



February, 2019

The early years
matter!



Message From Our Executive Director - You're Invited To Early Childhood Regional Town Hall Meetings

Hope you're enjoying February! I wanted to personally invite each of you to attend one of our [Early Learning Town Halls](#), but that didn't seem realistic so here's my pitch. If you are reading this newsletter, you know that high quality early care and education is crucial to a child's later success. But there are many other things that you know as well. Like what is working in your community to engage parents or where there are gaps in services available. That's what these Town Halls are

all about, giving you (the community expert) a platform to share your thoughts, concerns and ideas. On each of the dates, we are offering two sessions: morning and evening, to ensure that it isn't just people that can attend as part of their job, sharing their ideas. And while there are targeted jurisdictions for each of the dates, anyone can attend any of them. If your schedule doesn't permit you to go to "your" Town Hall meeting, register for one that does work. The important thing is that you attend and share. And one more ask, tell the parents you work with, or whose children you care for, or your neighbors that have children under the age of five that they should

attend as well. Their voices are needed, and their ideas are valued, but all too often there isn't the opportunity to share them. Parents may not feel comfortable speaking to a large group, but if they are there with their trusted teacher, friend or neighbor they may take that step and tell us what they think is important for their children's success. One of my favorite things about early care and education is that we are all in this together; there are too many paths to Kindergarten for us to focus on one above another. I look forward to seeing you at a Town Hall!

Look for More Information and Registration Coming Soon at www.readyatfive.org and <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/pdg>

Register at www.readyatfive.org

school readiness
symposium
ready at five.

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

Friday, April 12, 2019

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel
1739 West Nursery Road
Linthicum, MD 21090**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Marina Umaschi Bers

Professor & Chair
Eliot-Pearson Department of
Child Study & Human Development
Tufts University

Presenting Sponsor



Division of Early Childhood

Sponsored by

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Maryland529.com

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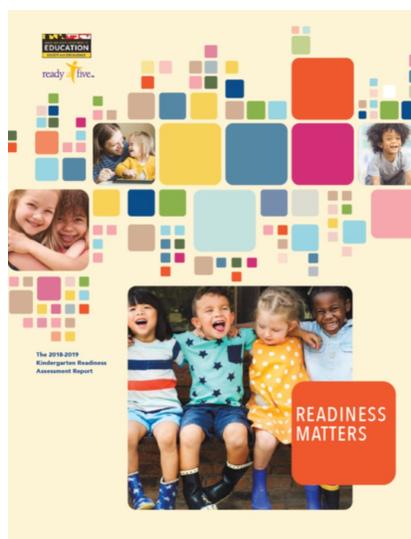
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The Maryland College Investment Plan Disclosure Statement provides investment objectives, risks, expenses and costs, fees, and other information you should read and consider carefully before investing. If you or your beneficiary live outside of Maryland, 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.



2018-19 Kindergarten Data Released!

The Readiness Matters series shares the 2018-2019 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data of Maryland's children: [statewide](#), by subgroups and for each of [Maryland's 24 jurisdictions](#). Customized PowerPoint presentations, parent resources, and information for Maryland EXCELS programs are also available. Visit our [website](#) for more information.



Sibling Conference

YOU'RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL EVENT! Sibs 2019: Connecting. Listening. Learning.

Saturday, March 30, 2019 | 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
The Hotel at Arundel Preserve

Back by popular demand, the [Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council](#) has partnered with the [District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council](#) to host **Sibs 2019** to help siblings of all ages and supporters of sibling issues to connect, listen, and learn from each other.

Hear welcome remarks from Maryland State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher (who is a sibling himself) and meet the siblings ([Emma](#), [Amanda](#), [Steve](#), and [Walter](#)) who are [featured in three documentaries](#) that are screening at the *2019 South by Southwest Film Festival*:

Participate in [interactive workshops and discussions](#) for siblings and supporters and attend sessions on multicultural challenges, mental health, dating and relationships, parent perspectives, and special sessions just for young adults, teens, fathers and sons, and siblings ages 6 to 13.

Join us on Saturday, March 30, 2019 as we continue our journey exploring the lives of siblings of people with disabilities!

REGISTER NOW!

