



August, 2018

The early years  
matter!



## Message From Our Executive Leadership Committee Chair

"There are three constants in life...change, choice and principles." - Stephen Covey

On behalf of the Executive Leadership Committee, I warmly welcome Keri Hyde to Ready At Five as our new Executive Director, and am very excited to work with her, given her experience and accomplishments in advancing the outcomes of young children and their families in Howard county.



As Keri takes the helm, Stephen Covey's famous words about life's "constants" come to mind. Keri is joining an organization of strong, enduring principles, but one also in a period of change. Change can be hard, and it is also healthy, particularly when our field is evolving as quickly as it is, and when Maryland continues to be a leading force in ECE across the country.

Ready At Five was fortunate to have had a 15-year leader in Louise Corwin, who

brought both innovation and stability to the organization for many years. It was exciting to then bring Steven Hicks to Maryland as Louise's successor, immersing him in the state and helping him to learn more about local issues and ideas, while he brought to us the breadth and knowledge of a national perspective. We are happy to have Steven now leading the Division of Early Childhood at MSDE, using his energy, creativity and expertise to drive even greater impact for our young children and their families across the state.

It was critical for Ready At Five to hire the right person to succeed these two prominent leaders, and a thorough and thoughtful search helped us find a seasoned and enthusiastic leader who knows Maryland, knows Ready At Five as a partner and user, and knows the work ahead of us. We've made an important choice in Keri, building on our strong choices in the past, and we are confident that she will ably lead Ready At Five for many years to come. - Meredith Callanan



## Message From Our Executive Director

The end of August always takes me back to the start of school, as a student, teacher and as a parent. To me, it always seemed like a clean slate; the opportunity to begin a new chapter. This year is particularly striking in that regard, because I am sending my daughter off to college for her freshman year and I have started in my new role as Executive Director of Ready At Five.

Starting something new is exciting but it's natural to feel apprehension. This is true for adults as well as children. Anxiety may increase as the first day of school approaches, but if you take a proactive approach it can go a long way to making that transition positive. Parents, talk to your child about her concerns, but don't forget to ask about what makes going to Kindergarten exciting. Read [stories about starting school](#) and have your child share what he thinks the character might be feeling. Share a time you started something new and how you felt as the day approached.

A strong relationship between parents and teachers benefits everyone. The importance of communication cannot be underestimated. Parents, share your hopes and concerns with the teacher. You don't have to wait until parent-teacher conference time. And teachers, encourage open lines of communication with your families early in the school year. That makes surprising news less likely for everyone.

The relationship between families and teachers is an important partnership. Everyone wants a child to be successful and by working together, there is a great chance of seeing that happen. Ready At Five knows how important parents, caregivers and educators are to a child's success. Please visit our website at [www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org) for more tips and resources on school readiness.

## Ready At Five Appears on Fox 45's Straight Talk

We were thrilled to have our Executive Director Keri Hyde, and our Executive

Leadership Committee Chair Meredith Callanan discuss School Readiness on Fox45's Straight Talk! If you missed the episode which aired on Fox45's sister stations, 45.2 and CW Baltimore on August 19th you can watch it here!



### August 2018 Straight Talk

### Family Engagement Summit a Success!

The 2018 Family Engagement Summit "Families Lead the Way: Transforming Communities Through Engagement" took place on July 26th at the Maritime Institute and featured Author and National Expert Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D. After the morning Keynote, a panel discussion with Early Childhood Advisory Councils on Effective Family Engagement Initiatives and a presentation on Black and Latino Parents' Promotion of their Young Children's Learning by Susan Sonnenschein, Ph.D. took place, in addition to afternoon workshops. Please [click here](#) to view the presentations.





## Maryland School for the Deaf Hosts Parent Leadership Learning Parties!

Cheri Dowling, who is the Coordinator of the Family Support and Resource Center and Patty Muldowney, the Assistant Principal of the Family Education Early Childhood Department of the Maryland School for the Deaf wanted to give their families of younger children the opportunity to learn leadership skills. "As families who have children with disabilities it's important to learn the skills needed to help advocate for their children in a positive way as they transition into IEP's and 504's. We want families to have the skills to be able to work successfully as part of their child's team and to become leaders in their communities and schools as their children grow," explained Cheri. Ready At Five's Parent Leadership Learning Parties developed in collaboration with experts at EPIC, were the perfect fit. These [Learning Parties](#) were designed to support family members as they take an active role in their child's education by building skills in trust and communication, problem solving and conflicts, meeting management and advocacy.



## Check Out the Family Engagement Website!

It's never too Early to ENGAGE, CONNECT and LEARN! Visit [marylandfamiliesengage.org](http://marylandfamiliesengage.org) for your one-stop shop for Family Engagement and Early Learning!



### 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](#)

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