers of children prior to entering school.



We will also host a series of “greenhouse” collaboration and idea-generating sessions to ensure that our data systems are responsive to the state’s diverse agencies, parents, and other stakeholders. Funding from the PDG B-5 grant will support the development of a comprehensive infrastructure to support and sustain the implementation of the Children Study their World curriculum in 200 additional classrooms across the State. This best practice approach includes professional development and coaching for teachers in center-based and family child care programs and schools, and a free app for parents and caregivers that supports home-program connections and family engagement.

The PDG B-5 grant will also fund capacity-building services that will support more early childhood programs in communities that serve a high number of

vulnerable children to obtain a published Maryland EXCELS rating and help currently rated programs in those communities move up one or more quality levels. To

support Dual Language Learners, the state will work with WIDA (formerly World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment). MSDE is already a member-state of the K-12 WIDA consortium. By implementing the WIDA Early Years program, the state will be able to align the B-5 and K-12 systems, better supporting transitions and expanding access to a comprehensive, research-based system of language standards, assessments, professional learning, and educator assistance focused specifically on language development at home and in early childhood settings.

The state will partner with Maryland Public Television to produce targeted, well-crafted



media messages that increase parental awareness of the importance of licensed child care programs in providing safe environments and building a strong foundation for learning. Grants will also be made to libraries to support children without access to early childhood programs. For more information about Maryland’s plan and activities, please visit earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/PDG.

Maryland has made a lot of progress over the years. The number of children demonstrating readiness, as measured by the [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment](#) is the highest it’s been, with many jurisdictions far exceeding the state average. The investments in early childhood education we make today will pay off exponentially in the future. But we need your help in charting our course over the next five years. Come join us between March and May at

one of our 9 [Regional Town Halls](#)! We need your partnership as we build an even better early childhood system in Maryland. See you there!





MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
 INVITES YOU TO ATTEND



REGIONAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Maryland was recently awarded a \$10.6 million birth-through-five grant to further strengthen the State's early care and education system. Please join State and community leaders to learn more about the grant, as well as new State programs and initiatives. Come and share your insight into the needs of families and young children in your communities to inform a new early learning strategic plan for Maryland.

Each meeting will cover a variety of topics, for example:

- ◆ The availability of quality early care and education for all children in Maryland, including vulnerable populations and children living in rural areas and the barriers that exist to accessing quality care
- ◆ Promoting family engagement and supports, particularly focusing on the needs of working families
- ◆ Opportunities for enhancing collaboration between existing programs to maximize resources
- ◆ Universal Pre-K expansion
- ◆ Transition between early care and education and school entry
- ◆ Using Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data to inform services in your community
- ◆ Strengthening the early care and education workforce through professional development opportunities

Join the conversations on social media



@md_early_ed

@ReadyAtFive



@msde.earlyed

@ReadyAtFive

#MSDElistens

For a listing of town hall meeting dates and locations, visit:
<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/townhalls>

REGISTER HERE

SCHEDULED TOWN HALL MEETINGS

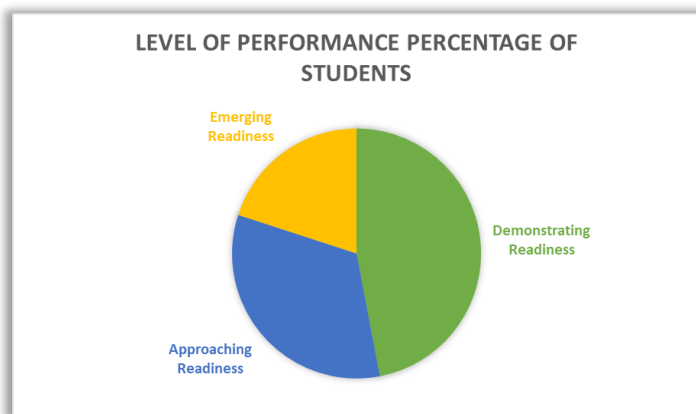
Jurisdiction	Date & Times	Location
Allegany Carroll Frederick Garrett Washington	Tuesday, March 26, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Washington Co. Board of Education 10435 Downsville Pike Hagerstown, MD 21740
Baltimore City Baltimore County	Thursday, April 4, 2019 Morning 9:00-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Baltimore County Public Library/Owings Mills 10302 Grand Central Avenue Owings Mills, MD 21117
Caroline Dorchester Kent Queen Anne's Talbot	Tuesday, April 16, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Chesapeake College The Higher Education Building 1000 College Circle Wye Mills, MD 21679
Somerset Wicomico Worcester	Thursday, April 25, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Wor-Wic Community College 32000 Campus Drive Salisbury, MD 21804
Cecil Harford	Tuesday, May 7, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	The Center for Educational Opportunity in Aberdeen 253 Paradise Road Aberdeen, MD 21001
Anne Arundel Howard	Thursday, May 9, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Point Pleasant Resource Center 1450 Furnace Avenue Glen Burnie, MD 21060
Calvert Charles St. Mary's	Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Morning 9:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Calvert County Public Library 850 Costley Way Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Prince George's	Thursday, May 16, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Prince Georges County Judy Center The Adelphi Judy Center/Cool Spring Elementary School 8908 Riggs Road Hyattsville, Maryland 20783
Montgomery	Friday, May 17, 2019 Morning 8:30-11:30AM Evening 5:00-8:00PM	Montgomery College Takoma Park/ Silver Spring Campus Amphitheater - HC Building 7995 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20902

2018–19 School Year Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Results



The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is given to kindergarten students each fall. It allows teachers to measure a student’s school readiness across four domains: (1) Social Foundations, (2) Mathematics, (3) Language & Literacy, and (4) Physical Well-Being and Motor Development. It includes a variety of items, including teacher’s observations of daily activities and age-appropriate performance tasks. Students receive one of three possible performance levels: demonstrating readiness, approaching readiness, and emerging readiness.

