

Effective Practices

As this toolkit has demonstrated, family engagement is a partnership where schools and families work together in an intentional and reciprocal manner. Family Engagement ensures early childhood educators and providers are planning activities based on their families’ needs and goals. Parents provide their programs with information about their families through their initial intake, conferences, home visits, and informal conversations throughout the day. It is this information that providers can use to move from family involvement to family engagement, benefitting both programs and families. When this is done with commitment, programs will engage their families, improve outcomes and ensure the success of children.

This section includes examples of effective practices from various early childhood education and early care programs across Maryland. They have been effective in building relationships with families and staff and increasing family participation.

Please note - These practices range from very simple and easy to implement activities to more large and complex activities meant for larger programs. Not all effective practices listed are applicable to all programs and all practices can be modified to fit the needs of individual programs. Practices are coded to show important factors such as cost, level of effort, and which goals of the Family Engagement Framework are supported.

Hopefully using these different activities, all early childhood educators and providers can learn from one another, implement effective practices that are the most appropriate for their program, and continue to engage families and improve outcomes for all children and families.



Title: Truck Night

Target Audience: Young children 1-10 years old and their parents

Duration: 2 hours

Materials Needed: Large parking lot for big trucks, with additional parking for cars

Description:

Held in early June for the past five years, this program offers families with young children the opportunity to explore and pretend. Owners of big trucks, vans, farm equipment, buses, campers, and construction equipment are contacted and invited to display their vehicles. Big Truck Night addresses the Social Studies developmental domain. It is a time for community interaction and encourages parent involvement with their children.

The owners park their vehicles and share information and facts about how the vehicle, equipment and machinery operates. Many owners allow the children to climb up in the seats and “pretend” with their parents. During the first 45 minutes of the first hour, horn blowing is allowed. During the second hour, no horns are allowed. This allows children with delays or sensory issues to attend and not be over stimulated because of the noise.

Families that sign in at the event receive a book on vehicles for each child. Community partners collaborate to offer food for sale and demonstrate a variety of activities and games. In addition, an area for community resource information sharing is set up to encourage families to learn about their community.

Things to consider: We use a high school parking lot with lots of space. All owners “volunteer” their time and provide a copy of their liability insurance certificate. In return, each participating driver receives a free pizza. Books have been donated from local book stores and First Book., a non-profit program that provides new books and educational resources at reduced prices — and for free — to schools and programs serving children in need. – We also recognize all volunteer agencies and vehicles to promote them as well. In addition, some student organizations at the high school have become involved.

Judy Center Partnership, Carroll County Schools

Title: Family Swim Night

Target Audience: Families and children birth to five years of age

Duration: 1.5 hours (40 minutes in the pool and 40 minutes at the learning stations)

Materials Needed: Learning Stations (markers, paper, glue, building blocks, books, etc.), and booths for distributing information

Description:

Family Swim Nights are evenings when families are invited to the YMCA for swimming and activities. The structure includes two rotations: one group swims while the other engages in various learning stations/games and/or visiting with community agencies that have information about available resources and programs.

Learning Stations are centered around a specific theme such as Science. Packets and books are prepared and available for purchase so that families can take home information and activities.

Things to consider: It is important to allow time for transition and changing clothing. Ensure a safe monitoring system for families who do not want to leave the pool area. Engage volunteers from the high school or community to assist with information sharing, moving families from one activity to another and providing additional supervision during the activities.

Judy Center Partnership, Cecil County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$

Title: All About Me “The Next Level”

Target Audience: Families and children of all ages

Duration: 30 minutes and can be classified as ongoing

Materials Needed: Family pictures, tape, and poster board

Description:

All About Me “The Next Level” focuses on bringing families, parents, and children together. The lesson focuses on learning/understanding the importance of families and allows children the opportunity to share part of who they are with their classmates.

Families are invited to come and introduce their family members, cultural customs (ex: food, clothing), and any other information they would like to share. During the presentation, children pass around pictures, clothing, etc.... for each of their classmates to explore. At the end, parents post all materials a poster board that will be displayed within the classroom.

Things to consider: It is important to understand and value the uniqueness of each family. Supporting families, parents and children throughout this process is critical so that everyone feels comfortable, respected, and appreciated.

Anonymous

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$

Title: International Festival
<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/culturally-responsive-instruction-holiday-and-religious-celebrations>

Target Audience: Families, parents, children, community, and schools

Duration: 2 hours (after school) or Weekends (if possible)

Materials Needed: Multi-cultural music, dancers, traditional clothing, and food

Description:

The International Festival is a multi-cultural tradition that takes place once a year (after school). Families, parents, children, community members, and staff come together outside (playground area) to exchange food, music, songs, dance, and projects with one another.

This festival has fostered friendships and cultural understanding through the arts and family engagement. One of the most essential components of the International Festival is its focus on school participation in the event.

Things to consider: This festival requires food as well as a lot of volunteer work to ensure safety and organization for the event to run smoothly and be a success. Having the event planned well in advance will help to ensure that everything aspect has been fully thought through. If they are able, parents are encouraged to bring a food dish representing their culture. Depending on the amount of funding the program has available, the event could be catered.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$

Title: Unplugged “No Electronics”/ A Family Weekend

Target Audience: Families, parents, and children of all ages

Duration: 2 days (Saturday and Sunday)

Materials Needed: Going on a family trip or any fun activity that involves the family

Description:

Unplugged “No Electronics” goes into action during a family vacation. During the vacation, no electronic devices (ex: cell phones, I-pads) are permitted. The point of this activity is to have uninterrupted quality time so families can connect, talk, and listen to one another. At some point, each person must write down something new/different they learned about each of their family members.

Things to consider: Electronics can be used at any moment for EMERGENCIES.

My Little Magic Garden Daycare, Anne Arundel County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Let’s Sing YOUR Song

Target Audience: Families, parents, and children birth to five

Duration: 1 month (full lesson is broken down into different songs each week)

Materials Needed: Print out of song lyrics and music

Description:

At parent meetings, *parents* teach their favorite nursery song to teachers, other parents, and children. Teachers then take those songs back to the class to practice with all students. A different song is taught each week. Parents are invited to help assist with teaching their favorite nursery song.

