



December, 2018

The early years  
*matter!*



## **Message From Our Executive Director - We Are Grateful For Your Support!**

Happy Holidays!

With 2018 coming to a close, I wanted to take a minute and thank you for being such an important and positive force in the lives of our youngest learners. This is not easy work, but the benefits are beyond compare. Seeing that lightbulb go off after you teach a concept or seeing the smile on a child's face when a skill is mastered, that's why we do this. But let's be real, there are days when that doesn't happen. It just makes it that much more magical when it does. And that's how I feel about this season of holidays, it is a magical time. Whether you are with friends, family or just taking a break from it all this is a time to fill up on what you need to start the new year feeling energized and inspired.

These first five months of my work with Ready At Five have definitely left me feeling inspired. From an appearance on a talk show my first week to my first School

Readiness Symposium this month, I have been welcomed and supported and encouraged. I am so proud to be a part of such an incredible team and together, we will continue the work that has touched so many lives.

Many of you participated in the survey we sent out asking for your feedback on Ready At Five, where you see strengths and where there may be opportunities to reach more people. That input was so valuable and is playing a significant part in our strategic planning process that will result in stronger programs, clearer goals and better outcomes for children across the State.

We know there is much work to be done, and it can't be done in a vacuum. We will continue to strengthen our existing partnerships, as we build new ones to expand our reach. Please consider making a [donation](#) to support Ready At Five and we pledge to be here to energize and inspire you for years to come!



## **Ready At Five's School Readiness Symposium a Success**

Thank you to all of our sponsors, speakers and attendees who took part in the December 5th School Readiness Symposium at Turf Valley Conference Center. 293 guests were in attendance as Douglas H. Clements, the Kennedy Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Learning and Professor at the University of Denver, Colorado, delivered the keynote address on "The Surprising Importance of Early Math." After a lunch time presentation on the Kirwan Commission Report and the Preschool Development Grant by Steven Hicks, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood at the Maryland State Department of Education, participants had their choice of afternoon workshops. Please visit our [website](#) to see the presentations from the day.



SAVE | THE | DATE

school readiness  
symposium  
ready a five™

April 12, 2019

*Coding as a  
Developmental Playground:  
Computational Thinking and Robotics*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Dr. Marina Umaschi Bers**  
Professor and Chair,  
Eliot-Pearson Department of  
Child Study &  
Human Development,  
Tufts University

Presenting Sponsor



**December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month**

The holiday season is upon us with friends and family celebrating together, so let's welcome in the holidays and New Year safely and choose safe toys and age-appropriate gifts for children.

- \* No toys with sharp objects or edges.
- \* Avoid darts, pellet guns and other firearms as gifts, especially to children.

- \* Remember to avoid toys that can be choking hazards especially for children under the age of three. Remember the rule: If it can fit through an empty toilet paper roll, then avoid it for young children.
- \* Avoid hard candy for young children.
- \* Remember to avoid toys with strings longer than 12 inches for children less than three years old as it can be a strangulation hazard.
- \* Avoid slingshots or other projectile type of toys.
- \* Avoid toys with magnets for young children.
- \* Give children under 10 only toys with batteries and compartments that can only be opened by an adult (such as a screw sealed battery chamber) and don't let them play with batteries. Plug-in toys should be only for older children.
- \* Buy durable toys that will not break or shatter into pieces or release toxic substances.
- \* Observe video game age-ratings. They are there for a reason.
- \* Read all warning labels carefully on toys and decorations.
- \* Remember to supervise your children at all times



## **Did You Know? Title 1 Funds Can Be Used to Meet the Requirements for Family Engagement Including Ready At Five's Learning Parties!**

Title I, Part A is contained in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This legislation reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Title I, Part A is a federal program that provides financial assistance to local school systems and schools with high percentages of poor children to support the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. All twenty-four local education agencies in Maryland receive Title I funds. These funds provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children who attend Title I schools master challenging curricula and meet state standards. Title I funds support extra instruction in reading and mathematics, additional teachers, materials of instruction, as well as after-school and summer programs to extend and reinforce the regular school curriculum.

Learning Parties are interactive, hands-on, parent/child parties that promote young children's development of school readiness skills. Based on the belief that parents are their child's first teacher, Learning Parties teach parents how to make everyday moments learning moments through playing, singing, talking, reading, and engaging in fun activities. Originally developed by Children's Resources International and modified

by Ready At Five, the Learning Party curricula support the seven domains of learning: Language & Literacy, Math, Science, Social Foundations, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development, Social Studies and Fine Arts, in addition to the Parent Leadership Learning Party which was developed in collaboration with experts at EPIC (Every Person Influences Children). Parent Leadership Learning Party materials were developed with Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood, as part of the Family Engagement Initiative, funded through a grant opportunity with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Look for more Learning Parties Coming Soon!



## 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](#)

### Ready At Five

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