

Poverty Task Force – Resources for Child Care

Screening Question:

Is your child in head start, preschool or any other early childhood enrichment program?

Resources:

1. Head Start and Early Head Start

About: Head Start serves children 3-4 years old from low income families, providing educational services, as well as health, nutrition, and social. Early Head Start provides intensive programs provide intensive support services for pregnant women, infants and toddlers until age 3 years.

Eligibility: In general, eligibility is based on family income at or below the poverty level. Families with other situations including homelessness, and children in foster care, or receiving SSI or TANF also are eligible.

Locations: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices>

2. Maryland Excels – Child Care Finder Tool

About: Maryland EXCELS awards ratings to participating Child Care Centers and School-Aged Child Care programs, Family Child care Programs, and Public Pre-Kindergarten programs based on nationally recognized quality standards and best practices. The website will locate participating providers by location, quality and other parameters.

Main Website: <http://www.marylandexcels.org/>

Locator: <http://www.marylandexcels.org//olms2/4541>

3. Maryland Family Network

About: Maryland's Network of 26 Family Support Centers provide free, comprehensive services to families, targeting parents and their children from birth through age three. They provide quality infant/toddler care and assessment while parents are on site; parent education; self-sufficiency programming; adult education, family literacy and job readiness; health education; home visiting; peer support; service coordination.

Locate Child Care: Maryland Family Network's LOCATE: Child Care is a free, referral service with detailed information on all regulated child care in Maryland. A trained Referral Specialist will help you identify care based on your personal preferences including program type, location, and cost. (Toll-Free) 877.261.0060

Main Website: <http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/programs-services/family-support-network/>

LOCATE: Child Care: <http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/locate>

4. Purchase of Child Care/Child Care Subsidy (POC/CCS)

About: The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Program provides financial assistance with childcare costs to eligible working families in Maryland, including those needing child care for employment, substance abuse treatment programs or other approved activities, and Receive Family Investment Program (FIP) assistance, or Meet POC income standards if not in receipt of FIP funds.

Application: Available on website:

<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/applicationredeterminationchildcare-english.pdf>

Main website: <http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-subsidy-program>

5. Public PreKindergarten Programs

About: Public PreKindergarten Programs in Maryland are available to families meeting certain income eligibility criteria. PreKindergarten Programs help prepare children for kindergarten readiness by providing instruction in social/emotional, cognitive and physical development. PreKindergarten Programs operate on either a half-day (2.5 hours) or full-day (6.5 hour) schedule at no cost to eligible families. Children must be 4 years old by September 1st to qualify and the family must meet certain income requirements which is verified through income documentation.

For more information, contact the programs directly to see if you qualify.

Website:

http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/2/2016_17sy_public_prekindergarten_programs_in_maryland.pdf