



# Judy Center Partnerships

Maryland State Department of Education

## Newsletter

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### Judy P. Hoyer Early Care and Education Enhancement Program Proven To Be Successful

Maryland has set the pace nationally in designing programs to enhance school readiness and improve educational outcomes for all children. One of the major state investments in children is the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Program. MGT of America conducted an evaluation of the first 13 Judy Centers and 137 child care programs using a mix-method approach to collect data and analyze information in order to evaluate program accomplishments from 2001 to 2003.

The key findings of this evaluation showed that Judy Centers, established in 2001, are providing children birth through five and their families with access to an array of comprehensive, integrated, full-day and full-year early care and education services. Judy Center programs and services promote school readiness by enhancing linguistics and early literacy, as well as cognitive, social and emotional, and physical development. In the first year of implementation, Judy Centers were funded at a total of \$4 million per year in 13 counties across Maryland through a competitive process. The Centers are located in or linked programmatically with public schools in low-income

areas. In 2002, an additional 11 Judy Centers received start-up allocations through a competitive application process. The MGT Evaluation also found that many of the Judy Centers had increased family access to mental health and dental screenings that were not offered or offered only on a limited bases. Access to family support services experienced substantial increases during the second implementation year. Overall enrollment increased substantially for all three types of indirect health service (immunizations, mental health services, and other health services). The data suggests that the professional level at the early care and education programs of Judy Centers has increased for certified teachers of public school classrooms and non-certified staff from non-public early childhood partners. The data indicates that 92 percent of all early care and education programs at Judy Centers completed state or national program accreditation, thereby meeting state or national standards of high quality.

Overall, ninety-eight percent of the parents surveyed in May 2003 were satisfied with the services provided by

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### Ready At Five Produces New Spanish Publication

Ready At five has recently produced a two-sided card publication—in Spanish—*Help Your Child be School Ready*. The cards describe examples of activities parents can do to help their children be school ready. The card was produced as

a simpler version of the 7-card Parents Matter publication. You can order the card on Ready At Five's website [www.readyatfive.org](http://www.readyatfive.org) or by emailing [readatfive.org](mailto:readatfive.org). The cost of purchase is \$.45 per card.

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Judy Hoyer dedicated her life to improving the lives of young children and their families. Her legacy continues because of the work of the twenty four Maryland Judy Centers that strive to promote school readiness through the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high quality, comprehensive, full-day, full-year early child care and education programs and family support service.



## Head Start Collaboration Project Moving Forward

The Head Start Collaboration Project, located at the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Early Learning Office, is developing and expanding educational and other comprehensive services to low-income children and their families through Judy Centers and Head Start programs. Early Learning Office staff coordinate efforts around state Prekindergarten, accreditation, the Maryland Model for School Readiness, Judy Centers and Head Start.

Under the leadership of State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick, the Head Start State Collaboration Project fosters multi-agency and public/private partnerships at State and local levels between Head Start, local school systems, child care, health systems, resource and referral organizations and other interested individuals and organizations to ensure the provision of appropriate, quality early childhood services.

Recently, several statewide collaborative agreements have been signed to improve services to low-income children and the quality of those services. An Articulation Agreement requires community colleges with early childhood programs to give six college credits to students with a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) who are enrolled in the early childhood program and successfully complete an early childhood course. Also, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the University of Maryland School of Pediatric Dentistry and the Head Start State Collaboration Office was updated to increase the access of Head Start children with dental problems to treatment and to expand oral disease prevention efforts.

"Successful Linkages", an initiative created by the Collaboration Office, the Maryland Head Start Association,

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## Queen Anne's County Saving Dollars Through Prevention and Early Intervention

A decade of research shows the road to success begins long before our children enter school. Yet, there are significant systemic and financial barriers to overcome and improvements to be made. On January 7th, before the legislative session began, the Queen Anne's County Judy Center Partnership brought together fifty local and state governmental officials, business leaders, community organization and school representatives for a Breakfast Exchange at the Judy Center Partnership building in Grasonville, to talk about this issue. The theme, "Look What a Dollar Can Do", focused on the cost savings for every dollar invested in five areas: early care and intervention, programs for healthy children, after-school programs, intensive home-visiting and substance abuse prevention.

