Message From Ready At Five Staff and Executive Leadership Committee

Since March, Ready At Five has been working remotely along with most of the world. It feels in some ways that March was several years ago and in others that it was yesterday. Parents juggled working from home and the challenges of remote learning, teachers found ways to connect with their students and the childcare community pivoted to provide care for the children of essential workers. During this time, an alarm was raised about the disparities highlighted by the pandemic. While remote learning presented a unique set of challenges that resulted from limited or no internet access and the stress of balancing work and learning, we feel that it is important to state that disparities in education are not new.

We also believe that it is time for us to do more to address the inequities that exist. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data consistently shows that African-American students are less ready for school than their white peers. In 2019-2020, 42% of African American students statewide demonstrated readiness in comparison with 60% of white students. This gap widens through elementary school. In 2019, only 26.7% of African-American third grade students in Maryland were assessed as proficient in English.
Language Arts as compared to 56.1% of white students. We also see disparities in suspension and expulsion rates beginning in early childhood settings and continuing through high school.

There is much work to be done. Racial injustice begins in early childhood and continues to follow our youngest learners of color through adulthood. We can do better and Ready At Five is committed to being a part of the solution.

We will ensure that the content of our programs reflects the diversity of our community, and that we include input from a wide range of stakeholders as we develop new content and programming. This includes expanding our use of books by Black authors and other people of color along with materials that celebrate diversity.

Our Parent Leadership Learning Party will be updated to include a session on implicit bias and having conversations about race with children.

We will do more to ensure that the KRA data is analyzed and disseminated in a way that will generate productive conversations that lead to policy development and deliberative action at both the state and local level to eliminate the achievement gap.

Ready At Five will take a more active role in advocating for policies that promote equity, parity and a level playing field, so that children of color have the same opportunities and supports to be successful.

We are also, as staff and Executive Leadership Team, committing to educate ourselves on implicit bias and racism. We will listen to voices that have been marginalized and incorporate them into our work to promote comprehensive school readiness throughout the state.

Ready At Five stands ready to be an ally and an active participant in the change necessary to give our children the start they deserve.

RESCHEDULED School Readiness Symposium
More Details Coming Soon!
Check Out these Books to Help you Explain Racism and Protests to your Children

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/parenting/kids-books-racism-protest.html?fbclid=IwAR2PjnW47IRPW_mK8nsxvgfTuSG0HeOos5naCQEeq2gzLapjWYOs55uRyQQ
Introducing Learning Parties Live!

Due to the unexpected Coronavirus Pandemic, we like everyone, have been given an opportunity to re-imagine the way we do things. One positive outcome has been the joy in seeing one of our Learning Party educators Brigid Cook, and her three fabulous daughters guiding us through a series of modified Learning Party activities on Facebook Live on Monday mornings at 10am.

You can access past episodes on our Facebook Page.

Look for more Learning Parties Live with Brigid coming to the ZOOM Platform this summer!

SAVE THE DATE for the first one on July 28th at 10am!
At Home Summer Learning Resources from PBS Kids!

Every year parents and teachers are concerned about the "Summer Slide" but this year it's even more important to continue with learning and discovering new things while reinforcing the learning that took place over the school year. Even though this summer might look a little different, there are still wonderful opportunities to learn, explore, create and have fun! Check out these great summer learning resources from PBS Kids!

https://vpm.org/articles/14430/at-home-summer-learning

save the date!

Media Literacy Webinar

Save the Date for our next webinar featuring Krista Respass from MPT on July 21st at 10am! Krista will share guidelines in this interactive webinar on media literacy. Registration information coming soon!
We Celebrated the Month of the Young Child in April and Every Month!

Thank you to Kaplan for providing wonderful giveaways to those who liked and shared our social media posts - Congratulations to our winners: MCCCRRC (Montgomery County Child Care Resource Center), Leslie Frei, and Veronica Azari-Versaq

In Case You Missed It - We Brought Mister Rogers to YOUR Neighborhood!

With so many children and families out of their typical routines, adults may be wondering about the best ways to help children feel safe and continue to learn and grow. In 1983, in his first book for parents - "Mister Rogers Talks with Parents" - Fred Rogers described six basic necessities of learning.