The overall state results of the KRA administration given in the fall of 2018 are found below.



Demonstrating Readiness 47%
Approaching Readiness 33%
Emerging Readiness 20%

The KRA results with more detailed information, including student groups and individual districts, are available at earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/2018-kindergarten-readiness-assessment-results-released.

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

Director's Dug Out



Spring Training with the Director
Jennifer Nizer, Office of Child Care

We have heard there are several training organizations that are falsifying their documents for training and pre-service requirements. Is this true?

Yes, unfortunately we have been finding several training organizations that have falsified hours of training, and given certificates—yet the provider never completed the training. In February, the Training Office is beginning 2019 monitoring visits for every training organization and individual trainer in Maryland. The Licensing Regional Offices are aware that training certificates are being forged and provided without proper hours delivered. We are looking for fraudulent documents and, if found, a center or family provider can have their license suspended and/or revoked. Please be sure to request original training documents from potential staff you are hiring. Many of the certificates we are seeing are photocopies.

I want to become a trainer so I can train my staff that work for my program. Can I do this?

Currently, the regulations state that if you are a training organization/trainer wanting to train your own staff, you cannot do so unless you have advertised to the public that the training is available for anyone to attend. If you have proof that you advertised (Training Clearinghouse, flyer with picture of where it was displayed, add in resource center newsletter, etc.), you can train non-staff who attend that training. In the training regulations being proposed (currently under review by OCC), you will not be able to train your own staff regardless of advertisement. We will inform you of new regulations as they are promulgated.

I want to open a new classroom and I want to use portable sinks. Can I get the room licensed with them as the water source?

No. The Office of Child Care will not approve a

portable sink used as a water source in a room for any reason. We have consulted with the Department of Health and they have provided the Office with a letter describing the harmful effects of portable sinks. Besides bacteria being a key issue, many portable sinks do not have a continuous water stream, do not have hot water at the temperatures listed in regulation, do not have an adequately filled tank, and have many issues related directly to the waste collection tank and how to dispose of that water. We have also referenced “Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards” where it clearly states, “The handling of waste water poses sanitation hazards for children and staff. Portable systems often require staff to lift the water containers. Such lifting could impose an occupational health risk.”



I am a family child care provider and I saw the proposed regulations saying I have to have my pool fenced in with a self-locking, self-closing latch. Will the Office of Child Care pay for this?

The Office of Child Care will not pay for this health and safety feature for family child care providers. However, we do have the Family Child Care Provider Grant Program, which “reimburses up to \$500

in expenses that a provider incurs to achieve or maintain compliance with family child care regulations.” This is a one-time ONLY grant. If you have received it in the past, you cannot apply for it again. If you have not received this grant, you may do so to help offset the cost of coming into compliance with your pool area. Please go to <https://bit.ly/2GCsa12> for more information and to see if you qualify.

We have a curriculum that we chose from the State approved Curricula list. It is getting ready to expire, and I am a level 5 in Maryland EXCELS. If it expires, do I lose my level 5 in EXCELS?

No, you do not. The Division of Early Childhood is in the process of deciding how we will review and approve new curricula and curricula that is expiring. We will be sure that no one loses their Maryland EXCELS level due to expired curriculum at this time.



WE NEED YOUR CHILD CARE RATES!

Earn one (1)
Professional
Activity Unit (PAU)
for Credentialing by
completing
the Cost of Care
Survey

2019 | **MARYLAND
COST OF CARE
SURVEY**

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Cost of Care Surveys are used to determine a payment rate that allows families using the child care scholarships (formally child care subsidy) to access higher quality child care within their community.

Your responses will be *confidential* and will only be used to determine an overall picture of what programs are charging for child care tuition.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY IN PAPER FORM OR ONLINE BY
MARCH 29, 2019 BY FOLLOWING THE LINK BELOW**

<https://locate.marylandfamilynetwork.org/Provider/login>



SURVEY Time

Maryland's child care provider organizations work to improve the field of early

analyze the data to determine the true cost of quality care, including the resources necessary to attract and retain the best possible teachers and staff for all child care programs.

care and education, including work to increase funding to make high quality programs available and affordable for all families. On behalf of MSDE Office of Child Care, we are asking that you complete the Cost of Care Survey.

OCC will offer **one (1) Professional Activity Unit (PAU)** toward the Maryland Child Care Credential to individuals completing the one page survey for their programs. OCC will also offer **two (2) PAUs** for completing the Maryland Family Network (MFN) profile for the program. The survey has the short survey embedded in it.

The information you provide is very important for determining the child care scholarship rates (formerly child care subsidy) for each region in the state. The great news is that with the increased income guidelines, more families than ever are eligible to receive scholarship money to help offset the cost of child care.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact any of the association leaders listed below.

Maryland State Child Care Association
Chris Peusch, Executive Director,
MSCCA1@comcast.net

How does this affect you? By completing the Cost of Care Survey, you are helping to determine the true cost of child care across the state. Even if you do not accept child care scholarships, your information matters for determining scholarship rates. This information will be used to make critical policy decisions by state legislators who determine the rates of reimbursement.