Participants, viewed a seven minute video, produced by Judy Center staff and volunteers, focusing on four families and the successes they have experienced through early intervention services. A twenty minute dialog session

encouraged participants to discuss ways to support these cost saving programs in light of budget shortfalls. Elected officials were reminded that when making tough budget decisions, to keep in mind that cutting programs for children would leave a legacy of expensive consequences down the road. Participants were inspired to continue the discussion. Several future individual follow-up sessions are planned with state delegates/senators, county commissioners and members of the Chamber of Commerce. A joint group meets for monthly morning planning sessions at a local restaurant to strategize public awareness issues. The January Breakfast Exchange was planned and sponsored by Queen Anne's County Council for Children and Youth and the Early Childhood Clearing House. Judy Center staff serve as chairs and members of both of these interagency collaborations.

*"Head Start Collaboration Efforts are developing and expanding educational and other comprehensive services to low income children and families through Judy Centers and Head Start programs."*



**Queen Anne's County Commissioner, Ben Cassell, receives a "I'm Voting For Kids" bumper stickers from preschoolers, Ally Kilgore, and Mason Luongo, at a recent Breakfast Exchange meeting.**

## Moravia Park Judy Center Visited by Russian Educators

During the fall of 2003, a delegation of the CIVITAS@Russia Partnership, an organization of U.S. and Russian civic educators promoting the need for and value of increased emphases on comparative perspectives in civics education, visited the Moravia Park Judy Center in Baltimore City. Marcia Taylor Thoma, from the Division of Instruction's Social Studies office at MSDE helped to coordinate the visit for Yefim Kogan, Minister of Education from Samara, Russia.

While at the Judy Center, Minister Kogan met with members of the Judy Center Steering Committee who were on hand to answer questions. During his visit Minister Kogan was interviewed by two Moravia Park fifth graders representing their schools' newspaper. Minister Kogan's responses

gave everyone a unique perspective on the educational system in Russia. The Judy Center staff also provided a tour of the Judy Center facilities and answers to Minister Kogan's questions regarding early childhood education in Maryland, and how Judy Centers are promoting school readiness through a comprehensive approach to early care and education, with collaborative community partnerships. Everyone involved found the visit to be a valuable learning experience. Through the facilitation of MSDE, Maryland Judy Centers are part of the International Group of Integrated Centers, an international early childhood network. For more information visit our website: [www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/readiness/judy\\_centers\\_international\\_](http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/readiness/judy_centers_international_)



Yefim Kogan, Minister of Education, from Samar, Russia pays a visit to the Moravia Park Judy Center.

### Head Start Collaboration Project

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and State Superintendent, Nancy Grasmick, strengthens ties between Head Start and public schools to improve school readiness. A statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MSDE and the Maryland Head Start Association, will address common areas of interest, including, professional development, articulation, joint planning, and family support and involvement. Agreements between local school systems and Head Start programs will be encouraged and supported through a series of regional meetings and technical assistance. Another collaborative effort under the Successful Linkages initiative was a "Head Start and Judy Centers Health Information and Resource Work-

shop" held for over 50 participants, including Judy Center Directors and Service Coordinators and Head Start Directors and Family Service Workers. Speakers addressed lead poisoning prevention, a newly created oral health curriculum, and the draft agreement for children with disabilities. Participant reaction was excellent, as reflected in the evaluations, and future forums were requested.

The Collaboration Project is looking to expand partnerships between Head Start and Judy Centers. Project Coordinator, Linda Zang, is available to provide technical assistance to communities for this purpose. Ms. Zang can be reached at the MSDE's Early Learning Office at 410-767-0140 or by email at [lzang@msde.state.md.us](mailto:lzang@msde.state.md.us).

### Charles County Judy Centers Forge Partnerships to Benefit Children

The Charles County Judy Center staff have recently made use of some influential community partnerships to benefit children at the Dr. Mudd and Eva Turner Elementary Judy Centers. One partner, pediatric dentists Dr. James A. Heffner and Dr. Felix J. Aguto and their Associates, provide comprehensive dental care to children at both Judy Centers for half their normal fee. Recently, the duo of dentists purchased enough toothbrushes and sample size toothpaste to be sent home with children from all partnering agencies four times during year. The toothbrushes even have "The Judy Center" imprinted on them! Another of the Judy

Centers 26 partners, Borders Books & Music, co-sponsors a story hour with the Judy Centers on the last Thursday evening of every month. This event is regularly attended by up to 80 Judy Center children, as well as siblings, parents, and friends.

