Howard County
Office of Children & Families

Free Family Workshops
& Parent Pages Newsletter
December 2026

[Read the Parent Pages Newsletter]

Play & Learn
Wednesday, December 2, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Free, 9830 Patuxent Woods Dr.
In this interactive session, children and caregivers will discover how everyday play builds important skills for learning and development—while meeting and connecting with other families. Explore hands-on activity stations inspired by The Basics—simple, science-backed ways to support your child's development. As children play, they'll practice skills like talking, counting, moving, exploring, and problem-solving. Learn easy, fun ideas to use at home to turn everyday moments into opportunities for learning and connection. For children ages 1–5 and their caregivers.

Navigating Howard County Housing Resources
December 3, 6:30 p.m. | Free virtual workshop
Are you looking for affordable housing in Howard County, having issues with your landlord or looking for ways to pay down your debt? This session guides you through resources and support available in the county. Learn about different housing options, consumer rights, financial assistance programs such as eviction prevention, and how to access the right agency for your specific need.

Helping Children Transition Between Activities
Tuesday, December 8, 1p.m. Free virtual workshop
Transitions throughout the day such as getting out the door or heading to bedtime can be challenging and may lead to frustration or difficult behaviors. Learn practical strategies to help children understand and anticipate what's coming next, making transitions smoother, calmer, and more successful for the whole family.
Transition In person session **Tuesday, December 8, 6 p.m. 9830 Patuxent Woods Dr.**
In addition to the workshop, you will also be able to view a library of Pyramid Model resources and create your own personalized visual schedules to use at home.

Howard County Office of Children and Families
https://bit.ly/HoCo-FamilyEngagement

To visit our website and register, scan the QR code

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, email Lisa Rhodes at
lrhodes@howardcountymd.gov

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).

Understanding Early Intervention Services and Child Development

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. | Free virtual workshop

Do you have concerns about your child's development? Research shows that 68% of 3rd graders who received early intervention no longer require special education services. Gain the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about your child's developmental needs. Learn how to request developmental testing for your child through the Infants and Toddlers and Child Find Programs. We'll explore the significant benefits of early intervention, including how it can positively impact your child's future success. Additionally, discover other valuable community resources that support child development. Information for children ages birth to five.

Welcome to Parenthood: Connecting to Howard County Resources

Monday, December 14, 1:00 p.m. | Free virtual workshop.

Becoming a parent is a big transition and knowing what support is available can make all the difference. Explore the services available in Howard County, learn where to go for trusted information and how to access local support systems that can help you feel more confident and connected.

Engaging Indoor Play Ideas for Toddlers & Preschoolers

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. | Free virtual workshop

With shorter days and colder weather on the way, are you looking for fresh ways to keep your little ones busy indoors? Learn about simple, budget-friendly activities using everyday household items. You will leave with easy ideas to keep your toddler or preschooler engaged while building essential motor, language, and thinking skills at home!

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

Friday, December 18, 10 – 11 a.m. | Free, Register here

Children and their families are invited to explore and play at our Family Support Center! Parents must stay with their children. This is a great opportunity for children to meet new friends and parents to network!

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 at The Basics Howard County webpage.