CONNECT WITH US md-council.org

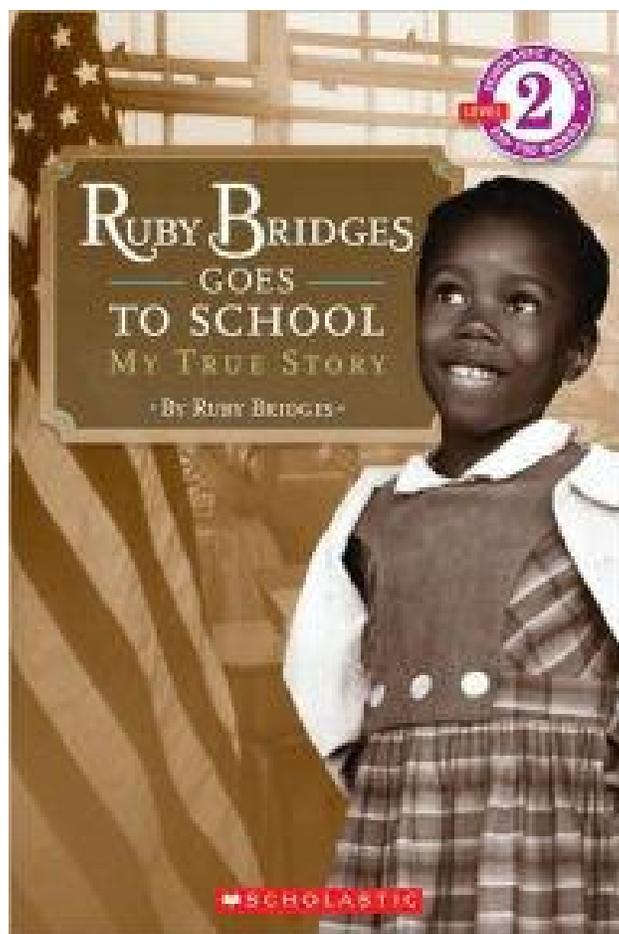
410.767.3670 - 1.800.305.6441

Celebrate African American History Month in February!

Ruby Nell Bridges Hall (born September 8, 1954) is an American civil rights activist. Ruby was *ready for school* and was the first African American child to desegregate the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis in 1960. Young children can learn about Ruby's story in the book [Ruby Bridges Goes to School My True Story](#).

Black History Month was established in 1926 by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson and other African American and white scholars as a week long celebration so that Americans could reflect on the history and contributions of African Americans. In the 1970s, the celebration of African American history was expanded to include the entire month of February.

To learn more about teaching young children about black history month visit: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2018/02/teaching-child-black-history-month/>



February is Child Dental Health Month

This month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others. This year's NCDHM campaign slogan is "Brush and clean in between to build a healthy smile". Visit the American Dental Association [website](#) for more information!

A child's baby teeth are at risk for decay as soon as they first appear-which is typically around age 6 months. Tooth decay in infants and toddlers is often referred to as baby bottle tooth decay. It most often occurs in the upper front teeth, but other teeth may also be affected. In some cases, infants and toddlers experience decay so severe that their teeth cannot be saved and need to be removed.

The good news is that tooth decay is preventable! Most children have a full set of 20 baby teeth by the time they are 3-years-old. As a child grows, their jaws also grow, making room for their permanent teeth.

- Begin cleaning your baby's mouth during the first few days after birth by wiping the gums with a clean, moist gauze pad or washcloth. As soon as teeth appear, decay can occur. A baby's front four teeth usually push through the gums at about 6 months of age, although some children don't have their first tooth until 12 or 14 months.
- Until you're comfortable that your child can brush on his or her own, continue to brush your child's teeth twice a day with a child-size toothbrush and a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. When your child has two teeth that touch, you should begin cleaning between their teeth daily.
- For children younger than 3 years, caregivers should begin brushing children's teeth as soon as they begin to come into the mouth by using fluoride toothpaste

in an amount no more than a smear or the size of a grain of rice. Brush teeth thoroughly twice per day (morning and night) or as directed by a dentist or physician. Supervise children's brushing to ensure that they use the appropriate amount of toothpaste.

- For children 3 to 6 years of age, use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. Brush teeth thoroughly twice per day (morning and night) or as directed by a dentist or physician. Supervise children's brushing and remind them not to swallow the toothpaste.



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](#)

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