Before the December holidays, Judy Center volunteers including partners, teachers, school staff, and parents, participated in a gift wrapping night at Borders which earned them over one thousand dollars to be used for the purchase of books to be sent home with children to increase their home libraries.



"The most crucial responsibility of any community is the protection, education and mentoring of its children." Judith P. Hoyer

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**FIND US ON THE WEB**

[www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/readiness/index.html](http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/readiness/index.html)

**Find local Judy Centers at:**

[www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/JudyCenters/](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/JudyCenters/)  
[www.judycenter.allconet.org](http://www.judycenter.allconet.org)

[www.ccboe.com/judycenter](http://www.ccboe.com/judycenter)

[www.judycenter.com](http://www.judycenter.com)

[www.qacps.k12.md.us/judy](http://www.qacps.k12.md.us/judy)

## Judy Center Contact Information

Allegany County: Beall Elementary School 310.689.8489 Contact: Deb Kolb

Baltimore City: Moravia Park 410.361.9785 John Eager Howard 410.398.0284

Contact: Cascelia Burgess

Baltimore County: Campfield Early Learning Center 410.887.1266 Contact: Clarice Taylor

Calvert County: Patuxent Elementary 410.535.7836 Contact: Karen Jordan

Caroline County: Federalsburg Elementary 410.754.2467 Contact: Jacqueline Stewart

Carroll County: Robert Moton Elementary 410.751.3613 Contact: Susan Mitchell

Cecil County: Holly Hall Elementary/Family Education Center 410.996.5050 Contact: Bobbi Budin

Charles County: Dr. Samuel Mudd 301.893.5619 / Eva Turner Elementary 301.638.3148

Contact: Cheryl DeAtley

Dorchester County Judy Center: 410.221.5268 Contact: Marion Fisher

Frederick County: Waverly Elementary 240.236.8770 Contact: Cathy Perry

Garrett County: Overlook Judy Center 301.334.4211 Contact: Barbara Hornyak

Howard County: Dasher Green Owen Brown School 301.381.9024 Contact: Anne Yenchko

Kent County: H.H. Garnett Elementary 410.810.3903 Contact: Brenda Rose

Montgomery County: Silver Spring: Rolling Terrace 301.431.7696 Contact: Lisa Conlon

Gaithersburg: Summit Hall/Rosemont Elementary 301.548.8287 Contact: Martha Monks

Prince George's County: Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center 301.408.6861 Contact: John Boyd

Queen Anne's County: Grasonville Elementary 410.827.4629 Contact: Diane Umstead

St. Mary's County: Green Holly Elementary 301.863.4065 Contact: Sheila Draper

Talbot County: Easton Elementary 410.820.7468 Contact: Mary Adkins

Washington County: Bester Elementary 301.766.8005 Contact: Dana Peake

Wicomico County: Pemberton Elementary 410.677.5817 Contact: Katrena Bailey

## Evaluation Proves Programs to Be Successful

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the Judy Centers. In the same survey, 85 percent of the parents thought the services made some differences for their family, while 94 percent of the parents thought the services made some differences in their child's life. Analysis of teacher evaluations of student learning revealed that children from disadvantaged groups (poverty, special education, limited English proficiency) made significant strides before and during their kindergarten years at the Judy Centers and performed at the same level as all kindergarten students by the end of the kindergarten year.

The Enhancement Grant Program, also established in 2001, provides funds for private providers of early child care and education services to obtain or maintain state or national program accreditation, and to conduct professional development activities for staff that lead to increased knowledge and competency and attainment of credentials. Enhancement Grants were awarded to

43 local programs and agencies that distributed funds to 137 child care centers and family center programs throughout 16 of the 24 counties in Maryland and Baltimore City. The evaluation showed that 61 percent of the grantees completed the accreditation process and an additional 34 percent are in the process of attaining accreditation. Overall, significant improvement is noted for both center-based and family provider programs participating in the Enhancement Grant program.

The evaluation results of Judy Centers after two years of implementation suggest that the comprehensive approach provided significant support for disadvantaged children enabling them to "catch up" in terms of early learning with their peers before they start first grade. Funds to support program accreditation and professional development turned out to be a positive investment in improving program quality.