This activity allows parents to feel included and a part of not only their child’s life, but a part of the entire classroom community. These meetings allow parents the chance to get to know one another and become more comfortable within the school/classroom setting.

Things to consider: Meeting times play a major role with attendance. Offering several different time options for meetings could be beneficial to engaging all parents.

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Early Childcare Provider

Title: End of School Year Celebration: *Relax, Reflect, and Communicate*

Target Audience: Families and teachers

Duration: 3 to 4 hours

Materials Needed: Outdoor games (ex: soccer equipment, baseball equipment, volleyball equipment, etc.), board games, food, and beverages

Description:

This celebration is held at the end of the school year at a local community park. We invite all families and children that attend our center. The goal of this event is to bring everyone together for an opportunity to relax, reflect, communicate, and celebrate all of the accomplishments that took place throughout the school year.

While enjoying the fun, families also have the opportunity to talk with center staff to exchange ideas for the coming school year. The goal is to come together as a community to socialize and share what works well to benefit families, parents, children, and staff.

Things to consider: Creating a diverse planning committee helps with having an overall all-inclusive End of School Year Celebration. There are a few things to keep in mind when planning an event such as this: weather, health conditions, allergies, safety, transportation, parking, event hours, first aid station, and other minor details easy to overlook. Planning and coordination is the key to a successful event.

Goals: 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$

Early Childcare Provider

Title: Kindergarten Transition Resource Night

Target Audience: Parents

Duration: 30-60 minutes (after school/work hours)

Materials Needed: Packets filled with parent resources, agenda, and sign in sheet

Description:

Kindergarten Transition Resource Night is a time to share helpful resources with parents and families. These resources are designed to assist families/parents in preparing both them and their child/children for Kindergarten. Ideas for activities, helpful routines, community resources, and much more are discussed. These websites have great resources: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/transition> and <https://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/transitioning-kindergarten>.

Things to consider: Make sure to plan for plenty of time for questions and discussion. Have enough handouts for every family/parent with important contact information so they can take the information home.

Goals: 3, 5, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Early Childcare Provider

Title: Career Exploration Workshop

Target Audience: Families with education career-related goals

Duration: 2 – 2 ½ hours

Materials Needed: Career Exploration inventory, folders, pens/pencils, note pads, food, sign-in sheets, and evaluations. In addition: laptop, LCD projector, flip chart/markers, extension cords, and speaker system/microphone/lapel microphone

Description:

A FREE workshop for parents interested in learning about resources toward education and/or employment related goals. Participants experience the following:

- *Know Yourself: complete a 10-minute online inventory that offers personalized career suggestions
- *Research Your Options: explore career fields, education requirements for specific industries/employers, work settings, and future outlook for career options
- *Make Connections: hear from employers in tourism/hospitality, manufacturing, health care, and finance, speak individually with representatives present

After the opening and 10-minute inventory, participants form groups of common interest areas. This encourages participants to become familiar with each other to make new contacts, and share their aspirations and concerns. Ample time is allowed for participants to visit employers/education representatives on their own, with staff, or in a group.

Local employers (such as Health care providers, businesses, Banks, Restaurants, and Adult Care Providers) and partners attend in support of the event, and come prepared to accept applications and assist attendees through the beginning steps of their applicant and hiring process. Lunch, transportation, and on-site child care are provided. Collaboration partners include: Community Action-Career Advancement Team, Colleges, and Health Department-Early Care Programs. Staff from each program attends with family service staff assisting, especially for comfort level of participants.

This was the first event of its kind for the Garrett County Community Action-Career Advancement Team. There are plans for another event linked to the county-wide job fair. As the program develops, there is discussion to schedule similar events two times per year.

Things to consider: Keep in mind this event is to be FREE for participants. Remember to include food items for very young children (ages 1-4 years of age), avoid foods with common allergic results (peanuts, etc.) and potential choking hazards. Costs (partners provide the funding or support) include on-site child care, transportation, career exploration inventory (laptops with internet access and paper copies), food, and other supplies as needed.

Judy Center Partnership, Garrett County

Title: STEMtastic Fall Fun

Target Audience: Families – with Children in Kindergarten through First Grade

Duration: 45 minutes (after school activity)

Materials Needed: Wire hanger and masking tape, large spoon, newspaper, pumpkins, sharp knife to cut pumpkin (adult use only)

Description:

STEMtastic Fall Fun is a simple activity to engage children. To begin, you start with reading the book *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin*, by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas. This is “a picture book for curious children, which explores skip counting and estimation in a fun pumpkin-themed classroom experiment.” <https://www.amazon.com/Many-Seeds-Pumpkin-Tiffins-Classroom/dp/0375840141>

Next, each child works with their parent or guardian to review details of the story. Once this is completed, pumpkin carving begins. After the pumpkin is open, the masking tape and wire hanger come into play. Both parent and child work together to create the spoon with which they will scoop out the inside of the pumpkin. Throughout this entire project, teachers walk around giving positive guidance.

Things to consider: This activity takes place after school hours, so it is important to secure teaching staff to assist. Make sure that there are enough materials available for all participants. Offer food/snacks to the families. You can even extend the activity by providing recipes for the pumpkin and pumpkin seeds.

Greenwood Elementary School, Somerset County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$\$

Title: Healthy Cooking

Target Audience: Families/Parents of children three years old and under

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Materials Needed: Eggs, spinach (and other vegetables as you like), olive oil, pan, spatula, and plates/utensils. Additionally you will need a stove or electric fry pan, and a Spinach Frittata recipe

<http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/files/upload-docs/Frittata.pdf>

Description:

A school nutritionist plays a major role in this activity. The nutritionist speaks to families/parents about cooking healthy lunches/snacks for their children and about ways to present food that will appeal to their child. This particular activity was to make Spinach Frittata which can either be served for lunch if served with fresh green salad or, if served alone - a snack. The nutritionist demonstrated the process of making the frittata and each parent had an opportunity to make their own to share with their children during the socialization time.

