Happy Fall everyone!

Can you believe that we are only a few months away from saying good-bye to 2017, and hello to 2018?

The Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) has been steadily busy this entire year, with no plans on slowing down for the New Year. MSCCA continues to be active in many councils and committees across the state and county, and this year’s legislative activities have turned into a full-time job!

MSCCA membership continues to grow, and with that growth our voices are becoming stronger, and louder! How else can we stress to our legislators that providers, who can no longer sustain a viable high-quality child care program, are directly impacting the quality, availability, and affordability of child care for Maryland’s families?

By providing your feedback through surveys, joining our many chapters located throughout the counties, and showing your support during events such as “Evening in Annapolis”, you are actually giving us a powerful voice and slowly changing the mindset that learning DOES begin at or before birth, and that early childhood educators play a crucial part in the overall development of children ages zero to five. Children who leave our programs are highly ready for kindergarten, a fact that we are all very proud of.

If you haven’t done so, I encourage you to join the Maryland State Child Care Association as we advocate for children, families and early childhood professionals.

Unity is strength.

Marina Maier
President MSCCA
Executive Director’s Message

Greetings Members!

The theme of our fall Leadership Symposium for 2017 is Champions for Change. As I reflect on change, it would be impossible not to notice the season of change is upon us with leaves changing colors, the weather changing from warm to cool, changing the clocks, changing shoes (we need boots instead of flip flops) and we will, undoubtedly see changes in our profession. The one thing that is constant, is change. Many people, including me, are reluctant to change, but we know in the child care profession, flexibility is key. I recently read an inspiring quote about change:

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

And one more: “Change nothing and nothing changes”

MSCCA strives to stay on top of changes and works to create positive changes we can all champion. The world is changing and the focus of our presentations for the Leadership Symposium is to reflect on ourselves, on issues we encounter as a profession and on challenges children/families face in order to address the need for change to be successful in the future.

So, in keeping with the theme of change, we have made some changes to your membership benefits. MSCCA is increasing our advocacy efforts by adding an upgraded benefit by retaining a new government affairs lobbyists firm, Alexander and Cleaver. They will be representing you, our members, along with MSCCA including myself and our MSCCA Legislative Task Force on issues including the discussion of Universal Pre-K, refundable tax credits for families, child care subsidy increases, illegal child care issues and numerous legislative situations as we continue to increase our efforts in the advocacy and public policy arena. It is important for your issues and voice to be heard. MSCCA works year-round to advocate on behalf of our members. You have a platform to share issues with Governor’s Office and Legislators through your membership benefits. We are all Champions for Children and for the Change we want to see in our field.

MSCCA has been following the important work of the Innovations for Excellence in Education or Kirwan Commission. We have attended hearings, listened to presentations and offered testimony related to early childhood. The Kirwan Commission’s influence could affect change in early childhood. MSCCA is waiting for the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission and hoping our public comments, written testimony and contributions as a stakeholder in early childhood education, will be considered.

MSCCA enjoyed a busy summer of attending a plethora of stakeholder workgroups mandated by legislation to include; the Universal Pre-K Workgroup, the Dispute Resolution Workgroup (Children with Disabilities) and the child care subsidy Alternative Methodology Workgroup. We partnered with leaders to create a letter encouraging the child care professionals in Maryland to complete a brief survey focusing on accurate child care tuition rates in an effort to collect necessary data and to inform policy that could impact change. The letter has been disseminated...
Executive Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

ated to our members and is included in your Symposium folder. The survey we helped develop with MSDE is being distributed to all licensed child care professional/programs. We await the final version of the survey which will be mailed and posted on MSDE website this month.

MSCCA served as a stakeholder on the Workgroup to Study the Implementation of Universal Access to Pre-K for 4 year olds. The stakeholders participating in the legislatively mandated Workgroup were provided the final report after it was that was sent to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. MSDE incorporated some of our comments about the importance of diverse delivery, the governance and funding structure through MSDE, as well as the need to partner with child care programs to ensure capacity for all 4 year olds. The Kirwan Commission has not indicated whether they will consider incorporating the recommendations into their final recommendations due in December of 2017. Our Chapters are sharing the Universal Pre K report and MSCCA will disseminate in next newsletter, as well as post on our website for access to professionals in our field. The goals of the Kirwan Commission are provided in your Leadership Symposium folders. MSCCA may alert our members to contact your legislator when critical issues arise. We need you to champion necessary change by connecting with your legislators on important issues, along with MSCCA.

Coalition building and forming partnerships to impact change has been a strong theme for MSCCA. We have developed, along with our coalition of partners, a foundational Proposal that coincides with our Priorities Agenda, both shared in your Leadership Symposium folders that will be used for messaging, basis for some testimony and for sponsoring legislation in the future. We have the support and partnership of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association, the After School Association, the SEIU local 500, Organization of Child Care Directors, MECP and the Maryland Catholic Conference. We have been working with these partners building a coalition and meeting with legislators to support the proposal on behalf of our members.

MSCCA also works to impact change through serving on Committees and Commissions in Maryland. MSCCA is serving on the TAC (Training Advisory Council) to review all the training regulations related to child care and make recommendations for updates and necessary changes. We are still meeting to complete this process for 2017 in order to make improvements to this system.

In addition, MSCCA also serves on Maryland's Family Engagement Coalition, the State Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Office of Child Care Advisory Council, the Project Act Advisory Council, member of Maryland Non Profits, Maryland Family Network and as a Commissioner on the Governor's Lead Commission. Our very active Board of Directors serve on a variety of commissions and committees as well. Many serve on their local Early Childhood Advisory Councils, the Research Advisory Council, Organization of Child Care Directors of Montgomery County, Child Care Associations of Montgomery County Leadership and many more.

Please take time to read the recent MSDE suspension and expulsion recommendations included in this

(Continued on page 4)
Executive Director’s Message

(Continued from page 3)

newsletter. Children and families face many challenges in today’s world. It is incumbent on all of us as early childhood professionals to review best practice and guidance for children, especially those who are stressed and exhibit challenging behaviors.

MSCCA is always posting new and important changes and info for all to see, share and like either daily or weekly on our Facebook page. This social media communication system is used more frequently than our newsletter and we encourage our members to check us out often on Facebook.

Mark your calendars for May 4-6, 2018 to attend the MSCCA Conference by the Sea 2018 in Ocean City, Maryland! More info is included in this newsletter and in the MSDE Partners newsletter.

Kudos and gratitude to the awesome MSCCA Professional Development Committee for their dedication and hard work in hosting the Leadership Symposium every fall and the Conference by the Sea each spring.

My sincere thanks to the MSCCA Board of Directors for their service, support and leadership. Please know that MSCCA members are represented well by a passionate, intelligent, diverse group of early childhood professionals dedicated to championing positive change in our community.

Most importantly...Many thanks to you for your dedication to children and families in Maryland! You are changing lives every day!

