



Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children

Who We Are

The Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYC) is a professional association of more than 3,000 early childhood educators, allied professionals, and families in Maryland. We work in child care centers, preschools, family child care homes, elementary schools, community agencies and in higher education.

We are the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which includes over 60,000 early childhood educators.

Mission

MDAEYC promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

Our Work

In keeping with our mission, our work is focused on:

- **High-quality early learning for all children.** We support high quality care and education in any early learning setting, including child care centers, family child care homes, preschools, public pre-kindergarten, and elementary schools.
- For children **from birth through age 8.**
 - The science of early childhood development tells us that the early childhood years go up to age 8. Accordingly, we support developmentally appropriate educational practices in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, in addition to the birth to 5 years.
 - Young children are active learners who thrive when we provide them a balance of teacher-directed and child-initiated activities, and plan play-based learning experiences that support each domain of children's development.
- We advance **a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession.** We provide support to all who care for and educate young children, in any early learning setting.
 - We define the field of early childhood education broadly, and include aides and assistant teachers in child care programs as well as teachers and directors in child care, family child care, preschool, and elementary school settings. Our field also includes faculty in higher education who train and educate early childhood educators.
 - MDAEYC is a proud endorser of NAEYC's Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Position Statement. We are committed to advancing equity within the field of early childhood education, for the children and families served in our programs, and for educators ourselves.

For More Information

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