Things to consider: Safety First! Keep children away from the cooktop or fry pan. Have fun, meaningful activities for the children while the demonstration is taking place. Cost for this activity is about \$50.00 for a group of twelve parents and twelve children under 3 years of age.

CentroNia, Takoma Park

Goals: 1, 2, 3, and 6
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Digital Portfolio

Target Audience: All families

Duration: Throughout the school year

Materials Needed: One flash drive (at least 4G for each child), a digital camera, and an approved assessment framework written for use by parents/families

Description:

New families are asked to provide a flash drive that can hold at least one hundred (100) pictures at a time. An orientation meeting, coupled with a home visit to each child, allows us to share information about the way we approach children’s learning, and how we will document children’s progress.

Throughout the year we observe children as they work and play and take pictures of moments that highlight their learning. We invite parents to be a part of those moments when we notice a kind gesture or joyous response by capturing those moments and putting them in folders each month. The folders are shared along with comments from teachers to help families notice the same things we do. The comment page has a place for parents to respond. They are also invited to arrange to meet with us at any time.

The flash drives are collected and returned to the parents about three times each half semester. Parents can remove folders to make room for new pictures. The portfolios are kept private, but the full files are always available through the school/program should a parent want them.

Things to consider: Costs are minimal, but try to have FREE flash drives ready and available to give to parents.

Running Brook Children’s Nursery, Howard County

Goals: 2 and 3

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$\$

Title: Library Playtime

<http://www.slrc.info/>
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/library/index.html>
<http://www.worcesterlibrary.org/>

Target Audience: Infants to five years of age and their parents

Duration: 1 hour

Materials Needed: Age appropriate educational toys that are durable and easily cleaned

Description:

Libraries are a great place to make new friends and learn new skills while having fun. Parents and their children explore educational materials together in an interactive, free play environment.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, pediatricians agree that playtime is a very important part of a child’s development. Hectic family schedules and other issues make finding time for play more challenging than ever. Children’s play is serious business. As parents and caregivers, we might assume that play is already a basic part of our children’s lives. Most parents are used to seeing the curious hands and questioning minds of their children as they explore and learn about the world around them. It seems that children are busy all day long, whether we give them something to do or not. It is up to adults to define what healthy play should be, and to schedule that time so that it’s safe, age-appropriate, and a big part of the lives of our children.

Writer Megan Treacy states, and we agree, that libraries are community centers, serving everyone in their area. Just visiting the library is a way to connect to the community you live in, but libraries offer more than that. They host book clubs, LEGO clubs, story times, puppet shows, writing camps, family movie nights and information sessions on technology and community issues (among so many other things). They serve us and they also bring us together and help us become involved in our community.

Things to consider: The program works best if staff interacts with families and children modeling appropriate language, encouraging parents to play/interact with their children, and guiding parents to interact with other parents. Check with your local library for various programs and times.

Worcester County Public Library

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Easy

Cost: \$

Title: Learning Parties
<http://www.readyatfive.org/programs/learning-parties.html>

Target Audience: Children 0-5 years of age and families

Duration: Sessions are two hours in length and are conducted on four consecutive weekdays within a month

Materials Needed: Instructors guide, magnets, mirrors, flashlights, magnifying glasses, blocks, cardboard, tape measure, rulers, cork, wood, shell, Styrofoam, paper bags, weather books, plastic bowls, ice, water and printed materials from the instructor’s guide

Description:

Each of the Learning Party sessions are 90 minutes in duration. Our sessions at the Charles County Judy Center are an additional 30 minutes because we provide and include time for dinner. During the 90 minute sessions, parents and children are placed into two separate groups for 45 minutes, while the parent is given background information and instructions on how to teach their child the concept covered for the evening (ex: magnetism). Following the background and practice session, parents are reunited with their children and the parent then teaches the child using their newly acquired skills. While parents are in the adult training session the children play games and complete activities related to the topic they will practice with their parent. Following the parent/child practice, a debriefing takes place and a homework assignment is assigned to be practiced for the next meeting. Those families completing all four sections receive a certificate of completion along with kudos.

Ready At Five states, 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 The Arts. Each series consists of four 90-minute Learning Parties and contains the following components:

***Parent Skill Development.** A Lead Trainer demonstrates a variety of techniques and strategies for improving the skills and abilities of their children. Each session focuses on a specific concept.

***Child Play Session.** While parents are learning new skills, children attend a “fun learning room,” where a child care provider engages the children in directed child play, aligned with the specific concepts discussed at the parent portion of the Learning Party.

***Practice and Parent-Child Activities.** When the parents and children are reunited, parents practice the activities with their child, while trainers provide positive feedback and constructive suggestions.

***Parent Networking** enables parents to meet, talk with, and learn from other parents.

***Home Connection and Learning Library.** Parents are given a homework assignment, as well as a variety of books, developmentally appropriate materials, and educational toys to start an early learning library in their home.

Things to consider: Learning Parties require a lot of planning and coordination. Have staff available to work with the children during the parent “training” time and provide modeling when parents and children are practicing.

Judy Center, Charles County

Goals: 2, 3, 5, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$\$

Title: Literacy Play and Enhancement Groups

Target Audience: Children birth to two and their caregivers

Duration: 90 minutes per session (generally 30 minutes of free play-including clean up; 30 minutes of circle time; 30 minutes for craft and healthy snack)

Materials Needed: Age appropriate toys and games for free-play, one story to read, at least four interactive songs for circle time, age appropriate craft that promotes tactile leaning, and healthy snacks

Description:

Families are encouraged to fully engage with their child/children during play and learn groups. Free play promotes connections to loved ones, as well as other children and families in the community. During circle time, parents either hold or sit behind their child/children. Interactive songs, such as “One Little Finger” and “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes” are led by the instructor as parents and children follow along.

Children are also engaged in learning numbers (1-10), the alphabet, and story time. It is important to use as many puppets or interactive stories as possible to promote interest. The instructor is also modeling how to read stories at home. Finally, during craft time, parents and children are engaged in an activity promoting tactile learning/sense of touch. Crafts should be easy enough to complete in a short timeframe, as well as easy enough for families to replicate at home. A light, healthy snack is served toward the end of the session.