Remember...To the world you may be one person; but to one person (or a group of little people) you may be the world! Dr. Seuss

Christina Peusch
Executive Director MSCCA

MSCCA extends its sincere gratitude to our valued Business Member Lite Brite, LLC. Thank you for the generous donation to our Fall Leadership Symposium of the table gifts of mugs, hot chocolate and the great pens! Thanks for making our day "Brite"!
Across the country, too many families do not have access to high-quality early learning and care that will help their children thrive without breaking the bank. The cost of child care has increased by 25 percent in the past decade, forcing parents to choose between going to work and paying for child care. In fact, in 33 states and the District of Columbia, infant care costs exceed the average cost of in-state college tuition at public 4-year institutions. These costs make it difficult for parents to balance the high cost of child care while securing a well-paying job and providing for their family.

In order to address the current child care crisis in this country, families need a child care and early learning system that provides high-quality, affordable child care and access to quality preschool programs that will prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Payments should be affordable, programs should be high-quality, and the system should work for working families, not the other way around.

The Child Care for Working Families Act would address the current early learning and care crisis by ensuring that no family under 150% of state median income pays more than seven percent of their income on child care. Families would pay their fair share for care on a sliding scale, regardless of the number of children they have. The bill would also support universal access to high-quality preschool programs for all 3- and 4-year olds. Finally, the bill would significantly improve compensation and training for the child care workforce to ensure that our nation’s teachers and caregivers have the support they need, as well as the children they are caring for, to thrive. Additionally, the bill would:

- Establish a new federal-state partnership to provide high-quality, affordable child care from birth through age 13.
- More than double the number of children eligible for child care assistance, and ensure all those who are eligible have the ability to enroll their child in a quality program.
- Provide incentives and funding for states to create high-quality preschool programs for low- and moderate-income 3- and 4-year olds during the school day, while providing a higher matching rate for programs for infants and toddlers, who are often harder and more expensive to care for.
- Increase workforce training and compensation, including by ensuring that all child care workers

(Continued on page 6)
Legislative Updates

(Continued from page 5)

are paid a living wage and early childhood educators are provided parity with elementary school teachers with similar credentials and experience.

• Improve care in a variety of settings, including addressing the needs of family, friend, and neighbor care and care during non-traditional hours to help meet the needs of working families.

• Build more inclusive, high-quality child care providers for children with disabilities, and infants and toddlers with disabilities, including by increasing funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

• Help all Head Start programs meet the new expanded duration requirements and provide full-day, full-year programming.


S. 208 - The Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone (PACE) Act

On January 24, 2017, Senators Angus King (I-ME) and Richard Burr (R-NC) re-introduced S. 208, the “Promoting Affordable Childcare for Everyone Act” (the PACE Act). This legislation would update the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) to reflect the realities of modern-day child care costs. On August 2, 2017, Representatives Kevin Yoder (R-KS) and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) introduced an identical, bi-partisan bill in the House.

Access to high-quality child care and early education not only promotes a child’s development, but it also helps support parents who are

(Continued on page 7)
struggling to balance work and family. Yet today, the average annual cost for a 4-year old in center-based care was higher than a year’s tuition and fees at a 4-year public college in many states.

**The PACE Act would modernize the CDCTC by:**
Making the tax credit refundable;
Increasing the credit rate for all families, and;
Indexing the credit to inflation.

**The PACE Act would strengthen FSAs for working families by:**
Increasing the allowable amount of pre-tax dollars that can be saved to the account (from $5,000 to $7,500); Indexing the increased cap to inflation.

According to an independent study, if this bill was enacted into law, a middle-class family of four making $55,000 a year could receive an additional $900 in CDCTC benefits to help offset the cost of child care. Moreover, a working-class family of four making $15,000 a year could receive as much as $3,000 in CDCTC tax refunds and credits. Additionally, this would also benefit low-income families that currently do not have a federal tax liability.

Child care is one of the most significant expenses in a family budget. By tapping into the tax system, this bill would help off-set the rising cost of child care for families struggling to make ends meet. This is key because currently less than 10 percent of refundable tax credits go to low-income, working families.

**Current Co-Sponsors**
Senate: Sen. Angus King (I-ME), Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV),
Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)

**Staff Contacts**
Senator King (I-ME): Lauren Pfingstag, Legislative Assistant, (202) 224-5344,
lauren_pfingstag@king.senate.gov
Senator Burr (R-NC): Rachel Soclof, Health Policy Assistant, (202) 224-3154,
rachel_soclof@burr.senate.gov
Congressman Yoder (R-KS): Taylor Huhn, Legislative Assistant, (202) 225-2865, taylor.huhn@mail.house.gov
Congresswoman Murphy (D-FL): Dao Nguyen, Senior Policy Advisor, (202) 225-4035, dao.nguyen@mail.house.gov
Congratulations!!! The Jennifer Nizer “Passion for Excellence Grant 2017”

Congratulations To The Winners of this Year’s Jennifer Nizer Award!

A World of Friends
Woodbrook Early Learning
Wee Care Best
The Goddard School-Owings Mills
All About Children Learning Center
Grannie Annies
Children’s Christian Center

The application for the 2018 awards can be found on our website:
The completed application must be postmarked or emailed by March 15, 2018

Thank You to the Professional Development Committee

Co-Chairs: Marcia Tivoli & Lavonne Taylor

Committee Members:
Deb Kamplain, Cindy Nissley, Bonnie Hendershot, Lisa Ann Dickinson, Barry Benesch,
Jennifer Dorsey, Catherine Neville, Audrey Paps-Garnon, Lisa Henkel, Chuck Wainwright
Marina Maier, and Christina Peusch

Headquarters Office:
Christina Peusch
Executive Director
2810 Carrollton Rd.
Annapolis, Md. 21403
Phone: 410-820-9196
Email: mscca1@comcast.net
# Board Members and Chapters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Marina Maier</td>
<td>Play Centers, Inc.</td>
<td>410-296-4880</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MMaier@playcenters.org">MMaier@playcenters.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jennifer Dorsey</td>
<td>A World of Friend Learning Center</td>
<td>443-835-0738</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdorsey@friendlc.org">jdorsey@friendlc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emeritus</td>
<td>Chuck Wainwright</td>
<td>Children’s Enrichment Enterprises, Inc. (Retired)</td>
<td>240-420-5789</td>
<td><a href="mailto:childrensenrichment@msn.com">childrensenrichment@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Shaun Rose</td>
<td>Rock Spring Children’s Center</td>
<td>301-530-4526</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shaun@rockspringcc.com">shaun@rockspringcc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Deb Kamplain</td>
<td>Quala Care Child Care Center., Inc</td>
<td>410-859-3200</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cal4everfan@hotmail.com">cal4everfan@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Vice President</td>
<td>Lisa Henkel</td>
<td>Celebree Learning Centers</td>
<td>410-515-8750 Ext. 119</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhenkel@celebree.com">lhenkel@celebree.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Jennifer Nizer</td>
<td>Creative World Quality Support Coach</td>
<td>813-753-3007</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennifern@creativeworldschool.com">jennifern@creativeworldschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Members-at-Large

