



Dear Early Childhood Partner,

On **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) will sponsor the **22nd** annual **Children's Discovery Fair**. This free event for preschoolers, parents and caregivers will take place from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at East Columbia 50+ Center**. This school readiness event is part of our **Launch into Learning** initiative and is in celebration of Month of the Young Child in Howard County. You are invited to participate in the *Children's Discovery Fair* by offering a hands-on themed activity for children 3 to 5 years old.

The *Children's Discovery Fair* has been very successful in past years, attracting hundreds of parents and children. This event is an opportunity for Howard County programs and organizations to give back to the community by offering a fun, interactive learning activity for children and parents. Parents will learn important information about school readiness and community resources in this family engagement event.

In the attached **Activity Menu**, you will find a variety of educational pre-planned lessons for young children centered on the theme, "**Little Learners, Big Discoveries.**" The menu features educational games and activities related to Early Childhood Preschool Domains. Please review these options and indicate your choice on the sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AACAF2FA4FB6-62108566-copy>

If you prefer to create your own activity, follow these steps:

1. Create an interactive educational activity that meets one of the pre-k educational standards.
2. Complete a STEAM themed activity following the educational template before 3/2/26 and email it to [lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov) for approval.

A table will be provided for each activity unless you don't need one. Tables will be spaced out throughout the building. Plan to provide any supplies and materials for your activity. Plan your activity for about 200 children.

- **No food** products are allowed in any activity. **No Stickers** can be used.
- Participants will need to be set up and **ready to begin activities at 10:00 a.m.**
- Promotional materials for your organization are allowed to be distributed but the major focus is engaging the children and families at your table.

CEUs or PAUs will be available for educators/ providers staffing an activity at the event. If interested in receiving the CEU, we will provide an application that would need to be submitted before the event.

**Please submit respond no later than March 2.** Activity confirmations with more specifics for the event will be sent out the week of March 25. If you have additional questions, contact Lisa Rhodes at [lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov) or Colleen Nester, [Colleen\\_Nester@hcpss.org](mailto:Colleen_Nester@hcpss.org).

We appreciate your willingness to participate in this educational community event.

Not sure what the Discovery Fair looks like? See pictures from 2024: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBnPBk>