

Child Care Terms and Definitions

▪ **The Maryland Child Care Credential**

The Maryland Child Care Credential is a voluntary program that recognizes child care providers who go beyond the requirements of State licensing and registrations regulations. There are six credential levels, each one recognizing a child care provider's achievement of specified number of training clock hours, experience and professional activities important for providing quality child care programs. Participating providers are required to complete training in a broad range of topic areas that will help them develop the knowledge and skills to provide the best possible care for the children and families they serve.

For more information:

Child Care Administration – Office of Credentialing 410-767-6916

www.mdchildcare.org – Maryland Committee for Children – local sites of MCCRN

www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/childcarecredentials/

▪ **Core of Knowledge**

The core of knowledge is theories and practices that are essential to individuals working with children in family child care homes and child care centers. The core of knowledge is divided into six major areas: Child Development, Curriculum, Professionalism, Community, Special Needs and Health, Safety and Nutrition.

As part of the Maryland Child Care Credential, child care providers will have to take a particular number of training clock hours in certain core of knowledge areas. This is defined in the information packet about the credential.

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▪ **Tiered Reimbursement**

Tiered reimbursement increases the amount of Purchase of Care payments to child care programs that have gone beyond the requirements of the State licensing and registration regulations. There are four levels to this program with incremental increases in the reimbursement amounts associated with each level. This is a voluntary program.

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▪ **Environmental Rating Scales**

There are 4 commonly used environmental rating scales. There is ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale), ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale), SACERS (School-Age Environmental Rating Scale) and FDCRS (Family Day Care Rating Scale).

There is a book for each one of these scales. In the book are several subscales with several items that are scored on a one to seven scale, while observing a classroom. The scale can be used by program directors for supervisions and program improvement, by teaching staff for self-assessment, by an outside observer for program monitoring and evaluation, for teacher training programs, for research or by providers for tiered reimbursement through MSDE/OCC.

For more information:

www.mdchildcare.org – Maryland Committee for Children – local sites of MCCRN

www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/childcarecredentials/

To purchase a cop of the environmental rating scales: Call the Teacher's College Press where each book can be purchased for \$11.95 each (as of 8/01) at 1-800-575-6566.

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center's website www.fpg.unc.edu, click on 'Rating Scales'.

- **Accreditation**

Accreditation from a state of nationally recognized organization in the child care field is in a sense a 'seal of approval' from that organization stating that this particular child care program has met their quality standards.

See types of accreditation chart, available through local Child Care Resource and Referral Center

For more information:

www.mdchildcare.org – Maryland Committee for Children – local sites of MCCRN

- **MMSR**

The Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) is an assessment and instructional system which incorporates best practices in early childhood education. MMSR is not a curriculum. Rather it is an approach that trains early childhood teachers and caregivers to observe children individually and objectively.

Currently, Maryland Committee for Children has a grant to provide MMSR training to Child Care providers and child care trainers around the state. The same information being provided to the public school teachers is being offered.

For more information:

On MSDE/Public School programs:

Contact Dr. Rolf Grafwallner at 410-767-0342 or rgrafwal@msde.state.ms.us

Maryland Committee for Children/Professional Development Grant

Contact Barbara Andrews, Ph.D at 410-752-7588 ext. 272 or bandrews@mdchildcare.org

- **Work Sampling**

The work sampling system is a performance assessment system that is used in preschool through fifth grade. Its purpose is to document children's skills, knowledge, behavior and accomplishments across a wide variety of curriculum areas on multiple occasions in order to enhance teaching and learning. The work sampling system consists of three complementary elements: developmental guidelines, portfolios and summary reports.

For more information:

Rebus at 1-800-435-3085 or www.rebusinc.com/index2.html

- **CDA**

The Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program is a program that focuses on the skills of early care and education professionals. It is designed to provide performance-based training, assessment and credentialing of child care staff, home visitors and family child care providers. The Child Development Associate (CDA) is an individual who has successfully completed a CDA assessment and has been awarded the CDA credential.

For more information:

Council for Professional Recognition at 1-800-424-4310 or 202-265-9090 or www.cdacouncil.org

- **CEU**

The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is a unit of measurement to record participation in non-credit academic, professional and vocational programs. It is based upon attendance at short courses and other non-credit continuing education programs sponsored by organizations following the guidelines established by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training on the CEU. It serves as a uniform unit of measure for continuing education and training.

For more information:

The Center for Professional Advancement 732-238-9113 or www.cfpa.com