Things to consider:

*Using a space large enough to accommodate parents and children (max groups at 25 children)

*Striving for full parent participation

*Schedule for various times during the day. Our program hosts three playgroups on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10:00AM to 11:30AM; Wednesdays from 1:30PM to 3:00PM. This gives parents multiple options to participate.

*Providing a light, healthy snack promotes proper nutrition.

*Take-Home Libraries are also encouraged. Once a month, families receive a book and a review sheet to complete as a family. Families are encouraged to return the review sheets to the Judy Center, demonstrating their engagement in learning at home.

Judy Center, Montgomery County

Goals: 1, 2, 3, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Children’s Multicultural Holiday Party

Target Audience: Parents and children age birth through five

Duration: 2 hours

Materials Needed: Arts and craft supplies/activities, several stations set up for each activity, camera, holiday decorations of all observed holidays, music, lunch, snacks, age appropriate toys, and door prizes

Description:

During the Children’s Multicultural Holiday Party, parents and children were able to travel from station to station participating in activities which represent a variety of different cultures (parents can facilitate stations as well). In addition, parents were able to engage in all activities with their child. Family photos were taken, lunch was served, and door prizes were distributed.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), holiday celebrations can be wonderful opportunities for children to learn about the traditions and values that are cherished parts of people’s lives. But many early childhood professionals wonder what holidays to celebrate in the program or classroom and how to respect the cultures represented by all children. Many parents, too, wonder why programs celebrate specific holidays or why they discourage any celebration at all.

NAEYC believes that decisions about what holidays to celebrate are best made together by teachers, parents, and children. Families and staff are more comfortable when both have expressed their views and understand how a decision has been reached. The important thing for all to remember is that when planning holiday activities, the rules of good practice continue to apply: Are the activities meaningful to the children? Are their needs and interests being met? Is the activity a valuable use of children’s time?

Teachers may survey families at the beginning of the year to determine what holidays they celebrate. They may even ask the children to create their own holiday to help them learn the concepts that underlie such valued traditions. In any case, holiday celebrations are just one way for programs and families to work together to create developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences.

Things to consider: All staff will be needed to manage activity stations. Also keep in mind to have enough toys/ manipulatives for every child. Ask families to participate and demonstrate or host an activity related to their holiday traditions.

Our House Early Head Start, Baltimore City

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$\$

Title: Book Sharing-Teaching Parents Effective Ways to Read with Their Children

Target Audience: Children age three to five

Duration: According to the child’s age

Materials Needed: Various books, flannel board, puppets, props, paper and crayons

Description:

To begin, both parent and child will read a book of choice. They will have the option of creating a flannel board story, drawing a picture of the story and/or acting out the story. The parent should be at the child’s level to make eye contact. The parent(s) are encouraged to practice open ended questions to create healthy discussion. Parents should also follow the child’s lead as well as cues.

Things to consider: Please make sure books are age appropriate and adjust lessons for children with special needs if necessary.

Young Parent Family Support Center, Baltimore County (Essex, MD)

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Easy

Cost: \$

Title: Annapolis Day - Creating Leaders and Child Advocates

Target Audience: Program parents, children, and Early Head Start/Head Start Staff

Duration: 6 hours (approximately)

Materials Needed: Transportation

Description:

Early Head Start, Head Start, and parents visit the State legislative offices facilitated by the Maryland Head Start Association Public Policy Committee.

<http://www.md-hsa.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.pageDetails&id=67180&typeID=429>.

Staff helps notify parents and families through phone calls, flyers and letters sent home about Annapolis Day. Transportation for parents to Annapolis is provided. While in Annapolis, families have the opportunity to meet with their State Representatives to advocate for continuation of funding for Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Staff helps encourage and coach parents as needed as they advocate for their program and children.

Things to consider: Alternative transportation may be required due to family needs.

Anne Arundel Early Head Start, Anne Arundel County

Goals: 3, 6, and 7

Level: Easy

Cost: \$\$

Title: My Work, My Play!

Target Audience: Parents and children birth to five

Duration: Six interactive workshops

Materials Needed: Finger-paint, paper, blocks, sand/water, play items/manipulatives, books, and dramatic play props

Description:

My Work, My Play! is a six-week interactive hands-on program session designed to highlight what children learn during play. Class sessions include:

- *Dramatic Play
- *Music and Movement
- *Storytelling
- *Finger Painting
- *Sand and Water Play
- *Block Play

Each session begins with a basic introduction about why children do “the activity” and then we do it. For example, as we are finger painting we discuss what skills children may be learning including motor, social emotional, etc. Classes are typically 45 minutes in length and parents leave class with sample materials to use at home with their child. Certificates of completion are awarded at the end of each session.

Things to consider: An experienced facilitator who can model and coach the parent through what might be the uncomfortable stage of playing is recommended.

Family Support Center, Washington County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Easy

Cost: \$

Title: Play and Learn with Playdough (also known as Play-doh)

Target Audience: Parents and children ages 18 months to 5

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Materials Needed: Flour, oil, food coloring, cream of tartar. For simple, no cook play dough recipes see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8tmn3r3YrY>

Description:

Adults and children make playdough from scratch and use simple utensils for cutting, shaping, and rolling playdough.

Making and manipulating playdough incorporates fine and large motor (cutting, rolling, kneading, pounding); mathematical thinking (measuring ingredients, shapes, length/width, thickness, etc.); social-emotional (expressions of sensory and emotional feelings-some actions are soothing and calming (kneading, rolling); others are more physical and can be more vigorous (kneading, pounding) and participants can discuss how he/she feels while manipulating the dough; the warmth of the dough feels so good; language (as described above as well as descriptive vocabulary; literacy and numeracy (making letters and numbers); cognitive-asking open ended questions; science-dry and wet ingredients (visual, olfactory, touch) separately and then combined; color, change of texture and consistency of materials used to make playdough; heat of cooked playdough; and, finally creativity!

