

Free Family Workshops & Parent Pages Newsletter

March 2026

[Read the Parent Pages Newsletter](#)

Parent's Guide to Challenging Behaviors

Discover a proven, research-based approach to better understand your child's behavior and what influences it. Learn practical tools to prevent challenging behaviors—and handle them calmly when they do occur. Ask questions, gain ready-to-use strategies and leave feeling more confident in your parenting. For parents of children ages 2–8. **Monday, March 2, 1 p.m. Free virtual workshop, register [here](#)**

Parent's Guide: Practical Next Steps

Build on what you learned in *Parent's Guide to Challenging Behaviors* with an interactive session focused on putting those strategies into practice. Get support applying the tools at home, explore additional resources and leave with an actionable plan you can start using right away. **Monday, March 9, 7 p.m. Free virtual workshop, register [here](#)**

Meeting Milestones Through Play Learn simple strategies to maximize your child's development using toys and materials you already have. This interactive workshop is designed for parents and caregivers with toddlers aged 18 - 36 months. Explore how common toys and everyday objects can be transformed to target language growth and strengthen fine motor skills. Learn specific language and fine motor strategies that support development and gain fresh ideas for play-based learning that you can implement with your child. **Monday, March 23, 7 p.m. Free virtual workshop, register [here](#)**

Growing a Reader Parents are a child's first and most important teacher—and the early years are full of simple, joyful opportunities to build strong reading skills at home. Explore the natural stages of reading development and discover fun, practical ways to nurture your child's growing love of books and language. You'll leave with easy strategies you can start using right away to support confidence, connection and a lifelong love of reading. **Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m. Free virtual workshop, register [here](#)**

To request this information in an alternate format, or accommodations to participate in these programs, email children@howardcountymd.gov or call the CARE Line, 410-313-CARE(2273) (voice/relay).

Howard County Office of Children and Families

<https://bit.ly/HoCo-FamilyEngagement>



To visit our website and register, scan the QR code

Family Programming

Click on the Family Engagement

Newsletter

Click on Parent Pages

www.howardcountymd.gov/parentpages

For questions or assistance with registering, call 410-313-2273 (voice/ relay) or email children@howardcountymd.gov

Programming questions, contact Lisa Rhodes at lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-1440(voice/relay)

Finding Employment in the New Normal

Learn how to use up-to-date strategies and proven job search techniques to gain a competitive edge in today's evolving job market. This virtual and interactive session hosted by Workforce Development will help you navigate new employment trends and position yourself for success.

Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m. Free virtual workshop, register [here](#) &

Thursday, March 26, 7 p.m. Free virtual workshop, register [here](#)

The Basics Howard County | The Basics Insights text messaging

Research shows that 90% of brain growth happens by age five. The Basics provide five simple things parents can do to make the most of these early years. Parents in Howard County can receive free tips directly to their phone to support their child by [signing up](#) for **Basics Insights**. These weekly text messages provide suggestions based on your child's developmental stage, from birth to five (available in English or Spanish). [Learn more](#).

Children's Discovery Fair: Little Learners, Big Discoveries

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. / Free, [Register here](#)

East Columbia 50+ Center / 6610 Cradlerock Way, Columbia

Explore the wonders of learning while engaging in hands-on, STEAM experiences—science, technology, engineering, art, and math—through interactive activities, games, stories, and movement. Free dental screenings will also be available on site. Sponsored by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council, this Launch into Learning event is for children ages three to five with an adult. For more information, email children@howardcountymd.gov.

Family Support Center Programming

[The Howard County Family Support Center \(FSC\)](#) offers community-based programs for parents and caregivers of children age birth to five. Located at 9790 Patuxent Woods Drive in Columbia, FSC programs highlight child development, parent education and health information. Upcoming programming below. For more information on programming, contact Ashton Sullivan, asullivan@howardcountymd.gov, 410-313-1453 (voice/relay)

Drop-in Play Group at the Family Support Center, register for **one** of the following dates:

Friday, March 6, 10 – 11 a.m. Register [here](#)

Friday, March 20, 10 – 11 a.m. Register [here](#)