

## Searching for quality child care and early education programs that promote school-readiness has never been easier, thanks to Maryland EXCELS!

Quality matters! The early years are critical when it comes to building social, emotional, thinking, and learning skills. Children with these skills are more likely to succeed in school and in life.

Maryland EXCELS builds upon the foundation of the State's rigorous child care licensing requirements. Every licensed program is inspected by the State at least once each year to ensure compliance with Maryland regulations.

Maryland EXCELS provides the opportunity for programs to demonstrate achievements that exceed state licensing requirements.

Upon review and verification, programs publish a rating from 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest quality level) on the online Find a Program portal and in the Quality Finder mobile App.

Publishing a rating at any level, including level 1, demonstrates a program's commitment to continuous quality improvement.

# 4

# 3

# 2

# 1



- ✓ Licensed and inspected to determine safety, cleanliness, proper supervision of children, and staff qualifications
- ✓ Activities support each and every child's individual needs
- ✓ Family-teacher conferences



- ✓ Children's developmental progress observed
- ✓ 2+ opportunities for families to engage in the program
- ✓ Activities informed by early learning guidelines
- ✓ Family-teacher conferences held at least once a year

- ✓ Licensed and inspected to determine safety, cleanliness, proper supervision of children, and staff qualifications
- ✓ Activities support each and every child's individual needs



- ✓ Children's developmental progress measured
- ✓ Staff have increased training and experience
- ✓ 3+ opportunities for families to engage in the program
- ✓ Activities informed by early learning guidelines
- ✓ Family-teacher conferences held at least once a year

- ✓ Licensed and inspected to determine safety, cleanliness, proper supervision of children, and staff qualifications
- ✓ Activities support each and every child's individual needs



- ✓ Children's developmental progress measured and linked to curriculum
- ✓ Staff have higher levels of training and experience
- ✓ Continuous quality improvement process informed by independent assessors
- ✓ 4+ opportunities for families to engage in the program
- ✓ Activities aligned with a state-recommended curriculum
- ✓ Family-teacher conferences held at least twice per year

- ✓ Licensed and inspected to determine safety, cleanliness, proper supervision of children, and staff qualifications
- ✓ Activities support each and every child's individual needs



- ✓ Children's developmental progress assessed with multiple measures and linked to curriculum
- ✓ Staff meet highest levels of training and experience
- ✓ Continuous quality improvement process informed by independent assessors
- ✓ State or national accreditation achieved
- ✓ 5+ opportunities for families to engage in the program
- ✓ State recommended curriculum used
- ✓ Family-teacher conferences held at least twice per year

- ✓ Licensed and inspected to determine safety, cleanliness, proper supervision of children, and staff qualifications
- ✓ Activities support each and every child's individual needs