Maryland State Family Child Care Association
Jacqueline Grant, President,
jacqueline.n.grant@gmail.com

Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children
Christina Lopez, Co- President,
christina.lopez@mdaeyc.org

Please complete the survey below in paper form or online by March 29, 2019 at:

Service Employees International Union Local 500
Crystal Barksdale, Family Child Care Representative, Barksdale714@gmail.com

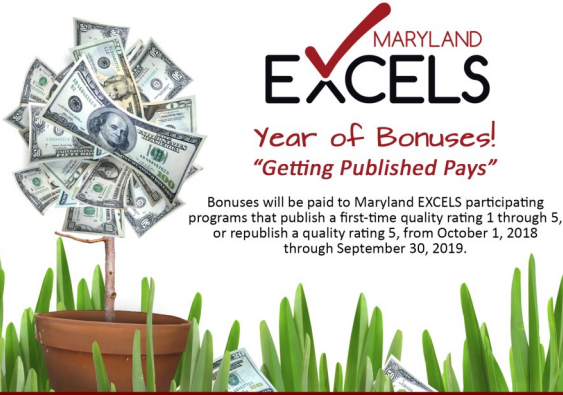
<https://locate.marylandfamilynetwork.org/Provider/login>

Maryland Family Network/Maryland Child Care Resource Network
Steve Rohde/Lacey Tsonis
MCCRNinfo@marylandfamilynetwork.org.

Your responses will be confidential and will only be used to determine an overall picture of what programs are charging for child care tuition.

Thank you for taking the time to help providers, families and children!

The survey has been simplified. It should take no more than 2 minutes to complete. Once the surveys are completed, OCC will



MARYLAND
EXCELS

Year of Bonuses!
"Getting Published Pays"

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

For more information, visit www.marylandexcels.org/bonus

A Year of Bonuses

Have you published a first-time Maryland EXCELS quality rating 1 through 5 or republished a quality rating 5? Programs that do so, between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, will receive a Maryland EXCELS bonus. Maryland EXCELS bonus amounts range from \$50 to \$4,500.

Win a FREE Registration to Conference by the Sea

Your program could be one of six winners of a FREE registration to Maryland State

Child Care Association (MSCCA) Conference by the Sea 2019.

Winners will be drawn on

March 14, 2019 from Maryland EXCELS participating and published programs. For details, view this [flier](#).

Learn more about MSCCA and register for the conference by visiting <https://mscca.org/event/conference-by-the-sea-2019/>

Good luck and hope to see you at the MSCCA Conference by the Sea 2019!

Attend a Maryland EXCELS Training or Work Group

Looking to increase your program's quality rating? Need help with the online System? Perhaps you'd like one-on-one assistance.

Visit the [Training and Work Group](#) calendar to find the dates, times and locations that work best for you. Or contact a [Quality Assurance Specialist](#) for questions.

Early Education Summit

Montgomery College hosted the Early Education Summit on February 16. This well-attended event offered child care professionals the opportunity to network and earn Core of Knowledge hours and Professional Activity Units (PAUs). The breakout sessions provided many wonderful topics, including one that focused on men in child care. Quality Assurance Specialist Vickie DiSanto attended the event and interacted with child care, other early education programs, students, and administrators—as well as some public and community officials.



Have You Seen the Baltimore County Resource Guide?

Connecting with families and providers is integral to helping educate about Maryland’s quality rating and improvement system—Maryland EXCELS. To spread the word, Maryland EXCELS is featured in the [Baltimore County Resource Guide](#).

Let us know if you want help featuring EXCELS in your guide.



Quality child care & early education matter.



www.marylandexcels.org/quality

The Birthday Celebrations Continues

Maryland EXCELS providers have enjoyed all aspects of the regional birthday celebrations—from socializing and dining to dancing and receiving prizes donated by our partners: Discount School Supply, Kaplan, Constructive Playthings, Pure Play Every Day and more. These gatherings offer a wonderful way to celebrate providers’ commitment to high quality child care and early education. Our next birthday celebration is March 21, 2019, at the Winslow Room in Baltimore City.

Visit marylandexcels.org/birthday for more information.



Programs & Providers:

Join a community of child care and early education programs who are committed to continuous quality improvement.

Families:

Choosing the right care can be a challenge. Use our Find A Program tool to find high-quality child care and early education programs near you.



MARYLAND EXCELS In the Community

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

Preschool Fairs

Maryland EXCELS started 2019 connecting with families and providers through preschool fairs—from Frederick and Howard to Anne Arundel County. These fairs offer important information and resources to help parents make the best choices in preschool for their children. Attending these events provides Maryland EXCELS staff opportunities to educate families about the importance of high-quality child care and how to find it.



WTMD Radio Events

Maryland EXCELS has great success connecting with families at WTMD radio Saturday Morning Tunes events. These events focus on families with small children. While the children are enjoying live music and activities, parents can learn about high quality child care and early education—and its critical role in supporting school readiness.

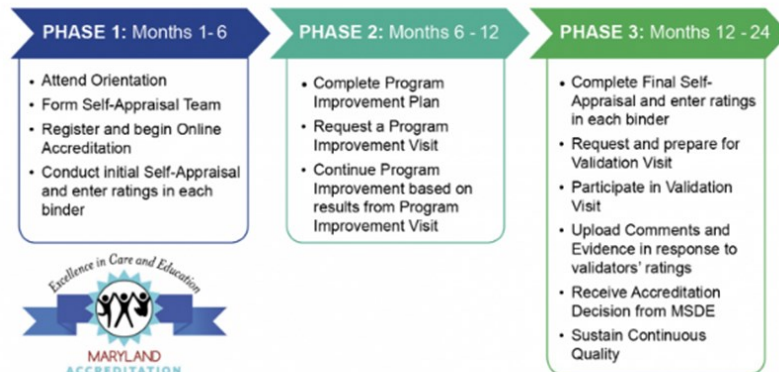
Learn more at:

wtmd.org/radio/wtmd-saturday-morning-tunes/

What is Maryland Accreditation?