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audrey Pabs-Garnon</td>
<td>Hopes and Dreams I/T Center</td>
<td>301-699-7886</td>
<td><a href="mailto:verapg@comcast.net">verapg@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Gentry</td>
<td>Cedarcroft School</td>
<td>410-435-0905</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cedarcroftschoolbalt@gmail.edu">cedarcroftschoolbalt@gmail.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Neville</td>
<td>St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth &amp; Families</td>
<td>301-559-5500</td>
<td><a href="mailto:catherineeneville@gmail.com">catherineeneville@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christy Lewis</td>
<td>The Learning Center</td>
<td>301-790-9450</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Christy.lewis@meritushealth.com">Christy.lewis@meritushealth.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Hendershot</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins Bayview CDC</td>
<td>410-550-1919</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhender2@jhmi.ed">bhender2@jhmi.ed</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavonne Taylor</td>
<td>Forest Hill Nature Preschool</td>
<td>410-638-2761</td>
<td><a href="mailto:misslavaonne@fhnaturepreschool.com">misslavaonne@fhnaturepreschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chapter and Chapter Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>President Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel County</td>
<td>Ruthie Claytor</td>
<td>Grannie Annie’s Child Care</td>
<td>410-255-0478</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gachildcare@gmail.com">gachildcare@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harford/Cecil Counties</td>
<td>Lavonne Taylor</td>
<td>Forest Hill Nature Preschool</td>
<td>410-638-2761</td>
<td><a href="mailto:misslavaonne@fhnaturepreschool.com">misslavaonne@fhnaturepreschool.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Marcia Tivoli</td>
<td>Potomac Valley Academy Daycare &amp; Preschool</td>
<td>301-253-1022</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.tivoli@pvachurch.com">m.tivoli@pvachurch.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore City/Baltimore County</td>
<td>Jennifer Dorsey</td>
<td>A World of Friends</td>
<td>443-835-0738</td>
<td>jдорожey@<a href="mailto:pcnj@yahoo.com">pcnj@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard County</td>
<td>Randi Albertson</td>
<td>Innovations in Education</td>
<td>410-370-2837</td>
<td><a href="mailto:innovationsineducation@verizon.net">innovationsineducation@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll/Frederick Counties</td>
<td>Christine Peusch</td>
<td>Hopes and Dreams I/T Center</td>
<td>301-699-7886</td>
<td><a href="mailto:verapg@comcast.net">verapg@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Georges County</td>
<td>Barbara Dubik</td>
<td>St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth &amp; Families</td>
<td>301-559-5500</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbara.dubik@stanns.org">barbara.dubik@stanns.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>Terry Kitchen</td>
<td>Hagerstown Community College Child Learning Center</td>
<td>240-500-2322</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tjkitchen@hagerstowncc.edu">tjkitchen@hagerstowncc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Representative</td>
<td>Barry Benesch</td>
<td>K. Neal International Trucks, Inc.</td>
<td>443-878-3988</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbene-sch@knealinternational.com">bbene-sch@knealinternational.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Are you wondering how to get to the next level in Maryland Excels? The Baltimore City Chapter of MSCCA can help you reach the next level. We have been working with Jena Smith, Quality Assurance Supervisor, to develop mini-workshops that we can offer to our members to organize and prepare them to reach the next level in Excels. Many of the Baltimore City providers and families rely heavily on the financial support provided through vouchers payments. We would like to see all of our providers take advantage of the tiered reimbursement rates in levels 3, 4 & 5. Let us know how we can help you reach your goal.

We would like to invite Baltimore City Providers to participate in a Parent Group night at A World of Friends School @ 4701 Hazelwood Ave. beginning at 6pm. The guest speaker is Lana Wise the owner of Charm City Therapy. She will be talking to parents and providers about speech & language and Occupational Therapy services. She will be explaining the developmental milestones for children 2-5 years old. She will be giving tips and strategies for children to practice at home and in school to strengthen both their speech and their fine motor skills. Becker’s School Supplies will be providing dinner for the participants. Registration is required for attendance to this event. The event is free. We are hoping that many more Baltimore City Providers will be willing to provide these services for the families. Come and listen to the information to see if the services would benefit the families in your program.

Please contact Jennifer Dorsey @ 443-835-0738, jdorseycpncj@yahoo.com for membership as well as information about our collaboration with Maryland Excels. We will resume bi-monthly meetings for our members in the month of November.

In 2018 we will be forming a new chapter for this region. Details will be released at a later date. If you’d like more information, then please contact Chris Peusch at:
Phone: 410-820-9196
Email: mscca1@comcast.net
News From the Montgomery County Chapter

The Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland State Child Care Association (MoCoMSCCCA) is an advocacy group for child care center providers located in Montgomery County, Maryland. Our Chapter vigorously advocates for the interests of child care providers so that their programs are successful and can better serve the families and children of Montgomery County. We work in close partnership with the Organization of Child Care Directors of Montgomery County (OCCD), our County’s association for directors of child care center based programs. We formed our Chapter to enhance the advocacy efforts of OCCD, complement the excellent training and networking opportunities they provide, and build a stronger connection to providers and issues across Maryland.

We have regular meetings from 8:15-9am, before the OCCD meetings, generally held from September to April on the 4th Thursday of each month, at the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center at 1401 Rockville Pike, in the Early Childhood Training Center on the Lobby Level, conference rooms 1002-1006. Our regular meetings are open meetings and all providers are welcome! We hope OCCD members who can arrive early will come to our meetings and hear about the latest topics in child care and our advocacy efforts. We also hope that MSCCA members who are not OCCD members will stay for the beginning of the OCCD meeting for the networking portion and that all providers will support and join both OCCD and MSCCA.

2017-18 meeting schedule: Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 16 (3rd Thurs due to Thanksgiving), Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 22, April 26

Shaun M. Rose
President

News From Prince George’s County Chapter

Currently forming new chapter leadership. Please contact Barbara Dubik for more information at:
Phone: 301.559.5500
Email: info@stanns.org
HoCo MSCCA meeting summary 9/20/2017

Lisa Davis presented, sharing information about new county initiatives and support. She introduced the new Launch Into Learning website which is a resource for parents, childcare providers and other community stakeholders with links to a wide range of supports, organizations and resources for the early childhood community. Lisa also shared that County Executive Alan Kittleman approved funding for county-wide access to Ready Rosie.

ReadyRosie is an early education tool that helps families, schools and communities across the nation deepen and scale their family engagement efforts. Our tools leverage the power of video modeling, family workshops, professional development opportunities, and mobile technology to build powerful partnerships between families and educators resulting in Ready Families, Ready Educators, Ready Children.

Soccer Shots gave a brief presentation on their program and how they support early childhood education.

