

## Choosing Quality Child Care with Maryland EXCELS

### What is Maryland EXCELS?

Maryland EXCELS is a state agency that works to improve the quality of child care across Maryland and to educate families about how to choose high-quality care.

Our Find a Program directory gives your family important information about a program's quality rating. If your family uses a Child Care Scholarship, you can use the directory to find programs that are eligible to accept scholarships.

When you see a Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating Badge or certificate, you can be confident that the program is committed to providing the best quality services for your family.



### Understanding Maryland EXCELS Quality Ratings

Child care programs that participate in Maryland EXCELS are rated according to national standards for quality in five key areas:

- **Licensing and Compliance** shows that a program complies with health and safety regulations.
- **Staff Qualifications** and Professional Development shows how much education and experience providers have.
- **Accreditation and Rating Scales** display a program's commitment to improvement.
- **Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice** measures how well the program supports your child's education and growth.
- **Administrative Policies and Practices** indicate the quality of a program's business practices.