Parents and children can sit across from one another to make eye contact and engage in conversation. The dough can be saved and used again and can be a regular family activity with materials found in the home!

Things to consider: Having sufficient materials on hand to make, store, and manipulate the playdough; if recipe calls for cooking, you will need to have a stove, hot plate or electric fry pan, and monitor young children at all times. Safety first!

Family Partnership of Frederick County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Health/Family Education

Target Audience: Adults (Families)

Duration: 45 minutes to 1 hour

Materials Needed: Appropriate guest speakers to discuss topics of expertise (Pediatrician, Health Department, Priority Partners, Salisbury University Staff, University of Maryland Representatives, etc.)

Description:

Health Education services provided to parents provide information about matters such as family planning, nutrition, substance abuse, screening services, prenatal care and other related health education. This can be done by providing guest speakers with knowledge about the topics and helpful resources for families.

Things to consider: Ensure that Health Education provided takes into consideration participant needs and how the information provided can improve the families' well-being. Also remember to encourage parent participation, and consider providing dinner and child care.

Family Support Center, Wicomico County

Goals: 1, 4, 6, and 7
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$\$

Title: Ready for School-Kindergarten Club

Target Audience: Parents of children in Head Start transitioning into Kindergarten

Duration: Six months, 1 hour per month

Materials Needed: Portfolio binders needed for children who are transitioning to kindergarten, tip sheets, calendars, letter to parents, and transitioning activities for children to complete.

Description:

Parents of enrolled four-year-old children, transitioning into Kindergarten, begin a series of transition workshops along with their child. Tip sheets are sent home on a monthly basis to help prepare the parent, as well as the child, to transition smoothly to Kindergarten with school readiness skills. Community activities are also scheduled to assist parents with the transitioning process. These website have great resources:

- Head Start -<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/transition>
- NAEYC -<https://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/transitioning-kindergarten>

Things to consider: The cost of additional food is something to consider when planning this type of family engagement activity.

Y of Central Maryland Head Start, Baltimore City

Goals: 2, 3, 5, and 6
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$\$

Title: Wow Bags - Theme Activity Kits to Borrow from the Library
<https://www.stmalib.org/library-services/wow-vanhomebound/>
http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/23/stmaryscohandout_dec2014.pdf

<https://www.stmalib.org/>

Target Audience: Children ages two – five

Duration: Dependent on child's developmental age

Materials Needed: Wow Bags theme activity kits

Description:

Wow Bags contain over eighty themes. Each backpack contains two to five books, several hands-on materials, activity sections, and CDs if appropriate.

Also, “The Wow! Van Service” visits child care providers and centers. Services include materials, deposit collections and programs.

Homebound Services - Home delivery service is available to homebound county residents or centers. Volunteers of service organizations deliver library materials to county residents and then pick up the materials to return to the library. This service is only provided if a volunteer can be located to service the individual or senior center. County residents and centers should contact the library.

Things to consider: Contact your local library to see if they offer Wow Bag, Van Service, and/or Homebound Services. Ask for information such as cost and other important details.

St. Mary’s County Library

Goals: 1-7 All Goals
Level: Moderate
Cost: Library = \$\$;
Provider = \$

Title: Bilingual Story Time

Target Audience: Preschool age children

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials Needed: Felt pieces, flash cards, books, and felt boards

Description:

This program encourages celebrating others’ differences and learning a “new” language. Some children who attend the bilingual story time are English speakers whose parents want them to learn another language. Non-English speaking children often attend the bilingual story times to hear stories in their native language. The interaction of the children, both non-English and English speaking, allows for the fostering of community and the celebration of differences in others.

Things to consider: Children pick up new language easily; children are not embarrassed to point out others’ differences, which can be difficult to address in an appropriate way. Check with your local library for resources.

Charles County Public Library

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Easy

Cost: \$

Title: Grandparents Day Celebration

Target Audience: Prekindergarten/Kindergarten children and their grandparents

Duration: 1 hour

Materials Needed: Book for each grandparent and breakfast

Description:

Grandparents are invited for breakfast near the date of National Grandparents’ Day. Grandparents arrive prior to the children and share breakfast with other grandparents. As breakfast ends and conversations lull, a brief talk with grandparents about the importance of both reading to their grandchildren and sharing oral stories is a great way to share information about the importance of families as the first and most important teachers of their children.

Children join their grandparent(s) after breakfast, each with a book and a child created card in hand. The two sided book “What Grandmas Do Best/ What Grandpas Do Best” by Laura Numeroff is a great book for this event. It motivates grandparents and grandchildren to converse about what they like to do together and can easily be purchased through Scholastic. Students then sit with their grandparents and read together and share the card that the child has made. Children can even sing a song or two. This is a great way for grandparents and grandchildren to be involved in the school setting.

Things to consider: Be sure there is ample seating and of course food (especially coffee). The books can be purchased for about \$2.00 a book and the breakfast costs can be kept low with donuts, fruit and coffee. Be aware that some grandparents may speak and read in a language other than English. Make sure to have books available in their language. Send home flyers that require grandparents to RSVP so that you know which children may not have a grandparent attending. Pair up children who do not have a grandparent present with a friend that does, or recruit grandparents from the community that do not have grandchildren locally.

Judy Center, Kent County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$\$

Title: Book Swap

Target Audience: Parents of children in Prekindergarten through Elementary

Duration: On a monthly basis throughout the year (especially the summer months)

Materials Needed: Age appropriate books (new or used) and staffing

Description:

The school/program provides a book swap where children can return books and pick out new ones to encourage reading and to help negate the “summer slide”. These books are given to the children to own in their home library or to return and obtain new ones. There are no fees associated with kept books. Books are kept in “bins” by reading/grade level for ease of children identifying books. Generally, the swaps are conducted at the school/program entrance with the support of volunteering school/program staff.

Things to consider: Parents may have non-target age children (younger children that would also benefit from books); books in other languages might be needed if parents are assisting young readers; interpreting services; how to support parents of children with significant disabilities; community partnerships for books; convenience of hours for working parents, etc.