During the business portion of the meeting, Randi shared updates regarding MSCCA’s work over the summer, including creating a workgroup to discuss and provide input to the state regarding Universal PreK. Randi also shared MSCCA’s “Priorities Agenda.” These items were discussed and received broad support from chapter members.

MSCCA’s Leadership Symposium is October 12, 2017 at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville.

Below are the 2017-2018 meeting dates for the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland State Child Care Association (HCMSCCA). All meetings will be on Wednesday afternoon from 1 – 3 pm. If you have suggestions for topics you would like to see included in our meetings, please send them to us.

**Meeting Dates 2017**

- Oct. 18, 2017
- Nov. 15, 2017
- Dec. 13, 2017

**Meeting Dates 2018**

- Jan. 17, 2018
- Feb. 21, 2018
- March 21, 2018
- April 18, 2018
- May 16, 2018
- June 20, 2018

If you ordered a Guide to Pedagogy and did not pick it up at our June meeting, Joan has them in her office. Give her a call (410-313-1432) to arrange payment and pick-up details.

Submitted by: Joan Johnson and Randi Albertson
**News From The Harford/Cecil County Chapter**

Harford county's local chapter of MSCCA has been busy this year. We have worked hard to put together a comprehensive directory of programs and to reach out to our community to invite them to be involved in our wonderful organization. We've added some new members and are excited about the commitment our centers have demonstrated toward community involvement.

Our directors participated in training to address helping our children cope in a crisis and to review leadership skills and problem solve for challenges we face as directors. In May we will be sharing strategies for creating successful transitions for our outgoing students starting Kindergarten in the fall and plan our agenda for next year's meetings.

Submitted by Lavonne Taylor

---

**News From The Washington County Chapter**

Our meetings this year have included the following topics, in addition to sharing information from The Washington County Chapter of MSCCA meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:00 – 2:30 at APPLES for Children, 1825 Howell Rd., Suite 3, in Hagerstown. Meetings are held in September through May (no meeting in Dec.). For information contact Terry Kitchen, at tjkitchen@hagerstowncc.edu or call 240-500-2322.

Submitted by Terry Kitchen

Director—HCC Children’s Learning Center
Champions for Children is the Anne Arundel County Chapter of MSCCA. We meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 in the evening. Our meeting locations rotate through our members centers. Dues are $30 per individual and $60 per center. We use the dues collected to offset training costs and to support the MSCCA Passion for Excellence Grant program.

We will also be coming together with a multi-center Move-A-Thon in February 2018 to raise funds for the Children’s Miracle Network.

Please contact Ruthi Claytor at Grannie Annie's 410-255-0478 gachildcare@gmail.com for meeting locations and more information. If you need something else, please let me know.

Submitted by Ruthi Claytor

Top 5 Reasons To Join the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA)

Did You Know many of MSCCA Member benefits are directly related to MD EXCELS? – Reap the Benefits!

1. MSCCA membership is a comprehensive center membership, not an individual membership! All staff members employed at the center will be considered MSCCA members when your center joins.

2. Many of MSCCA Member Benefits are directly related to MD EXCELS! Pay one affordable center membership fee and gain Professional Activity Units (PAU) for your full staff! Members of a state association receive a PAU for becoming a member of a professional organization. (ALSO... accumulate additional PAU’s for attending our statewide conferences, facilitating classes at our conference and contributing to our semi-annual newsletters.)

3. MSCCA members have a dedicated, registered state lobbyist along with an active MSCCA Board of Directors who monitor Senate and House bills each legislative session related to your professional interests and submit testimony on behalf of our members to advocate strongly for children, teachers and families.

4. Continuous, cutting edge communication emailed to members about relevant child care issues and topics.

5. Discounts for membership, quality training, business products from MSCCA Business Members
Look Who's Turning 50!

1967 - 2017

Baana Nursery & Preparatory School!!!
1967 - 2017

When? 11/28/17 - 12/6/17
Where? Freetown, Sierra Leone

- $1,500 per person covers 7 nights & 8 days lodging at Seaside Hotel [www.seasidehotelsl.com](http://www.seasidehotelsl.com)
- Complimentary wi-fi, 2 meals a day, all in-country transportation
- Visits to select attractions as per itinerary & excursion fees
- **Does not include round trip airfare**

> Join us on this exciting trip to continue Leyinde's legacy
A non-refundable fee of $150.00 secures your space
Final payment must be received no later than 11/01/17
For more information & detailed itinerary contact us at [connect@baananurseryandpreparatory.school](mailto:connect@baananurseryandpreparatory.school)
Baana’s Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Ever thought about visiting Sierra Leone? This might be the perfect opportunity to do so while also contributing to Leyinde’s legacy.

Leyinde Rosa Baana Pabs-Garnon started a child care center in the living room of her home at 20 Campbell Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, on December 1, 1967. Over the years the center expanded to a pre-school and now also has an elementary school section. Before her death on December 14, 2016, Leyinde identified 10 schools to start “Mama en Pikin Library” and plans were underway to celebrate Baana’s 50th Anniversary on December 1, 2017. In honoring her legacy, her children are organizing a celebration in Freetown as follows:

**Tuesday November 28, 2017**
- Depart

**Wednesday November 29, 2017**
- Arrive at Lungi Airport, Freetown
- Travel to Seaside Hotel [www.seasidehotelsl.com](http://www.seasidehotelsl.com)
- Meet and Greet
- Orientation

**Thursday November 30, 2017**
- Symposium
- Launching of OMEP Sierra Leone [www.worldomep.org](http://www.worldomep.org)
- Candlelight Vigil

**Friday December 1, 2017**
- Flag raising & Founder’s Day Ceremony @ Baana Nursery & Preparatory School
- Traditional Awujoh
- 50th Birthday Party

**Saturday December 2, 2017**
- Children’s Play Day

**Sunday December 3, 2017**
- 50th Annual Thanksgiving Service

**Monday December 4, 2017**
- Day trip to Sierra Leone’s first rural early childhood center and permaculture farm [Sierra Leone Foundation for New Democracy (SLFND)]

**Tuesday December 5, 2017**
- Tour of Banana Island [www.bananaislandsierraleone.com](http://www.bananaislandsierraleone.com)

**Wednesday December 6, 2017**
- Peninsular Tour & visit to No.2 River & Lumley beach
- Depart Freetown

Trip extension can be arranged upon request
Woodbrook Early Education Center is a dually accredited program, by both NAEYC and MSDE. We are also Excels level 5. In September of 2017, the WEE Center will celebrate its 29th year of serving the Towson Area. We have a wonderful staff of caring, innovative teachers who meet the needs of our children both as a group, as well as individually. We have children ages 2-preK.

Our children have a delightful time on all the equipment that we have received from the Maryland State Child Care Association Jennifer Nizer Grant! These are the items we received last year. All of the items that we received are well loved and enjoyed by children and even a teacher!

Submitted by:
Dawn Baker, Director
Woodbrook Early Education Center

Important Save The Dates
On The Last Pages of the Newsletter
Let’s Pay It Forward!