- A way for programs to demonstrate their commitment to providing high quality learning environments.
- A process of demonstrating and verifying program effectiveness and continuous improvement using the Maryland Accreditation Standards.
- Maryland Accreditation is a process in which programs commit to and demonstrate continuous quality improvement, to benefit children, families and staff.

Maryland Accreditation Process



Tips for Starting the Maryland Accreditation Process

- **Visit** the Division of Early Childhood Maryland Accreditation web page at: earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/maryland-excels/maryland-accreditation.
- **Download** and review the Maryland Accreditation Standards.
- **Attend** a Maryland Accreditation Orientation to initiate the first mandatory step of the process.
- **Present** the Maryland Accreditation Orientation to your staff.
- **Determine** your program's individual accreditation readiness.

Contact Nicole Johnson at Nicole.johnson1@maryland.gov and accreditation@marylandexcels.org for questions.

Money For Child Care

Get Financial Help for Child Care

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

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

MSDE's goal is to enroll and help as many eligible families and child care providers as possible across Maryland. Maryland is prioritizing child care providers with potentially eligible families already enrolled within their child care program. We want all currently enrolled families and child care providers to benefit from the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program, as well as future families and child care providers.

If you have families enrolled in your child care program that are not in the Child Care Scholarship Program (formerly Child Care Subsidy), encourage them to apply for money to assist with the cost of child care.

For parents that are working, attending school and/or participating in a training activity, it takes 3 easy steps to apply for a Child Care Scholarship (CCS):



1. Get a CCS Application from Money4ChildCare.com

2. Have gross income below the income listed for your family size at: Money4ChildCare.com

3. Submit the completed CCS Application along with all supporting documentation to the address on the CCS Application.

Completed CCS Applications are processed in 14 days. Incomplete applications are approved or denied within 30 days.

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



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

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

Submit completed scholarship applications to:

Child Care Subsidy
PO Box 17015
Baltimore, Maryland 21297
Fax: 410.229.0053

As of February 2019, Maryland EXCELS has 4,031 child care and early education programs participating. Their commitment to providing quality for the families and children of Maryland is nothing short of inspiring. Be sure to check out the Provider Spotlight articles on MarylandEXCELS.org for vital examples of such incredible work.

The **Credentialing Branch** ensures that child care providers have access to quality training and assists providers in attaining higher levels of training and education. These opportunities include:

- Credential Program
- Training Vouchers/Reimbursement
- Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF)
- Child Care Quality Incentive Grant Program
- Family Child Care Provider Grant Program
- The Child Care Resource Network
- Special Needs Continuing Training / Technical Assistance for Caregivers
- Expansion of Child Care for Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five

Are you a **credentialed provider?**



Need to contact the **Maryland Child Care Credential Program?**

Have questions?

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

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

Phone: 1.866.243.8796
Do not mail your credential program application packet to MSDE Headquarters. Applications received at MSDE for the Maryland Child Care Credential program will be returned.

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

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing

Access Project ACT on PINTEREST

Families, child care providers and teachers know that a child may need a little extra help to thrive, but many do not know how to help or where to turn. Abilities Network's **Project ACT** program can help with the following:

- onsite training for child care staff;
- individualized child observations and support planning;
- center wide coaching and mentoring to increase staff knowledge and skills;
- family support, resource and referral services; and
- access to individualized services to facilitate the optimal growth and development of children.

Through the FY2019 State Coordinating Entity (SCE) Services for the Maryland Child Care Resource Centers Network (MCCRCN) grant, providers continue to be engaged with the use of technology.

Scan this Pincode with your Pinterest app to find Project ACT's boards!



Open and tap for ideas

CCCPDF Provides Opportunities

"I enjoy being part of the CCCPDF program and



couldn't have discovered a better resource. I am in my thirties, and with all the things going on in my life, this process has made it very convenient. I was always a great student and had great grades in college, but financially, I

could not afford it. I am so excited that now I have hope and the opportunity to complete my journey to success. This degree will mean so much to me and my family once I obtain it. I am so grateful for CCCPDF!"

Nicole Clark, Howard Community College

Learn about the CCCPDF program on page 15.



Training Voucher 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.



Training Voucher and Reimbursement Applications can be submitted to MSDE:

By mail

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

Online

earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/office-child-care/credentialing-branch/training-vouchers-and-reimbursements

Applications faxed to MSDE will not be processed.

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

For more information, visit earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!



There are perks to being a member of a local, state, or national child care professional organization. These training 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 in a local, state or national child care professional organization! See the Credential Booklet for PAU documentation.

The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

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

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

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



Eligibility Requirements

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

- Participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at Level Two or higher
- Work in a licensed child care center or be a registered family child care provider in Maryland at least 10 hours per week
- Fulfill entrance requirements at the participating college of your choice
- Have at least one year of documented experience working with groups of children in an approved setting
- Maintain employment in child care in Maryland while participating in the Program
- Participate in professional development
- Agree to complete the child care service requirement in Maryland for at least 10 hours per week after completion of the degree and/or withdrawal from the fund
- Maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA from the point of first entering the Program

THE DEADLINE FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 30, 2019

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
- Get to know your coordinator: Once accepted into the college of your choice, schedule a meeting with the CCCPDF Coordinator to review the application before submitting to MSDE
- 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/

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



Please click **here** to access the order form or visit our website to find the programs we offer, such as

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.

Readyatfive.org

Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter.

