Howard County
Office of Children & Families

October Professional Learning Calendar 2026

Course Title Date and Time	Cost	Description	COK	Professional Learning Facilitator	Professional Learning Format
Recruiting and Retaining Staff: Early Childhood Employee Life Cycle **Tuesday** **10/6/2026** **6:30– 8:30pm**	$5	This professional learning will review six stages of the early childhood employee life cycle and identify and discuss strategies for improving recruitment and retention of early childhood employees. Participants will evaluate their own program's staff recruitment and retention. This professional learning is for directors, assistant directors, and administrators of child care programs.	1 COM, 1 PRO	Georgia Ferentinos	Virtual
Messing Around with Science **Tuesday** **10/13/2026** **6:30 –9:30pm**	$5	We all like to get a little messy every now and then-especially children! Children learn best when they can touch, see, smell, taste, hear, and manipulate the materials in their world. They are filled with wonder and curiosity about the world around them. This workshop will provide ideas and activities for children to use their senses to discover and explore.	3 CUR	Lisa Hendricks	Virtual
CLASS Overview: Class Assessment Scoring System **Wednesday** **10/14/2026** **6:30-8:30pm**	$5	This workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to CLASS while fostering practical skills to improve teacher-child interactions in early learning settings.	2 PRO	Georgia Ferentinos	Virtual
The Heart of Infant Brain Development **Thursday** **10/15/2026** **6:30-8:30pm**	$5	A baby's early relationships, whether at home or in an early childhood education environment, set the stage both positively and negatively for future brain function and development. The information gathered during these interactions and relationships is at the heart of healthy brain growth and development. This workshop explores the	2 CD	Nicole Pontoriero	In-Person

		importance of building relationships with infants and how relationships support healthy brain development as well as the negative impacts when babies do not have the support of healthy relationships with caring adults.			

CPR & First Aid **Wednesday** **10/21/2026** **5:30-9:30pm**	$90	This program includes Adult, Infant, Child CPR, and choking procedures. The class is also appropriate for all childcare providers who need to learn or review basic first aid. This course satisfies all state requirements. This is a combination CPR and First Aid class that will result in both certifications.	2 Year Certification	Carolyn Fleming	In-Person
Rooted in Place: Nurturing Children's Connection to Their World **Monday** **10/26/2026** **6:30-8:30pm**	$5	This workshop focuses on the ways in which people interact with and shape the spaces and places they inhabit. You will learn how to use the concepts of geography, community and personal connections to help children learn about the world around them.	2 COM	Abena Njeeri	Virtual
Enjoying Special Moments with Infants and Toddlers **Tuesday** **10/27/2026** **6:30-8:30pm**	$5	This course will help you discover how to create special moments with infants and toddlers every day. Learn how to turn diaper changing and routine tasks into special moments that you share with each child.	2 CD	Janera Beavers	Virtual
Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Child's Perspective **Wednesday** **10/28/2026** **6:30-9:30pm**	$5	This workshop will explore autism as seen through the eyes of a child with a focus on the range and variance of symptoms as a spectrum disorder.	3 SN	Hayley Anthony	Virtual

Developing and Implementing a Mindful Lifestyle at Home and in the Classroom **Thursday** **10/29/2026** **6:30-8:30pm**	$5	Learn how to implement mindfulness into your personal life, and in your program. We will focus on the following topics: affirmations, gratitude, growth vs. fixed mindset, and more. You will walk away with a toolbox full of strategies to help you and your children be calmer, peaceful, and mindful.	1 CD, 1 PRO	Teresa Smith	In-Person

Workshops are held virtually through Webex by the Department of Community Resources and Services' Office of Children and Families, or in person at 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046.

***Online registration only* For questions, contact: Teresa Smith**

tesmith@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Child Care Resource Center Website

CORE OF KNOWLEDGE KEY

The Core areas are abbreviated as:
CD: Child Development COM: Community
HSN: Health, Safety and Nutrition CUR: Curriculum
SN: Special Needs PRO: Professionalism