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Maryland's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Building Initiative

GROWING HEALTHY CHILDREN



Through this initiative, Maryland will:

Promote the health and well being of young children,

Prepare young children to enter school ready and able to learn,

Reduce gaps in our current services, and

Improve the coordination of existing services.

www.MarylandEarlyChildhood.org



Giving Maryland children roots to grow... strong and healthy minds and bodies.

Vision: All children and their families thrive in safe and supportive communities that help every child arrive at school healthy and ready to learn.



Mission: Partnerships and collaborations work to develop and sustain a comprehensive early childhood system.



Goal: To improve outcomes for children and families by building a coordinated, comprehensive system, to address five critical components: access to health insurance and medical homes, social-emotional development/mental health, early care and education, family support and parent education.

Significance

Although one of the wealthiest states in the nation, too many Maryland children still enter school unhealthy and unprepared to succeed. Indicators affecting this readiness to succeed include: health disparities, child safety, low birth weight, lead poisoning/exposure, poverty, poor dental care, homelessness, abuse and neglect, mental health concerns and psychosocial issues. In Maryland 40% of children are still not ready for school. Health indicators for Maryland's children reveal areas of critical need that could benefit from additional financial and social resources, partnership collaboration, and public awareness including:



Maryland Statistics 2005

- 11% of children 0-5 live in poverty
- 9% children 0-5 have no insurance
- 14.9% of minority children die at birth
- 31% of all children ages 24-59 months are in childcare
- 27% of all Medicaid children do not have medical home access
- 1311 children 1-5 have elevated blood lead levels
- 29% of children 2-5 are overweight
- 42% of school children have untreated tooth decay

