

TOGETHER WE'RE
BETTER

Expanding access to **HIGH-QUALITY,**
inclusive child care

After extensive research and surveying 900 families and child care providers, the Council issued a report that identified barriers to quality child care in Maryland, with 20 recommendations to expand access for children with disabilities. The state has acted on 17 of the 20 recommendations and the Council launched several initiatives that have helped child care providers improve and expand their programs. As a result, more children with disabilities learn and play alongside children without disabilities and more child care providers have the capacity, skills and knowledge to welcome and support children with disabilities in their programs.



“ **I have been to a lot of trainings and I have never left with so much useful information. I’m going back and putting this into practice.** ”

According to families of children with disabilities:

- 72% have had difficulties finding, obtaining or keeping child care.
- 64% have lost income due to the lack of child care options.
- 32% have quit their jobs to stay home with their child.

Ongoing impact of Council advocacy & funding:

- Helped develop and conduct training about the ADA and inclusive practices required for all childcare providers—over 14,000.
- Produced two videos, *Providing Child Care for Children with Disabilities Alongside Typically-Developing Peers*, included in the child care trainings.
- Expanded access to child care on the Eastern Shore—20 child care providers received training, technical assistance and peer-to-peer support.
- Developed the second-most requested online training in the nation for child care providers, utilized by more than 500 providers to date.

14,000 child care providers in Maryland are now required to receive training about the ADA and inclusive practices, leading to more families receiving the support they need.