We at The Goddard School of Owings Mills were so very excited to have received the Jennifer Nizer Passion for Excellence Grant. The grant enabled us to begin the 2017-2018 school year with a new and exciting assessment tool, Teaching Strategies GOLD! This tool is allowing the teachers to use the assessment piece to help focus their planning and individualize the lesson plans to meet the needs of each child in their classrooms. Thank you, MSCCA, for choosing our school!

The Goddard School of Owings Mills wanted to “pay it forward.” It is important the we teach the students to be good citizens. We began to look for ways in which we could contribute in our community…and then, many of our fellow United States citizens had to deal with total loss and complete destruction. The devastation of the hurricane season this year has been heartbreaking. How could we help?

Felicia Minnix, Assistant Director, at The Goddard School of Owings Mills found an organization called Adopt A Classroom that is helping our friends in Texas who were affected by hurricane Harvey.

Through this organization, Ms. Minnix located Vines Early Childhood Center who sadly lost all of their school supplies during the storm. As we all witnessed from the news reports – the impact was not just in their school but in most of the children’s homes as well. The Goddard School of Owings Mills together with the families generously donated school supplies collectively worth over $2,000.00.

At no cost, Southwest Airlines is shipping all donations collected by The Goddard School to Vines Early Childhood Center in Texas. We are so very grateful for the support from our faculty, families, and Southwest Airlines for making this possible.

We are also donating a basket for the silent auction with Hopkins. The basket contains sports team tickets and memorabilia.

Lisa Ann Dickinson,
The Goddard School of Owings Mills, Education Director
Stop Blaming Providers

Written by: Shaun Rose

I had an email discussion recently with some colleagues about a new study that showed that child care providers "aim for the middle of the road in hiring." I had a fairly strong reaction to what I read, so I thought I would share:

First, it concerns me when researchers do a correlative study and then try to draw conclusions about causality. There is a mantra in statistics that it is a logical fallacy to think that "correlation proves causation." There are so many people quoting the "research" and either misconstruing what the research actually says or extrapolating conclusions that are simply conjecture, then quoting that conjecture as "this is what the research says." (For example, using the Heckman "return on investment" research on birth to 5 child care and saying that investing in just 4 year old pre-k would yield the same benefits & rates of return.)

I do agree with one piece of conjecture from this study: that "child-care providers are telling us, 'considering how much extra I have to pay for the BA-level teacher, I don't see a justifiable increase in quality.'"

Another piece of conjecture concerns me greatly: "The push for high-quality care may circle around once again to parents, Boyd-Swan and Herbst conclude. If parents are educated about the importance of high-quality care, they might be willing to pay more for it." The assumption they are making is that higher education levels = higher quality. The National Academies of Science report, "Transforming Our Work Force," that most cite for this proposition, acknowledged that "existing research on the relationship between the education level of educators and the quality of instruction or children's learning and development is inconclusive." (P.434) The NAS report then concluded that we should require degrees because it may elevate the profession. Maybe both parents and providers actually know more than we give them credit for (such as consistency of care greatly outweighs the benefits of formal education - better to have a highly engaged teacher with hundreds of hours of training and years of experience who will stay in the program for 5, 10 or 20 years than one with a degree who leaves after one or two, often right at the start or in the middle of a school year.) So, why increase costs when many families already can't afford care for something with a dubious impact?

I had some communication with one of the researchers from the "Middle of the Road" article a few months ago. He was implying that child care prices are so high because providers are not transparent

(Continued on page 21)
Stop Blaming Providers

(Continued from page 20)

enough about what they charge and why. This argument, along with this study, seem to me to be part of a trend where we "blame our child care crisis on child care providers" -- blame the people who have spent decades of their lives toiling in the most underpaid and underappreciated profession because of their devotion to children and families.

I think that this trend of blaming providers leads to wiping us away and expanding public schools to take over. It delegitimizes us by saying:

• that providers'/teachers' low levels of formal education means they can't possibly be high quality;
• that providers cause child care to be expensive because of poor business skills, shady accounting, and price gouging; and
• that providers don't understand the value of formal education and can't be trusted to identify quality child care teachers.

This leads to the conclusion that the obvious fix is to wipe away our current system of providers, give any funding increases to public schools, have public k-12 take over 3 and 4 year olds, so that a more "educated" group of people who can get it all straightened out.

I keep hearing that current providers will be a part of all of this because we are pursuing a "mixed delivery system" where private providers will be used to provide universal pre-k. But now we are seeing what that means -- fall in line with what the more educated people who aren't child care providers are telling us to do and allow ourselves to be "used" because the public schools don't have the capacity (but when they do, they won't need us anymore).

This makes it all the more important that child care providers are strong and united on advocacy issues. The "degree issue" is a divisive one that threatens to separate us and make our advocacy efforts less effective. We need to unify around those issues which engender consensus so that we can be move forward together. We need to be engaging in a relentless process of educating decision-makers about how effective our efforts have been, how we have been on a path towards higher and higher levels of quality each and every year for decades, and that we could do even more with the proper resources. Decision-makers need to understand that quality child care is expensive (and given its importance, this is a good thing), that most families now have two working parents, that parents need more financial support to be able to afford quality care, and that this financial support pays for itself many times over because of increased productivity for the parents and higher levels of brain development leading to higher performance and productivity for the children.

Psychology is at play here. Child Care Providers have been beaten down for so long that they are hesitant to display the confidence to say "we know what we are doing, we do it well, we need you to

(Continued on page 22)
Stop Blaming Providers

(Continued from page 21)

significantly increase financial supports for child care because it will greatly improve our children, our families, our country and our world.” Providers are too quick to please others, to back down when criticized, and to take the blame. I’m not arguing that more formal education for child care teachers can’t be a long term goal, but we need to push back on the "blame the provider" narrative, fight for change in attitudes towards child care and early ed, and get our leaders to support our parents ability to fund child care for children of all ages.

There are some who see how important our current system is and that we need to support child care providers. We need to win over more of our leaders so we can tip the balance and don’t end up, decades from now, dealing with the repercussions of a failed "universal" pre-k program that wiped away child care providers and never took into account the importance of our whole continuum of child care including our infants, toddlers and two year olds.

Shaun Rose
Montgomery Co. Chapter
Maryland Proclaims October 12th, 2017 as Children’s Environmental Health Day

For Immediate Release: October 5, 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, October 4th, 2017, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford officially announced Governor Hogan’s Proclamation of October 12, 2017 as Children’s Environmental Health (CEH) Day. This was in collaboration with the Children’s Environmental Health Network (CEHN), and was announced at the State House in Annapolis. The event also served as a meeting with the CEHN Executive Director and other environmental health leaders in Maryland to discuss issues specific to children’s environmental health and child-protective policies in the state. With this Proclamation, Maryland became one of three states in the U.S. to officially recognize CEH Day, leading by example for the rest of the country.