Judy Center, Caroline County

Goals: 2, 3, 5, and 6

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$

Title: Parent Cafés

<http://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/programs-services/strengthening-families-maryland/>
<http://www.beststrongfamilies.net/>

Target Audience: Parents and children

Duration: Single session, may be conducted multiple times

Materials Needed: Café cards, table hosts, items for a pleasant environment, table/chairs, and refreshments

Description:

Parent Cafés are a method of facilitating conversations among parents about the things that keep their families strong, build protective factors, and promote self-reflection and peer- to-peer learning.

Parent Cafés include the use of a portable, easy to use card set that helps individuals or community agencies get started offering Parent Cafés. The colorful deck of cards asks questions ranging from, “What do you do when you don’t understand what’s going on with your child?” to “How do you stretch a dollar to make it last?” There are hundreds of questions, and they all fit into the five protective factors that help strengthen families. Every time you have a conversation, it is different. Each time, you learn, grow, and get to the heart of the matter with conversations that mean something for you and your family.

According to Maryland Family Network (MFN), a community partner, one of the ways they help parents and other caregivers learn about the protective factors is through Parent Cafés. These are two-hour, structured get-togethers that engage parents and other adults in meaningful conversations about what matters most to families with young children and how to build protective factors at home and in early childhood settings. At Parent Cafés, those who care for young children share information and ideas that can help them to take care of themselves, develop strong relationships with children, and strengthen families. Facilitators and table hosts must be trained. For more information about Parent Cafés and Parent Café Facilitator training, please contact info@marylandfamilynetwork.org.

Things to consider: Parents may have concerns that would prevent them from attending. Consider providing services for them such as transportation, interpretation, support to parents of children with significant disabilities, and child care.

Judy Center, Caroline County

Goals: 1-7 All Goals

Level: Advanced

Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Every Child Ready to Read at the Local Library
<http://www.everychildreadytoread.org/>

Target Audience: Parents of children birth to six

Duration: Five, 45 minute sessions

Materials Needed: Trained staff in Curriculum, meeting area, book giveaways, and handouts

Description:

Every Child Ready to Read is a national library early literacy initiative for parents and caregivers that provides them with effective tools and strategies. The Curriculum consists of five workshops focusing on singing, talking, reading, writing and playing. This program also provides linkages to library and community supports. For more information on the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum, please visit <http://www.everychildreadytoread.org/>.

Things to consider: Parents may have non-target age children that would prevent them from attending if you do not also provide services such as: transportation, interpretation, capacity to support children with challenging behaviors, and support to parents of children with significant disabilities.

Judy Center, Caroline County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6

Level: Easy

Cost: \$

Title: The Chicago Parent Program
<http://www.chicagoparentprogram.org/>

Target Audience: Parents and primary caregivers of three and four year olds

Duration: Six to12 week parent program

Materials Needed: Facilitators of the Program bring the materials; the Judy Center provides support

Description:

This Chicago Parent Program is a partnership with Johns Hopkins University, The Fund for Educational Excellence, Pre-Kindergarten Head Start parents, and the Judy Center at Liberty Elementary School. The program is implemented through 12 weekly sessions and designed for improving parenting skills, young children’s behavior and the parent-child relationship. This then improves kindergarten readiness, attendance, academic performance, and school engagement. These are key factors associated with student academic success and emotional wellbeing. Parents have received tremendous benefit from the parenting conversations, guidance, and fellowship that the program provides.

Things to consider: Keep in mind this is **grant-funded**, but we are working with the Chicago Parent Program to train additional facilitators who can offer this program again. Also, always have a caregiver for infants parents bring with them, give out additional books to parents from the Judy Center, and, if possible, launch an extensive recruiting program.

Liberty Judy Center Partnership, Baltimore City Public Schools

Goals: 1-7 All Goals

Level: Advanced

Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Parent Symposium “*Growing Strong Families*”

Target Audience: Parents with children, birth to five

Duration: Saturday event held at local elementary school

Materials Needed: Staff: presenters for breakout sessions, child care staff, and staff to facilitate the schedule.
Materials: A registration packet, books for children, door prizes, session handouts, and lunch was provided.

Description:

Market event to entire community and promote through the early childhood programs, Parents and Teacher (PAT) educators, etc. Utilize representatives from the Early Childhood Consortium and partner agencies to facilitate the day and assist with logistics. Sessions should include such topics as: brain development; social emotional development; relationships; importance of play; early literacy; sensory integration, etc. Use incentives to attract families, such as: 1) transportation assistance; 2) lunch; 3) child care; 4) door prizes; and 5) encouragement to learn how to help children be successful and ready to learn.

Things to consider: Location is important; select a location easily accessible and welcoming to all. Address the needs of families (food, transportation, and child care) and also try to approach community businesses for donations (lunch, prizes, resources, etc.).

Carroll Family Support Center, Carroll County

Goals: 1-7 All Goals

Level: Advanced

Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Mental Health/Self Esteem Classes
<http://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/early-childhood-mental-health>

Target Audience: Parents

Duration: Ongoing

Materials Needed: Mental Health Therapist/Professional

Description:

Participants meet regularly with a Mental Health Therapist to discuss issues such as parenting styles, discipline, healthy relationships, domestic violence, setting goals and planning for the future, etc.

Things to consider: Cost, stipend for Therapist is \$75.00-\$100.00 per hour

Family & Children Services EHS, Baltimore City

Goals: 1-7 All Goals

Level: Advanced

Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Peer Support Group
<http://www.onetoughjob.org/>
<https://www.nct.org.uk/about-us> National Childbirth Trust

Target Audience: New Parents

Duration: 1-2 hours

Materials Needed: Prompting questions along with fun engaging activity

Description:

During our Peer Support Group meeting, we prompt participants with questions to which they all may be able to relate. We share experiences and allow parents to do some creative problem solving as well as brainstorming based on Early Childhood Curriculum learning.

Editor Julie Clayton states that peer support has been shown to help in increasing rates of breastfeeding. Peer support can also help in the transition to parenthood, offering friendship and alleviating isolation, stress and low mood.