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

Child Care Subsidy Program

<https://bit.ly/2FZiNsz>

Maryland Child Care Credential Program

<https://bit.ly/2vIa6Tf>

Licensing

<https://bit.ly/2DHABpO>

Maryland EXCELS

<https://bit.ly/2S1basj>



New Online Modules for the Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence

Also known as SEFEL: The Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

In response to the ever-changing needs of the early childhood workforce, The Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, in collaboration with the Division of Early Childhood, will be launching new interactive online Pyramid Model trainings for preschool providers.

The Pyramid Model offers an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to support the early childhood workforce in promoting the healthy social emotional development of young children. The new online trainings are based on the original Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL)

training materials and include updates such as information about the

research behind early childhood development and the impact of trauma on early development. The trainings walk providers through the framework using videos and interactive activities that present the information in a fun and engaging way.

Through completion of the online trainings, providers will learn how to implement strategies for supporting social emotional competence among the children in their setting. Providers will also gain new insight to the meaning behind challenging behavior and how to address it appropriately. The training is divided into three modules and successful completion of all modules will result in 18 MSDE—approved child development core of knowledge clock hours. The newly designed training site link is

theinstitute.umaryland.edu/training/. Click on **PIEC Online Training** to access updated modules.



OFFICE OF HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



The Governor's Young Readers Program

Any child in Baltimore City, aged birth to 5 years, can receive a free book every month regardless of income. Learn more at: <https://goc.maryland.gov/youngreaders/>

The Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center has a wealth of information on topics about Head Start, children, families and child care providers. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families fund national centers to provide resources to the field of Early Care and Education.

One of the national centers is the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW). The Center's work includes, but is not limited to, providing support on:

- medical and dental home access;
- health promotion and disease prevention;
- emergency preparedness and environmental safety;
- trauma and toxic stress;
- developmental, behavioral, vision, and hearing screening; and
- nutrition.

The information, resources, materials, training, and implementation support provided through NCECHW reflect brain research and neuroscience, is research-informed, and promotes effective practices and professional development within programs.

Resource Highlight - Substance Misuse

Information on :


- opioid and substance misuse basics,
- caring for children exposed to substances,
- preparing for sensitive conversations; and
- trauma informed family support and curricula.

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/substance-misuse>

Dr. Hutton Says

Name: You! Date: start today


DID YOU KNOW?
Right now, your child's brain is growing incredibly fast: approximately **85%** of adult size by age 3, and **90%** by age 5, with maximal activity during that time.



Rx Read aloud every day for at least 15 minutes to "feed your child's brain," building vocabulary and other pre-literacy skills, and powerful social-emotional bonds.

Refill Daily No Substitution

DR. JOHN S. HUTTON
Pediatrician & Research Fellow
Cincinnati Children's Hospital



Learn more at ReadAloud.org



PAYING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There are incentives available to child care providers who choose to participate in the Maryland Child Care Credential Program. Child care providers participating in the Credential Program at Level Two or higher are eligible for training vouchers or reimbursement for approved training.

Learn about the Maryland Child Care Credential Program at earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/credentialing.

TIPS: Effective Staff Meetings

By Shannon Ensor, IDEALS Institute, Johns Hopkins University

Staff meetings are critical to ensuring the success of quality early childhood programs that have multiple staff members. Effective staff meetings allow your team to support one another, share information, and communicate ideas. In addition, staff meetings can provide the opportunity to receive necessary training and discuss how children are responding to the program. A few key components of effective staff meetings include:

Schedule:

Finding a suitable time and space for staff meetings is the first step. By holding regular meetings throughout the year and having a meeting schedule planned, you can establish routines, allow staff to be prepared, avoid scheduling conflicts, and convey your program's expectations.

Sign-in Sheet:

A sign-in sheet provides accountability for meeting attendance and allows you to disseminate information to appropriate people following the meeting.

Agenda:

Agendas allow you to create a record of the topics discussed for future reference and support good business practice. Agendas also provide staff with a list of topics to be discussed during your staff meetings. It may be helpful to include how long the group has to discuss each agenda item to keep staff focused and keep the meeting moving in an efficient manner. You may also want to incorporate opportunities for staff to provide input to the agenda and time in the agenda for staff to work together and share ideas.

A few agenda topics you may want to consider for the beginning of a new school year include:

- Performance review schedules and why they are conducted
- Specific child needs and how to help children adjust to the program
- New updates to your program handbook/policy book and signatures from staff
- Your Program Improvement Plan for the year, and the role of staff
- Lesson planning process, curriculum and questions staff may have

Effective staff meetings can create a productive learning environment for your team members. While it's important to share information at staff meetings, allowing time for staff to learn from one another and share ideas will convey the importance and respect you place on their time, growth, and professional knowledge.

FREE TRAININGS

If you are looking for FREE approved Core of Knowledge (COK) area trainings, try Institute of Child Nutrition.

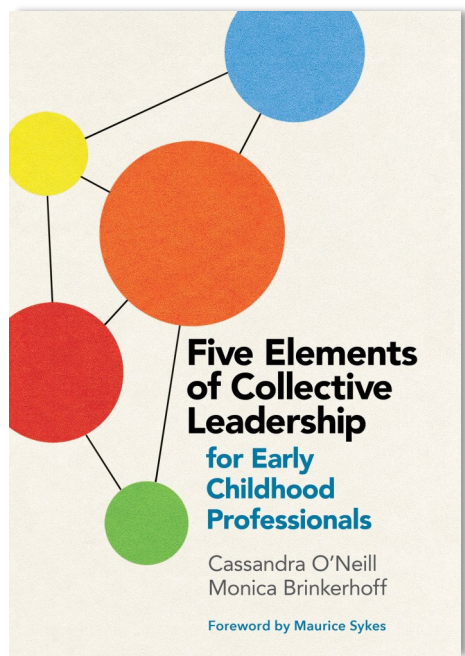
They offer 14 courses at no-cost in the COK - Health, Safety, Nutrition area.