"Every child in Maryland deserves to grow up in a safe and healthy environment and the Children's Environmental Health Network aims to make this a reality," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "Today we recognize Children’s Environmental Health Day in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of protecting future generations from environmental hazards in our rapidly-changing world."

CEHN established CEH Day to raise awareness about the importance of clean air and water, safe food and consumer products, and healthy environments to children’s health and development. It was celebrated for the first time on October 13th, 2016, and is to be observed on the second Thursday of every October. CEH Day is meant to be not only a day of awareness, but also a day of action. CEHN Executive Director Nsedu Witherspoon states, "CEHN launched the observance of Children's Environmental Health Day as a time to put children in the center of all we do. We encourage everyone to take a stand and participate in an action within your community that will benefit and nurture the growth and healthy development of all children. Whether as an individual, or as a team member of an organization or company, there is a role for all of us."

Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, the Executive Director of the Maryland Environmental Health Network, stated, “The Maryland Environmental Health Network applauds this action by the state executive in sup-

(Continued on page 24)
port of Children’s Health. As the most vulnerable members of society, children face lifetime threats to their health and well-being when the air, water, and conditions of living are suboptimal. We look forward to continued state action on the frontlines of health to make this good deed, a good work."

Overall, the Governor’s proclamation of CEH Day is a show of his support for the right of all children to protection from exposure to environmental hazards. The Proclamation also helps to raise awareness of the issues among parents, health care professionals, educators, and others charged with safeguarding a child’s welfare, and generates the momentum necessary to spark political change. Preventive commitments made at the state and local levels often have the greatest impact on children in our communities and serve to drive progress that can lead to change at the federal level. It is with hope that by Maryland’s example, other states will follow suit and inspire progress to protect our most vulnerable and precious citizens: our children.

About the Children’s Environmental Health Network

CEHN is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment. As the nation’s leading organization dedicated to children’s environmental health, CEHN: stimulates preventive research; promotes sound policy; provides education and training to various audiences; and elevates public awareness of environmental hazards to children. For more information, visit www.cehn.org.

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon
(nobot@cehn.org)
202-543-4033 x14
Guidance for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion in Early Care and Education Programs

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance in preventing suspension and expulsion practices in all child care settings and to support families and child care programs.

Introduction

The beginning years of a child’s life are critical for building the early foundations of learning, health and wellness that are needed for success in school and in life. Children must have their basic needs met, feel safe, and feel valued in order to develop and learn. Children’s early years set the course for the relationships and successes they will experience for the rest of their lives, making it crucial that their earliest experiences truly foster – and never harm – their development. As such, suspension and expulsion practices, two stressful and negative experiences children and their families may encounter in child care and education settings should ultimately be eliminated.

During the 2017 Maryland Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill to ban suspension of young learners, Senate Bill 651/ House Bill 425 (Bill). This Bill bans the suspension and expulsion of pre-kindergarten through second grade students, except where the student would create an imminent risk of serious harm as determined by an administrator in consultation with a mental health professional. Instead of suspension or expulsion the Bill recommends providing: (1) positive behavior interventions and supports; (2) a behavior intervention plan; (3) a referral to a student support team; (4) a referral to an individualized education program; and (5) a referral for appropriate community-based services. The Bill also required that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) adopt regulations by May 1, 2018, to implement the bill’s provisions.

During the same time period the Maryland State Department of Education (Division of Early Childhood Development and Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services), along with educators, child care professionals, advocates and community members throughout the state drafted a similar policy to prevent suspension and expulsion in all early care and education programs. MSDE and their
Guidance for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion

(Continued from page 25)

partners are firmly committed to creating quality child care and education systems where: 1) teaching and learning take place in safe, supportive, and respectful environments, 2) children have the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential, and 3) children, families and staff are valued and engaged.


These Principles include the following:

- Create positive climates and focus on prevention;
- Develop clear, appropriate, and consistent expectations to address challenging child behaviors; and
- Ensure fairness, equity, and continuous improvement.

Approaches based on these principles result in positive supportive environments where children can succeed. In contrast, the use of suspension or expulsion as disciplinary actions has a number of adverse outcomes for the individual child as well as for the learning environment.

Defining Suspension and Expulsion

Suspension is a limitation in services, and may include any one or a combination of the following:

- Reduction in the amount of time a child may attend (hours or days);
- Requirement that the child not attend for a particular period of time;
- Restriction on the child’s attendance in the program unless accompanied by a parent, family member or other adult identified by the family;
- Requirement that the child attend the program in a location other than their typical group or setting; or
- Any other conditions placed on the child’s ability to attend and participate in activities with their peers.

Expulsion is the termination of a child’s enrollment from the program as a disciplinary practice.

Families

Engaging families is a key part of high-quality early care and education. Families are their child’s first teachers and primary supporters of the healthy social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development

(Continued on page 27)
Guidance for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion

(Continued from page 26)


Parents/guardians should:

- Contribute to a positive, supportive, safe, and welcoming environment that is conducive to teaching and learning by being respectful and courteous to other children, families, and all education staff;
- Talk with their child about appropriate conduct at their child care and education program;
- Read and be familiar with the policies and practices of their child care and education program;
- Maintain on-going contact with staff and make every effort to ensure that their child attends regularly;
- Access services or support, if needed, including but not limited to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program, Preschool Special Education, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, or other services provided in the community;
- Share any concerns or complaints with program administration in a timely manner

Child Care and Education Programs


- Develop and clearly communicate prevention and discipline practices which focus on preventing behavioral challenges by supporting children in learning appropriate social skills and emotional responses;
- Adopt practices which promote forming positive relationships with children and their families;
- Base expectations for children on each child’s developmental level and establish simple rules;
- Create an environment which encourages positive behavior, provides a predictable daily routine and uses encouragement and descriptive praises with all children.

The *Maryland Guidelines for State Code of Discipline* provides additional examples of how programs can support children and families, and create successful environments.

Programs should:

- Create and promote a positive, safe and welcoming program environment that is conducive to teaching and learning;
- Be respect and courteous to children, parents/guardians and all other program staff;
- Be knowledgeable, about discipline policies, regulations, and rules, and inform the community about such policies as well as resources available to support students;

(Continued on page 28)
Guidance for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion

(Continued from page 27)

- Strive to recognize and eliminate disproportionality in discipline, and administer discipline rules fairly, consistently, and equitably, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity;
- Make every reasonable effort to communicate with and respond to parents/guardians in a timely manner and in a way that is accessible and easily understood;
- Build a feeling of community, parents feel they are part of the child care community as they are kept aware of events and other important program information;
- Work to develop relationships, when programs share information and strategies, everyone feels connected to the learning community.