Things to consider: Ages may vary and providing food helps as an incentive.

Prince George’s County Department of Family Services, Prince George’s County

Goals: 1-7 All Goals
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$

Title: Pathway Planning

Target Audience: Parents and their children receiving services from Garrett County Community Action Judy Center, Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Care, Home Visiting Programs, and After-school Programs

Duration: Ongoing as needed

Materials Needed: Crisis to Thriving Scale <http://socialimpactarchitects.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Boulder-Discussion-Guide.pdf>, planning forms, knowledge of resources available to families in your community

Description:

The Crisis to Thriving Scale creates a starting point for meaningful conversation about the strengths, weakness, and aspirations of a family. Building on that conversation, the family is offered an invitation to participate in deeper discussion about a pathway to *self-sufficiency*. When the family agrees to participate in pathway planning, the coordinator then assists the participant with identifying goals based on their strengths and needs. Next step includes developing an “Action Plan” to achieve these goals and creating a budget with the family.

Once goals are developed, the action plan is created, and a budget is formulated; the Pathway Planning Participant may require or request further meetings and assistance with their coordinator in meeting these goals or “putting the pathway plan into action”. The number and frequency of pathway meetings between the family and the coordinator are determined by the family and the goals established. Recurring pathway meetings allow for further collaboration between the coordinator and family. As families achieve goals and/or access resources they are encouraged to review the Crisis to Thriving Scale to demonstrate to the families their success in moving up the scale.

Things to consider: The Pathway Plan is designed to provide ongoing support, resources/services as needed to promote family wellbeing. Pathway Planning is free to families who volunteer to participate.

Garrett County Community Action Council, Garrett County

Goals: 1 and 7
Level: Advanced
Cost: \$\$\$

Title: Family Literacy Night

Target Audience: Families within Title I School Districts and Housing Projects

Duration: 1 hour - broken down into 20 minutes for reading and singing, 20 minutes for family crafts, and 20 minutes for snack and choosing free books

Materials Needed: Appropriate books to read, books to give away, craft materials, and snacks

Description:

One Family Literacy Night is conducted at each site once a month with a theme. Families are welcomed, and then the children move to a story time area where a reader shares stories and sings. The parents often meet with community resource representatives from the Library, YMCA, Social Services, and others.

Tips for Organizing your own Literature Day

Literature Day can take a great deal of planning -- and shopping!

*Organize age appropriate activities that appeal to children/students.

*Activity sessions can run from 45-60 minutes.

*Sessions should be limited to 15 children and 15 parents.

*Have teachers fill out activity planning sheets that include the grade level for the activity; the book to be used (title, author, illustrator, publisher, and copyright); a list of needed supplies; and a brief description of the plan.

*Sample literature activities are: cooking, music/movement, arts and crafts, drama, game playing, and writing.

*Offer signup for evening activities to take place before the literature night begins.

Things to consider: It helps to have reading specialists, media specialists, and teacher’s select appropriate literature materials.

Catholic Charities Head Start, Baltimore City

Goals: 2 and 3
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Home School Connections “Back Packs”

Target Audience: Parents and children

Duration: 15-minute home activity

Materials Needed: Back packs, journals, materials (reusable), instructor(s), and feedback forms

Description:

The teacher prepares back packs with short reusable activity ideas and materials. Children take back packs home. Parents conduct the activities included in the back packs with their child and write in the journal to provide feedback regarding their experience. Back packs are returned to the program and the children get to take home the next book bag in rotation.

Things to consider: Keep in mind cost of materials, making sure items are in the parents’/children’s native language, and having reusable bags. Materials may need to be refreshed when back packs are returned. Be sure to check the bags before sending out with the next child to see if any materials, consumables or contents need refreshing or replacing.

Ready At Five, Baltimore County

Goals: 2 and 3
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Story Time at the Local Library with Infants and Toddlers
<http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/269/Infants-Toddlers-Program>
<http://www.fcpl.org/programs/childrens-programs>

Target Audience: Parents of young children with and without disabilities

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials Needed: Storybook with associated materials

Description:

Our local library has collaborated with the Infants and Toddlers Program to engage parents of children with disabilities in story time together with typical same-age peers. Infants/Toddlers and library staff jointly prepare and share a selected story with modifications to allow all children/families to participate in the story time.

Things to consider: Check with your local library for story time hours and locations.

Infants and Toddlers/ Early Intervention, Frederick County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Student Writing Night at the Public Library

Target Audience: Children and families- pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade

Duration: 1-2 hours

Materials Needed: Student writing projects

Description:

Each grade level brings student writing projects to display at the public library for an evening. Families come to see their child’s project displayed and participate in other activities together as well as sign up for library cards, read aloud/storytelling, puppet shows, etc. Other literacy organizations can set up information resource tables for parents, families, and the community.

Things to consider: There is no cost associated with this activity. Be sure to plan ahead, collecting student work and allowing time to take and set up displays at the library.

Anonymous

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Children’s Discovery Fair

Target Audience: Parents and children ages three-five

Duration: Once a year at a local library or other community location

Materials Needed: 25 different activities. Each community program pays for the materials for the activity.

Description:

A team gets together to create 25 activities that families can choose from. Topics included science, social studies, language/literacy, and social/emotional. The Discovery Fair planning committee is a subcommittee of Howard County Local Early Childhood Advisory Council (LECAC) <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Community-Resources-and-Services/Office-Of-Children-and-Families/Launch-Into-Learning>.

Things to consider: We suggest securing community partners to assist with the Discovery Fair.

Local Early Childhood Advisory Council/Howard County

Goals: 2, 3, 5, and 6
Level: Advanced
Cost: \$

Title: Pru’s Back Pack “Thrive by Five”
<https://thrivewa.org/>

Target Audience: Parents of low-income

Duration: Ongoing

Materials Needed: Books: Pat the Bunny, Baby Faces, etc. and Manipulatives

Description:

The Harford County Local Early Childhood Advisory Council (LECAC) <https://www.hcps.org/parents/default.aspx> participated in a workshop facilitated by a former low-income mother, who said that young parents need a way to engage children that is easy and mobile. Pru’s Back Pack was developed for parents in need of support that they can take with them to engage their children during “down time”.

