



Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Childhood Development

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN MARYLAND

Fact Sheet 08-01 (February 2008)

Early Care Program Accreditation in Maryland

Accreditation provides a set of benchmarks for assessing the quality and professionalism of a program. To become accredited, an early care program must meet standards for promoting child health and safety and the development of learning skills that far exceed child care licensing requirements. Accreditation standards in early childhood care and education represent the highest program quality and reflect research-based, best practices.

The Maryland State Department of Education accredits early care and education programs and recognizes seven regional and national early care accrediting organizations. As of January 2008, there were 662 accredited early care and education programs in Maryland. The following table shows the number and type of accreditations held by these programs, which have been grouped into four categories: pre-kindergarten and kindergarten; center-based child care; Early Head Start and Head Start; and family child care.

Early Care Program Accreditations

Note: The combined total of program accreditations exceeds 662 because some programs hold dual accreditation

Accrediting Organization	Program Category			
	Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten (Pre-K/K)	Center-Based Child Care (CBCC)	Early Head Start and Head Start (EHS/HS)	Family Child Care (FCC)
American Montessori International	0	9	0	0
American Montessori Society	0	4	0	0
Maryland State Department of Education	133	67	66	0
Mid States	22	68	0	0
National After-School Association	4	17	0	0
National Association for the Education of Young Children	0	133	1	0
National Association for Family Child Care	0	0	0	158
National Early Childhood Professional Accreditation	0	2	0	0
Totals:	159	300	67	158

The following chart compares the number of accredited pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs (Pre-K/K), center-based child care programs (CBCC), Early Head Start and Head Start programs (EHS/HS), and family child care programs (FCC) during the 2000-01 school year with the number during the current 2007-08 school year.

Over the eight-year period, the total number of accredited programs grew from 123 to 662, an increase of 438%. Pre-K/K program accreditations increased 560%, while CBCC program accreditations increased 114%. Two program categories (EHS/HS and FCC) had no accredited programs at all in 2000-01.