Today, the list serves as a reminder of what is deep and simple about what children - and their helpers - need.

Our Past School Readiness Symposium Keynote Presenters Dr. Junlei Li and Dr. Dana Winters hosted a discussion on Fred Rogers' ideas and what they might mean for our work and life during COVID-19.

Make sure to watch the video on "Learning and Growing in COVID-19: Helping Children and Trusting Ourselves"
We Appreciate All of the Early Childhood Educators and Providers!

These are unprecedented times. We are grateful to all of the Early Learning Educators, Families, Helpers and CHILDREN who are doing their best to be resilient, optimistic and PRESENT. We hope that you had a wonderful month in May celebrating and appreciating Teachers and Childcare Providers!

In honor of such a special month we would like to highlight our fabulous School Readiness Symposium Sponsors - please check out their resources:

- MSDE
- PNC Grow Up Great
- Brookes Publishing
- Kaplan
- Lakeshore
- The Policy Equity Group

In addition - all new Likes, Follows and Shares on Ready At Five's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages in the months of July and August will be entered to win gift cards from Kaplan and Lakeshore!

The Children's Mental Health Matters! Campaign held each May, brings together non-profits, schools, agencies, and other partners with the goal to raise public awareness of the importance of children's mental health and substance use. The Campaign also helps reduce the stigma of mental health, lets parents know that they are not alone in caring for
children with mental health needs, and connects families throughout Maryland with information and services to help their child. This statewide Campaign is co-sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Maryland and the Maryland Coalition of Families. Many organizations contribute to these efforts across the state: Maryland Association of Non-Public Special Education Facilities, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland State Department of Education, and National Center for School Mental Health.

Give Them The Freedom To Unlock Their Future - Start Their Journey with $250 or $500 from the State!

The State of Maryland and Maryland 529 are teaming up to help make it easier for your child's dream of attending college come true. Simply open an Account in the Maryland Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer College Investment Plan (also referred to as the Maryland College Investment Plan or MCIP)-managed by T. Rowe Price-a leading investment firm since 1937-and you could be eligible for a $250 or $500 contribution from the State of Maryland. Your savings can be used at nearly any U.S. college, technical or trade school, apprenticeship programs, and even international universities that have a federal school code-for qualified eligible expenses such as tuition, fees, room and board, etc.

Get Started Today

Advertisement

The Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement provides investment objectives, risks, expenses and costs, fees, and other information you should read and consider carefully before investing. If you or your beneficiary live outside of Maryland, you should compare Maryland 529 to any college savings program offered by your home state or your beneficiary's home state, which may offer state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan.

T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc., Distributor/Underwriter.
**Baltimore City Residents are Offered the Governor's Young Reader's Program**

The Governor's Office for Children and Children's Cabinet, in partnership with the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, offer the Governor's Young Readers Program to the residents of Baltimore City. Through this program, children from birth through their 5th birthday are mailed a free book each month regardless of family income.

Please visit [https://goc.maryland.gov/youngreaders](https://goc.maryland.gov/youngreaders) to register.

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**2019-20 Kindergarten Data and Data Explorer Released!**

Giant Food Giving Bag Program

We were thrilled to have been chosen to participate in the Giant Food Community Bag Program in the month of December.

Even better news is that Ready At Five can raise funds all year long through the Giant Food Giving Tag Program! Just go to ANY Giant Food location and purchase the $2.50 reusable Community Bag and turn the Giving Tag (attached to the bag) over to the back side and scratch it off to reveal your unique code. Then visit MyGiantFoodCause.com within 7 days of purchase and submit your code to select Ready At Five as the recipient of the $1 donation!

It's that easy and it helps us with our work to ensure that every child in Maryland have the foundational skills needed for success in school, career and life.
Featured Resources

Ready At Five Has What You’re Looking For - School Readiness Publications!

Please click here for the order form or visit our website to find out about the programs and resources that we offer.

Donate Now

Help us as we work to ensure that all children in Maryland have the foundational skills needed for future success in school, career and life.

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