Things to consider: A low cost is associated with this activity. Work with partners and businesses to supply books, manipulatives and backpacks.

Local Early Childhood Advisory Council/Harford County

Goals: 2 and 3
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Pastries for Parents “The Next Level”
<https://www.psea.org/uploadedfiles/teachingandlearning/dadsanddonutsormomsandmuffins.pdf>

Target Audience: Parents of school age children

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials Needed: Curriculum materials and refreshments (if needed)

Description:

Parents are served breakfast items and listen to a short presentation on a variety of curriculum topics such as math concepts, reading with your child, importance of homework, transitions, etc. Families have the opportunity to ask questions and talk to other parents.

Parent: “Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads is an opportunity to honor moms and dads and to say thank you for all the hard work we do every day. Children love sharing this time with us and having a special morning to share with their parents at school is such a treat”.

Things to consider: A low cost is associated with this activity. Allow for staff preparation time to prepare presentations in an interesting and engaging manner. Plan ahead for refreshments and have them set up prior to families’ arrival.

Dorchester County Public Schools/Dorchester County

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Gingerbread House Story Night

Target Audience: Families and children birth to age five

Duration: Once a year

Materials Needed: Gingerbread House kits, books for story time, hot cocoa and books to take home per family (encourage parents/families to read every night)

Description:

Each family is given a Gingerbread House Kit. Together they create their home design. Every year the structures are very creative and allow parents and their children to work together.

First parents sign in with their children (all children are invited to come in their pajamas). They are invited to have hot cocoa and other treats. Once everyone has arrived, the children gather together for story time. Parents are able see how the book is read and how to engage the children. Each family then creates their Gingerbread House. When the activity is completed they are gifted books to take home and read together.

Things to consider: This could be a sensitive activity for some children who may not have parents, mother, father, grandparents, etc. who can attend. Try to have additional parent volunteers, child friendly community partners (ex: local librarian) or familiar staff person to work with a child if needed. Have families sign up ahead of time to make certain you have enough supplies (houses and books) for everyone attending. Have supplies for decorating the houses available at each table or set up ‘buffet-style’ for families to access.

Gaithersburg Judy Center/ Gaithersburg, MD

Goals: 2, 3, and 6
Level: Easy
Cost: \$

Title: Dia de los Muertos “Day of the Dead”
<http://www.art-is-fun.com/>

Target Audience: Families and children birth to five

Duration: Once a year/One day celebration

Materials Needed: Dia de los Muertos art, art supplies, costumes, recipe for bread, and books for children about Dia de los Muertos

Description:

This daylong celebration honors the Mexican tradition of honoring our ancestors through storytelling, a homage through an altar, book making, and cooking.

Things to consider: There are moderate costs are associated with this activity. Be sure to plan well in advance for any volunteers, materials, cooking supplies, etc. Staff should become familiar with Dia de los Muertos history and activities prior to this activity.

Latino Family Providers/ Montgomery County

Goals: 2 and 6
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$\$

Title: Chinese New Year!
<http://www.china-family-adventure.com/chinese-new-year.html>

Target Audience: Families and Children

Duration: Ongoing

Materials Needed: Information from families shared in a PowerPoint presentation or photo e-mails

Description:

One of our parents conducted a full, in-depth lesson on Chinese New Year. The presentation was conducted via PowerPoint on a large screen to be sure all children/parents were able to see information/images. Within the presentation we discussed the 12 Chinese Zodiac Signs, the Great Wall of China, the Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, Fifty-Six Ethnic Groups in China, and a Fashion Timeline of Chinese Women’s Clothing. At the end of lesson, families discussed how they would extend their learning at home.

Things to consider: Being sensitive to cultural responses and differences is critical for these presentations. Consider other families who could share their cultural heritage through events and activities throughout the year.

Johns Hopkins Bayview Child Care Dev. Center/ Baltimore City

Goals: 6
Level: Moderate
Cost: \$

Title: Family Routines
<http://www.shineearly.com/family/>
<http://www.shineearly.com/>

Target Audience: All parents

Duration: 2-3 hours

Materials Needed: Large space for families, LCD projector, laptop, speakers, microphone, and refreshments

Description:

In collaboration with Shine Insight and Acelero Learning, Family Service staff train parents on Family Routines. The workshop is very interactive, allowing parents to learn from one another.

Shine Insight Family Services Approach Description:

The idea of our family engagement model is simple: well-informed, well-supported parents and families are essential partners in our work to close the achievement gap. Savvy Head Start leaders understand that without the help and active partnership of the families that they serve, they cannot ensure that each child who completes their program will be well-prepared to succeed in school and life.

At our partner, Acelero Learning programs, <http://www.acelero.net/>, we focus on: informing families about the Achievement Gap and empowering them with practical knowledge on what they can do about it; understanding each family’s strengths and needs for support with a well-structured and detailed Family Strengths Assessment; partnering with families by setting goals around Family Life Practices that will be key to tipping the odds in their child’s favor; and coaching and evaluating by our Family Advocates and other family service team members over the course of the year with detailed Family Advocate Success Rubrics.

Our robust set of Family Services-focused tools includes:

- *Achievement Gap Brochure & Workshop Package
- *Family Strengths Assessment survey
- *Family Goal-Setting templates (60+ goal sheets in English and Spanish, plus blank templates)
- *Family Handbooks (HS and EHS)
- *Family and Community Partnerships Training Workshop materials, #1-5
- *Parent-Child Activity calendars
- *ERSEA tools and resources
- *Health, nutrition, other comprehensive services resources, and much more.

Things to consider: Additional staff is needed to assist with the event. The location has to be spacious enough to accommodate all children and families. Initially plan for parents, considering their interests and needs, as well as being mindful of their unique schedules.

Y of Central Maryland Early Head Start and Head Start/ Baltimore County

Goals: 1 and 2

Level: Moderate

Cost: \$\$