View the list of free trainings here: <https://bit.ly/2QPldLx>

Sign up here: <https://theicn.docebosaa.com/learn/signin>



2019 Collective Leadership Webinar Series



The book, *Five Elements of Collective Leadership for Early Childhood Professionals*, constructs a framework with five elements and 11 practices based on a foundation of building trust.

Join authors Cassandra O'Neill and Monica Brinkerhoff the first Friday of every month* at 12:00 PM Central Time for a webinar series in 2019 that dives into each of these practices.

The Webinars are **free**, but space is limited!

2019 Collective Leadership Webinar Series Dates

APRIL 5
Building Capacity to Navigate Difficult Conversations and Conflict

MAY 3
Practicing Self-Care and Building Resilience

JUNE 7
Let's Share! Taking Turns and Sharing Roles

JULY 12*(second Friday)
Identifying and Building on Strengths

AUGUST 2
Take a Load Off!: Effectively Engaging Others in Decision Making

SEPTEMBER 6
Activating Collective Wisdom through Skillful Engagement and Facilitation

OCTOBER 4
Embracing Accountability - Making and Keeping Agreements

NOVEMBER 1

Do you want to Love Feedback? How to give and receive Feedback that Supports Growth and Development

DECEMBER 6

Learn, Reflect, Do Better: How to Learn From What You are Doing and Apply that Learning

Register at: <http://bit.ly/2019CollectiveLeadership> and receive an exclusive discount code for the book.





PLAYTIME

While life has changed significantly for parents, the importance of imaginative or pretend play remains the same for children. For today's children, there are plenty of electronic games to hold their attention and keep them on the couch for countless hours. The problem, however, is that technology leaves less room for using your imagination.

Get more info about playtime at marylandfamiliesengage.org

Bring Back the Drama: Making Early Learning Fun Again!

By Lenore Blank Kelner and Valerie Bayne Carroll

Lesson: Example 1

Picture this: After sitting and listening to a read-aloud of the book *Swimmy*, by Leo Lionni, a kindergarten class sits down at tables to color-in line drawings of the characters. Students are instructed to cut out the pictures and glue them down in the right order on another piece of paper. They write the name of each character below each picture and a sentence about their favorite part of the story.

Lesson: Example 2

Now picture this: Before the read-aloud, the teacher leads the class in creating the movements and body shapes of the characters they will meet - the large tuna, the graceful jellyfish and the machine-like lobsters.

During the read-aloud the children use their voices and upper bodies to become the tuna and say words it might say when it sees the delicious

red fish. They put on an imaginary mask of Swimmy when he is sad and alone and share his inner thoughts.

After the reading, the teacher divides the class into groups and guides a story dramatization. Each group plays one character, using colorful fabric as costumes. They take turns showing the movement of their creature and interacting with Swimmy. They create character voices to retell their part of the story in their own words. At the end, all the children become little red fish. Without pushing or shoving, they "swim" in one direction. Swimmy is the eye and they scare the big fish away.

Later, the teacher leaves the book and fabric in the Dramatic Play Center. The children act out the story by themselves.

We know that children learn best by using all their senses and through language-rich experiences that allow them to make meaningful connections through exploration and

discovery. The first lesson example uses very few of these elements. The second example uses ALL of them.

Without opportunities to actively engage with their education, children's curiosity and delight in learning turn to frustration and boredom. Behavior issues multiply as developmentally appropriate practices are replaced with "direct instruction." Dramatic play nurtures the whole child, connects academics with cognitive and social-emotional growth, and returns creativity and joy to the classroom.

So, let's allow children to be children again. Let's bring dramatic play back into the spotlight and empower our children to participate in the construction of their own learning.



STORY TELLERS

Let Children's Photos Tell a Story

Partner with families and encourage children to share their lives outside of school by having them take photos and then share what's important to them.

Learn how to engage young learners and families to tell their stories at marylandfamiliesengage.org.



Somerset County Child Care Story Time

The Somerset County Judy Center and the Somerset County Public Library have collaborated to create a new and improved Child Care Story Time Program. This program includes visits to local child care homes, distribution of materials to child care providers and family engagement activities for the parents of the children in care.

Local child care programs receive one visit a month from both a Judy Center staff member as well as the children's librarian. Together, the two use selections from the Frog Street Love and Learn curriculum, to provide a fun, hands-on session for children in care. Each session includes music, movement, art and, of course, books. Children go home with a book and fun follow-up ideas for parents to try at home.

The library received a grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern



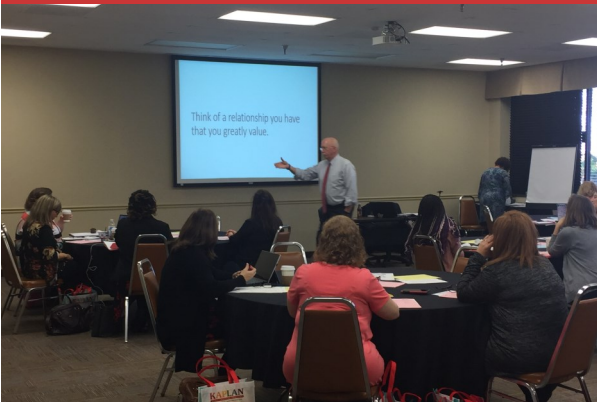
Easton Labo at Valerie Colona's Family Child Care.