In situations where more support is needed to promote social emotional learning and prevent challenging behavior, programs should:
- Provide opportunities to meet with families to discuss strategies and an action plan;
- Offer families resources for referrals of children for evaluation by trained professionals;
- Pursue options for supportive services to the program, including available consultation services, educator services and educator training;
- Develop a plan for behavioral intervention in the program based on evaluation and consultation and in collaboration with behavioral interventions at home;
- Assess the health of the child and the adequacy of the curriculum in meeting the developmental and educational needs of the child;
- Determine, in conjunction with family and specialized service providers, if there is a setting better suited to meet the child’s needs and working to transition the child to the new program with no lapse in care.

Childcare Work Force

High-quality child care and education settings provide the positive experiences that nurture learning and development. One critical factor to achieve this is a competent workforce that is trained, supported, and prepared to help all children excel. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ and the U. S. Department of Education’s, Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings, https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/131-policy-statement-on-expulsion-and-suspension-policies-in-early-childhood-settings, recommends programs should strive to build their workforce’s capacity in:

- Promoting children’s social-emotional and behavioral health and appropriately addressing challenging behavior;
- Forming strong, supportive, nurturing relationships with children;
- Conducting ongoing developmental monitoring, universal developmental and behavioral screenings at recommended ages, and follow-up, as needed;
- Collaborating with community-based service providers, including the child’s medical home provider, and connecting children, families, and staff to additional services and supports as needed;

(Continued on page 29)
Guidance for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion

(Continued from page 28)

- Forming strong relationships with parents and families with many opportunities to meet and communicate;
- Understanding family engagement strategies and how implementation of these practices work to reduce disciplinary actions;
- Having a strong understanding of culture and diversity;
- Employing self-reflective strategies and cultural awareness training to prevent and correct all implicit and explicit biases, including racial/national origin/ethnic, sex, or disability biases; and
- Eliminating all discriminatory discipline practices.

A well-trained workforce helps a program create effective systems of prevention and intervention, individualize services for children and families, while working to build strong partnerships with families. Teachers, child care staff and administrators should be knowledgeable about resources and services for children and their families. On-site program supports for children and their families will increase the likelihood of success for children.

More resources available on the MSCCA website.
Welcome To Our Newest MSCCA Business Members

Discount School Supply
Francine Towbridge
ftowbridge@discountschoolsupply.com
2 Lower Ragsdale,
Monterey, CA 93940
(240) 252-983


ZENenergetic Kids
Tara Gellar 410.960.3291

We provide educational yoga lessons to groups of children in a safe, comforting environment.

MSCCA Business Members

Becker’s School Supplies
Brigitte Shellenberger
Maryland Sales Representative
1500 Melrose Highway
Pennsauken, NJ 08110
Phone: 800-523-1490
ShopBecker.com

Becker’s School Supplies is a full-service supplier of infant, toddler, early childhood, and elementary school educational materials, furnishings, equipment, outdoor play equipment, teacher resources, arts-n-crafts and much more. For 88 years, Becker’s has provided public and private institutions, schools, and other educational facilities with high quality, developmentally-appropriate products as well as personalized services. Becker’s is known for our experience and knowledgeable sales staff and excellent customer service. Our full product lines are available through a multi-channel distribution – printed catalogs, e-commerce, and our retail store in Watchung, NJ. We offer full-service turn-key setups for new schools, centers, and classrooms. In addition, Becker’s offers professional development at workshops and conferences regionally and nationally. In the Maryland area, our customers benefit from local Sales Representative Brigitte Shellenberger, who is always happy to lend her expertise and show them how Becker’s can make teachers’ lives easier and their students’ educational experience more vibrant and rewarding.

Brookes Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 10624
Baltimore, MD 21285-0624
Kimberly Allen, Southeastern Regional Sales Consultant
kallen@brookespublishing.com,
800-638-3775 ext. 135

(Continued on page 31)
The new statewide developmental screening initiative is great news for Maryland’s kids. Screening with a valid, reliable tool like ASQ-3™ helps you check that children’s development is on track, identify strengths and needs, and plan activities that help kids reach key milestones. The information on this page will give you a great introduction to ASQ-3—and help you make your important decision about which screener to choose!

Famous & Spang Associates
200 W. Bel Air Ave.
Aberdeen, MD 21001
http://famousspanginsurance.com

Established in 1909, Famous & Spang Associates is dedicated to providing outstanding coverage for our clients in Harford, Baltimore, Cecil and surrounding counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia. We are a full service agency offering high quality, personal and business lines of coverage including home, auto, commercial, farm, health and life insurance as well as bonding. Our agents are dedicated to working one-on-one with clients to ensure that they receive the appropriate coverage for their needs.

As a family-owned and operated business, we live and work within the community, allowing us to better understand the evolving needs of our clients. Our agents are extremely knowledgeable and always willing to answer any questions, providing that personal “touch” when you need it most.

If you are looking for a well established, professional, and supportive insurance agency, we are here to help you. Call us today to make an appointment!

Howard County Office of Children’s Services
Contact: Debbie Yare
3300 North Ridge Road,
Ellicott City, MD. 21043
Phone: (410) 313-1940
Email: dyare@howardcountymd.gov

Innovations in Education, LLC
Randi Albertsen
410-370-2837
Find us on the web: www.innovationsed.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/innovations.in.education/

At Innovations in Education, LLC, we cater to the needs of individuals. Whether you are a family child care provider, child care center staff, teacher, administrator or parent, our goal is to help you provide the most current information about child development as well as the highest quality services to help you be the best in your field.
Kaplan Early Learning Company is a leading international provider of products and services that enhance children's learning. A leader in the field of early care and education, we bring to market innovative curriculums, cutting edge assessments, teacher resource materials and valuable professional development opportunities to early childhood and elementary school educators, caregivers and parents around the world.

K Neal International Trucks
5000 Tuxedo Road
Landover, MD 20785
Phone: 443-878-3988
http://www.knealinternational.com

K. Neal International Trucks Incorporated, headquartered in Hyattsville, Maryland is a full service multi-location bus and commercial truck dealership representing the International, Hino, Mitsubishi Fuso, Collins, and IC Bus brands. With locations throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area, the dealership provides new and previously owned sales, service, parts and maintenance for commercial trucks and buses sold under the above

Legal Shield
John Chasko jchasko@lshield.net
401 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 130,
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301
(954) 644-8852

Life Saving Solutions
Doug Walker
11720 Clearview Court
Hagerstown, MD 21742
doug@life-savingsolutions.com
877.745.6277

The need for emergency medical training is growing every year and across all industries. Obtaining this training for yourself or your employees can be both expensive and time-consuming. Our goal is to remove both of these concerns and help you obtain your needed certifications in a timely, entertaining, and economical fashion.
Passion, drive and commitment. This is the foundation in which LiteBrite LLC was created. We believe that our educators are amazing men and woman who deserve the best in career development. We bring a love of learning, a high level of professionalism and a vision to change the face of "training" for the adult learner. Excitement through collaboration, networking and relationship building create the environment where the adult learner can flourish and in turn, make significant impact in the lives of children and families. In connection with the Maryland State Department of Education, our company strives to always be one step ahead in offering professional development designed to catapult our educators from a "job" to a career.

