



Division of Early Childhood Development

The Mission of the Division of Early Childhood Development is to provide leadership in promoting readiness for school and life for all children, including those with special needs and disabilities. The Division

will develop a high quality early care and education system statewide which provides safe, healthy, nurturing, culturally sensitive, and cognitively stimulating environments for all children who receive early childhood education and school-age child care. The Division will strive toward continued improvement and accountability and promote the continuum of learning by establishing early care and education as the foundation for school success.

To achieve the mission three pillars were identified:

ONE - Programs, Regulations and Standards

- Licensing of child and school age care
- Health and safety standards
- Public pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten
- Head Start
- MSDE Accreditation
- Judy Centers
- Family Support Centers
- Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR)
- Nursery school approval
- Inclusive Child and School Age Care

TWO - Career and Professional Development

- Licensing Staff Requirements
- Maryland Child Care Credential
- MMSR Professional Development
- Maryland Early Childhood Professional Development Fund
- Quality Improvement (i.e., Tiered Reimbursement, Judy Centers Enhancement Grants)

THREE - Public Relations and Outreach

- Communication
- Families
- Sustainable funding
- Recruitment and retention of early childhood professionals

The mission, objectives and strategies of the Division of Early Childhood Development are built on and support the following:

- Implementation of the recommendations made by a POC Study Group, Child Safety Workgroup and Inclusive Child Care Task Force.
- Embedded in all training as appropriate: Inclusion, ADA, special needs, mental health, cultural sensitivity and diversity.
- The Judith P. Hoyer Early Childhood Curriculum Project.
- Principles of Healthy Child Care America that support and promote healthy early care and education environments.
- Alignment with the content of all professional development regarding curricular frameworks and outcomes, e.g., Maryland Model for School Readiness/Voluntary State Curriculum, Healthy Growth and Development for Children Birth through Age Three, Early Childhood Accountability System for children with disabilities from birth-age five.
- Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) professional development for public schools, child care and Head Start
- The Early Care and Education Committee's goals and objectives identified in the 5-year action agenda.

For more information on Maryland's early childhood initiatives go to:

www.marylandpublicschools.org