Shore to create school readiness kits. Each kit has a different theme and includes a binder with curriculum ideas, books, materials, puzzles and games. At the end of each Story Time session, the provider is able to borrow a kit for the entire month. The following month, the provider gets a brand new kit to enjoy, as the kits are rotated to another child care program.

The third part of this partnership helps to increase the utilization of the library and promotes family engagement. After each Story Time visit, children are given a coupon to redeem at their local library.

These coupons are then turned in for a free game, puzzle or other special prize. The library has seen an increase in the number of families with young children coming into the library since this program started, and a number of families have signed up for library cards.

The Story Time served over 130 children in Somerset County child care programs in 2018 and it has increased the collaboration between the library and the Judy Center. Child care programs are key to school readiness, and the Judy Center Partnership is hoping that this program will help make the work of the local child care provider a little easier.



WANT TO OFFER OR HOST TRAININGS?

If you're seeking approval to become a trainer for early childhood educators, the first step is to complete the Maryland Child Care Trainer Orientation.

The dates and registration for orientations during 2019 are available at

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

Annual Trainers Conference was a SUCCESS!

The Training Department finished 2018 with a wonderful Trainers Conference in November. This eight-hour training day, Breaking Down Barriers, featured Brian Washburn CEO of Endurance Learning, as the keynote speaker.

A few of the selections offered to trainers during the day were:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences,
- Multigenerational Workforce,
- Tech, Screens, and Gaming, and what research is telling us regarding how it's destroying Social Emotional health,
- Anti-Bias Practices; and
- Working with Immigrant Children and Families.

Allegany County Judy Center Holds Annual Early Childhood Conference

The Allegany County Judy Center held their annual early childhood conference and free family concert. On Friday evening, October 20, 2018, Dr. Jean Feldman performed a free concert for families at the local Country Club Mall. Hundreds of families came out to sing and dance with Dr. Jean.



On Saturday, October 21, 2018, Dr. Jean provided a workshop for over 150 teachers and childcare providers. Participants picked up door prizes and browsed and purchased items from the many vendors on-hand.



Jean Rosenberg Feldman, better known as Dr. Jean, is a teacher, author, and musical artist. She is well known for her children's learning songs, including The Tooty Ta, My Mother is a Baker, Rules Rap, Hello Neighbor, Macarena Months, Bear Hunt and more!

Have an event you'd like to promote to early care and education providers, parents, and families?

Looking for events for professional development or parents and families?

Submit your events and find events on the *Maryland Families Engage* website!

marylandfamiliesengage.org



MUSIC MATTERS

Playing music engages the brain in a unique way that virtually no other activity does.

Studies have shown that the younger children are when they start learning how to play music, the stronger the connections are between motor regions—the parts of the brain that help them plan and carry out movements.



Learning Through Play - Drumming with Dad

The DRU Judy Center at Dorothy I. Height Elementary School contracted with Creative Nomads to offer Drumming with Dad for Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. Drumming sessions, initially, were held monthly; but the DRU Judy Center received a grant from The Baltimore Community Foundation, enabling the DRU Judy Center to offer the sessions three times a month.

Dads and male guardians of children at the Judy Center gathered to engage in an hour-long session of “what they thought was having fun with their child.” Little did they know that Drumming with Dad was not only about making music, but also provided far reaching benefits for child and guardian. During the sessions, dads and children learned to play African Drums such as Dunun and Djembe. While the group made sweet



Mr. Baba Changa working with Paris Moore during one of the sessions.

music, the facilitator, Baba Changa, melodically shared information about playing together in harmony, call and response, and tempo. It was also evident during the sessions that children and guardians, were honing in on their listening and following directions skills. What a marvel idea: “Learning Through Play.”

The Judy Center also invited the Center for Urban Families to a session to speak with the male guardians about the importance of a positive male presence in a child’s life. The Center for Urban Families sponsors the Baltimore Responsible Fatherhood Project that supports male involvement in the lives of their children. Services range from parenting tips to job training.

Judy Center children, families, and staff were treated to a special performance by the Drumming with Dad participants during May, 2018. The group played several songs and it was evident to the audience that all the participants thoroughly enjoyed making music together. The DRU Judy Center will offer Drumming with Dad during the 2018 - 2019 school year.



TIME TO HONOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS!

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

May 7, 2019

NATIONAL PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

May 10, 2019

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 6-10, 2019



LOOK FOR THE DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD ON WJZ-13's
MANIC MONDAY SEGMENT ON MAY 6th!

Salisbury Child Care Provider Receives National Recognition

Avonda Ellison, a passionate and dedicated family care provider in Salisbury, MD, received a prestigious honor this past November, and was named one of 17 PBS KIDS Early Learning Champions for doing extraordinary work in her community. As the owner of the Laugh-n-Learn program, Avonda was recognized for making a positive impact in the lives of children, as well as for her proven leadership with other family providers.

valuable relationships with her peers. It is this dedication that led Avonda to establish Providers United, a co-op of five family child care providers who meet monthly to share experiences, brainstorm ideas and support one another.

As part of the inaugural Early Learning Champions, Avonda's cohort will participate in professional learning and national networking opportunities while fostering relationships with their local PBS station. Avonda will collaborate with Maryland Public Television (MPT) over the next two years to support innovative professional development opportunities as well as the developmentally appropriate use of PBS KIDS educational content in early learning settings. Avonda's love of public television stems back to childhood where shows like Mister Rogers and Sesame Street were a major staple in her own early childhood development.