MarylandBiz
401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202
1.888.Choose.MD
http://business.maryland.gov

Maryland's one-stop economic development shop strives to attract new businesses, stimulate private investment, encourage the expansion and retention of existing companies and provide Maryland business with workforce training and financial assistance. The Department markets local products and services at home and abroad.

Montgomery College WD & CE
Nelida Andres
nelida.andres@montgomerycollege.edu
51 Mannakee Street (GBTC 420),
Rockville, MD 20850 (240) 567-3827

myKidzDay
Kelly Mittal (860.593.2955)
Abhas Jain (860.830.7121)

myKidzDay is a child care and pre school daily report parent communication app which allows you to attract millennial moms and dads who are evaluating child care providers. Offering a cool iPhone/iPad/Android app will resonate with these young parents and allow you to convert prospects into paying customers. myKidzDay can significantly improve communication between Child Care Providers and Parents. myKidzDay allows your staff to electronically and securely deliver daily reports, notifications, newsletters, pictures, alerts, reminders, schedules, assessments, observations and other valuable information to parent’s smart phones and email inbox. If you have not yet invested in mobile
technology in your center, your staff can easily access all of myKidzDay services via our website. Directors can monitor all parent-teacher communications and access each child’s portfolio from their mobile device.

O’Donovan Insurance / Day Care Defender
3881 Ten Oaks Road, Suite 2E,
Glenelg, MD 21737
Phone: 410-423-4480
When you own or operate a commercial or in-home childcare center, parents give you the responsibility of protecting their most precious assets. But how can you protect your business’s financial assets without daycare insurance? After all, accidents happen. Sometimes, the smallest mistake can lead to a severe or even life-threatening situation – and, one harmful accusation could ruin your entire livelihood. You need to prepare yourself for the worst possible outcome.

Paramedical Personnel of Maryland (PPM)
343 Granary Road, Ste D
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-838-8821
http://www.ppmems.com
Paramedical Personnel of Maryland (PPM) is the largest private safety-training center in the state of Maryland. The owner, Joe Becker, has been teaching CPR with the American Heart Association since 1975. When the American Heart Association introduced the training centers concept Mr. Becker started PPM. Paramedical Personnel of Maryland was incorporated in June 1990 and has continued to grow over the twenty plus years it has been in existence.

Today PPM trains over 23,000 students each year in CPR and First Aid throughout the United States as well as abroad with a fully trained compliment of certified instructors. Our instructors train for the American Heart Association, National Safety Council, Health Safety Institute, and Emergency Orthopedic Surgeons. PPM has partnerships with several community colleges as well as state and local government agencies. Our involvement with the community includes teaching members of The Y, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and church groups.

In 2005 PPM started a full service storefront providing equipment for CPR/First Aid Instructors as well as uniforms and emergency equipment for fire departments. A recent addition to PPM is our Sewing Division. The Embellishment Department can personalize uniforms and accessories, T-shirts and outerwear. As a courtesy to our clients we can also sew on patches, hem pants and do basic alterations.

Playground Specialists Inc.

(Continued on page 35)
Our name may be a little deceiving. Playground Specialists, Inc. is a full service recreation company that can assist you with all your park and playground needs from design to installation. We offer a variety of products to meet your needs.

At Playground Specialists, Inc., we work hard to maintain a strong foundation by building relationships with customers and recreation professionals. Every day we’re working with customers to create the perfect playground. We believe that all kids deserve a safe, fun place to play. That’s why we design our equipment and playgrounds to meet, but to exceed ADA laws. Just as every kid who plays on a playground is different, so are your playground needs. From budget constraints to limited space, Playground Specialists, Inc. and Playworld Systems, Inc. equipment gives you choices to make your playground the most fun it can be!

Robert-Leslie Publishing
4147 N. Ravenswood, Suite 301
Chicago, IL 60613
1-773-935-8358
www.investigatorclub.com

The InvestiGator Club® Early Childhood with STEAM for Maryland is a comprehensive, fully-integrated learning system for a full year of instruction. It is the only state endorsed curriculum fully aligned in every category of the Maryland Framework for 3- to 5-year-old preschool students. While meeting all of the learning standards is essential, we want the preschool years to be inspiring. In The InvestiGator Club, you’ll find fun around every corner! The curriculum provides the guidance and materials teachers need to encourage children to use their innate curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

Soccer Shots
www.soccershots.org
It’s more than soccer!
Soccer Shots is the national leader in youth soccer development for children ages 2 through 8. Our program has been created under the guidance of childhood education specialists, MLS® and USL® professional soccer players, and experienced and licensed soccer coaches. Our innovative lesson plans are developmentally appropriate and tailored specifically to the three distinct age groups we teach. Using these creative and age-appropriate curricula and infusing each lesson plan with enthusiasm and structured activity, Soccer Shots aims to leave a lasting, positive impact on every child we serve.
By enrolling your child in Soccer Shots, you can expect the following:

- Increased psychomotor development through fun fitness activities
- Introduction to team dynamics
- Character formation through life lessons such as honesty, sharing, respect, and positive attitudes
- Development of active lifestyle habits
- Individual skill development
- Coordination, balance, and agility development

No gear needed! All soccer equipment is provided to program participants.

Wonder Years Portraits
Cathy Sippel, Account Manager, 877-874-7214
136 E. Prince Street, Gallatin, TN 37066
www.wonderyearsportraits.com

Wonder Years Portraits – Capturing moments that Shine! With over 200 years of collective experience, Wonder Years Portraits is a new company comprised of professionals with a long, successful history in children’s photography. We would love to partner with you, your staff and families to create the ideal portrait day experience for your Center or School. Please call us about ways we can customize our services and incentives to meet your center’s needs.
SAVE THE DATE

An Evening for Children’s Advocacy
Monday, January 29, 2018

The annual event for early childhood educators in Annapolis will be held this year from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 29, 2018. Please watch your email for registration information!

Sponsored by: Maryland Family Network, the Maryland After School Association, the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children, the Maryland Head Start Association, the Maryland State Child Care Association, the Maryland State Family Child Care Association, and SEIU Local 500
Children Are My Passion!

Join Us for C.A.M.P. (Children Are My Passion) MSCCA!

• Don’t miss nationally highlighted presenters including, Eric Litwin, Jack Hartmann and Vincent Nunes!

May 4—6, 2018

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
10100 Coastal Hwy,
Ocean City, MD 21842

Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA)
Conference by the Sea

Earn 2 PAU’s for attending a statewide conference and up to 17 hours of training in one fun-filled weekend! Meals, Raffles, Networking and Exhibitors! Use your training vouchers! Open to all! MSCCA member discounts, become a member and save $$

Special guest speaker: Award Winning Pete the Cat Author, Eric Litwin!

Registration opens December 2017.

VISIT US AT www.mscca.org or call 410-820-9196