MPT is thrilled to have this opportunity to work with Avonda to enrich and expand early education experiences on Maryland's Eastern Shore. As a long-standing education partner, MPT provides a wide variety of services to support the PreK-12 education community including PBS KIDS programs and activities, professional development opportunities, and community and family engagement events.

Meet MPT's Early Learning Champion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAABio03PBA&feature=youtu.be>

Visit **Thinkport** to access early education activities

<https://www.thinkport.org/early-care-education.html>



Picture caption: Avonda Ellison, (far right) PBS KIDS Early Learning

In the child care profession for 14 years, Avonda is known for her contagious energy and enthusiasm and for cultivating



Criteria for MSDE Recognized Child Care Associations

Child care associations must meet the following criteria to be recognized by MSDE, for any funding requests and for a provider to be awarded a PAU for membership:

- Affiliated with a national child care association/ organization or provide documentation that you are working with a nationally recognized institute of best practice
- Provide services to the child care community, include training and technical assistance to

child care providers

- Have a Board of Directors
- 501 (c) (3) D status
- Provide opportunities for advocacy
- Partnerships with early childhood businesses and/or non-profits that have early childhood education as the focus
- Membership benefits
- Networking opportunities



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

mdaeyc.org | christina.lopez@mdaeyc.org | @mdaeyc1 | Christina Lopez, Co-President, MDAEYC

Professional Membership. Professional Development. Advocacy for the Profession.



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

Why Become a Member?

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

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

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.

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

DID YOU KNOW

Title I funds can be used to meet the requirements for family engagement including Ready At Five's Learning Parties!

Title I, Part A is contained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This legislation reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Title I, Part A is a federal program that provides financial assistance to local school systems and schools with high percentages of poor children to support the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. All twenty-four local education agencies in Maryland receive Title I funds.

These funds provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children who attend Title I schools master challenging curricula and meet state standards. Title I funds support extra instruction in reading and

mathematics, additional teachers, materials of instruction, as well as after-school and summer programs to extend and reinforce the regular school curriculum.

Learning Parties are interactive, hands-on, parent/child parties that promote young children's development of school readiness skills. Based on the belief that parents are their child's first teacher, Learning Parties teach parents how to make everyday moments learning moments through playing, singing, talking, reading, and engaging in fun activities. Originally developed by Children's Resources International and modified by Ready At Five, the Learning Party



curricula support the seven domains of learning: Language & Literacy, Math, Science, Social Foundations, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, Social Studies and Fine Arts, in addition to the Parent Leadership Learning Party which was developed in collaboration with experts at EPIC (Every Person Influences Children). Parent Leadership Learning Party materials were developed with Maryland State Department of Education,

Division of Early Childhood, as part of the Family Engagement Initiative, funded through a grant opportunity with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Look for more Learning Parties Coming Soon!



Please help [Ready At Five](#) improve the practice and quality of early learning in Maryland and join their [list serve](#).

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

Maryland State Child Care Association



2019 Conference By The Sea

May 2-5, 2019

Registration is open

Keynote:
Science Superstar,
Steve Spangler

For updates and details, visit mscca.org

Maryland Head Start Association Conference



2019 Spring Conference

May 7 - 9, 2019

Ocean City, MD

For updates and details, visit md-hsa.org/2019-spring-conference

Maryland Family Engagement Summit



Annual Summit

August 8, 2019

Registration opens
Spring 2019

Maritime Conference Center
Linthicum Heights, MD

For updates and details, visit marylandfamiliesengage.org

Western MD Early Childhood Conference



Annual Conference

September 21, 2019

Registration opens
July 2, 2019

Hagerstown Community College

wmdeconference.com

NO SMALL MATTER

YOU'RE INVITED!!
No Small Matter Screenings

February 27, 2019

6:30-9:30 PM

Prince George's Child Resource Center
& Referral Center
9475 Lottsford Road, Suite 202
Largo, MD 20774

March 6, 2019

9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Prince George's Child Resource Center
& Referral Center
9475 Lottsford Road, Suite 202
Largo, MD 20774

March 2, 2019

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Montgomery County Child Care Resource
& Referral Center
Rooms 1003 & 1004
1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

April 3, 2019

6:00-9:00 PM

Salisbury University
Purdue Hall, Room 156
1102 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

Visit www.mdaeyc.org for more information and to register.

Reserve your spot today! Seats are limited.



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

MDAIEYC is excited to be hosting a special event and film screening of *No Small Matter*, the first feature documentary to explore the most overlooked, underestimated, and powerful force for good in America today: early childhood education.

Through poignant stories and surprising humor, the film lays out the overwhelming evidence for the importance of the first five years, and reveals how our failure to act on that evidence has resulted in an everyday crisis for American families, and a slow-motion catastrophe for the country. View the trailer [here](#) for a sneak peek.

It will be a magical event with opportunities to connect with MDAIEYC members and community partners. It promises to be an exciting evening of entertainment, networking and conversation. Participate in a discussion around the importance of elevating the early childhood profession and expanding access to quality programs for all children. Leave with information and resources to get involved and make an immediate impact in the lives of young children.

Please RSVP at: <https://mdaeyc.org/events/>

-MDAIEYC Board of Directors



The new
Maryland
Families Engage
website is powered by
YOU!

We're looking for resources, events, news
and articles to share with the
family engagement community.

Want to learn more about how to share
information with early care and education
providers, parents and families?

Visit

marylandfamiliesengage.org/submission-guidelines

It's never too early to ENGAGE, CONNECT AND LEARN



Division of Early Childhood
Office of Child Care - J1014
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 2101-2595

IMPACT

A publication from the
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