

HCFCCA

newsletter

Summer

Volume 46 Issue 4

Looking Forward to Next School Year

In Person Training

September, October,
November, March, April,
May, June

Virtual Training

December, January,
February

Conference

Early Spring 2027



Resources

A Parents Guide to
Regulated Child Care
Maryland Infants and
Toddlers Program Brochure

CDC Developmental
Milestones

OCF Technical Assistance
Specialist

Tuesday Tidbits 6/9/2026

Tuesday Tidbits 5/26/2026

Tuesday Tidbits 5/12/2026

Board Meeting

August 13 at 6:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

*All are welcome to attend to
learn more about how our
Board operates. RSVP at
hcfccabusiness@gmail.com*



Meet the HCFCCA Board

Angela Lamberti, *Outgoing President*

Uyen Feliks, *Incoming President*

hcfccabusiness@gmail.com

Bethany Corrie, *VP of Education*

hcfccavpofeducation@gmail.com

Anita Marino, *Treasurer*

treasurerhcfcca@gmail.com

Nancy Cauley, *Outgoing Secretary*

Maria Trout, *Incoming Secretary*

maria.trout16@gmail.com

Claudia Cuestas, *VP of Membership*

hcfccavpmembership@gmail.com

Uyen Feliks, *Outgoing VP of Marketing and Public Relations*

Sona Yoder, *Incoming VP of Marketing and Public Relations*

hcfccamarketing@gmail.com

Thelma Hayes, *Outgoing HCFCCA Representative to MSFCCA*
Angela Lamberti, *Incoming HCFCCA Representative to MSFCCA*
atlamberti@gmail.com



HCFCCA Committees

(you know you want to join one)

Fundraising

Uyen Feliks

Website

Claudia Cuestas

Newsletter

Janelle Jackson

Bethany Corrie

Mentoring & Networking

Kim Stinnett

Volunteer

Anita Marino

Hospitality

Claudia Cuestas



By Laws, Policy & Procedures

Vacant

Sunshine

Lynda Davenport

Parent Line

Nancy Cauley

Social Media

Natacha Michel

Nominating Committee

Nancy Cauley

Email Uyen at hcfccabusiness@gmail.com
to volunteer

HELLO
SUMMER



a note from

Angela

What an incredible journey it has been serving as your president! As I step down from this role, my heart is full of gratitude for every one of you — the dedicated providers, volunteers, and supporters who make our association what it is.

I am so grateful for the warmth, commitment, and passion each of you brings to our association. Your participation — whether at meetings, events, or simply in the day-to-day work of caring for children — is what keeps HCFCCA strong and meaningful. More importantly, the work you do with the children is truly priceless. You are shaping lives every single day, and that matters more than words can express.

I am especially thrilled to announce that Uyen Feliks will be stepping up as our new president. Uyen brings such energy, dedication, and heart to everything she does, and I have complete confidence that she will lead this association with the same love and commitment that has always defined HCFCCA. Please join me in welcoming and supporting her as she takes on this important role!

Thank you for trusting me with this role and for making every moment of it so rewarding.



SUMMER

BBQ & POTLUCK

GET-TOGETHER

SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, August 23



2:00 PM – 6:00 PM



At Sona's House

Join us for an
afternoon of
sunshine, laughter,
and delicious food!



Conversation &
Connection



Fun
Games



Small
Prizes



BBQ
Favorites



Potluck Dishes
to Share

Bring your favorite dish and enjoy a relaxing
summer gathering with friends and family.

More details will be shared
as the date gets closer.

We can't wait to
celebrate summer together!



VOLUNTEERS Needed!

JOIN OUR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help organize and run our HCFCCA Conference this spring! This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference and connect with amazing people.

Whether you have experience in event planning, communications, logistics, or just a passion for bringing people together, we want YOU on our team to make it a success!

WHY GET INVOLVED?

Volunteering on the conference committee is a rewarding experience that lets you build new skills, expand your network, and contribute to something truly special. You will work alongside a diverse and passionate group of individuals. All skill levels and backgrounds are welcome, whether you want to lead or support.

Together we can make this the best conference yet!



- ✦ Share your ideas
- ✦ Help with planning and organization
- ✦ Make a positive impact on our family child care community



HOW TO SIGN UP!

Interested in volunteering? Contact Uyen at (443) 220-7336 to learn more.

Spots are limited so don't wait! Sign up today and be part of something amazing!

Summer

Rhymes

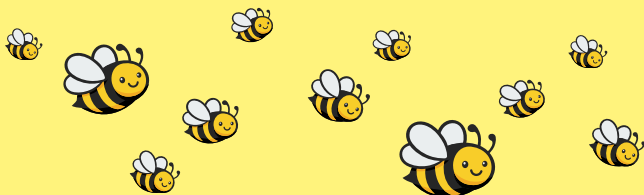


Bright Sun

(sung to "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Bright sun shining down,
Shining on the ground,
What a lovely face you have,
Yellow, big and round.

*Actions: Make a big circle with
arms for the sun*



Here Is the Beehive

Here is the beehive,
where are the bees?
Hiding inside where nobody sees.
Watch them come creeping out of
the hive: one, two, three, four, five!
BUZZ-ZZZ!

*Actions: Make a fist for the hive, then release
one finger at a time, then wiggle all fingers for
the bees flying away.*

I am the Sun

I am the Sun,
(arms circle over head)
Shining hot and bright.
When I go to sleep,
(rest hands on head)
Day turns to night.
When I wake up,
(stretch and yawn)
I stretch and yawn,
And turn the darkness
(circle arms)
into Dawn.



a note from *Bethany*



Summer is here, and what a wonderful time it is to pause, recharge, and grow! As early childhood educators, the work we do is so deeply important, and I want to encourage each of you to use these summer months as an opportunity to invest in yourselves and your profession. Whether it's picking up a new book, exploring a fresh approach in your program, or simply reflecting on what is working well — every step forward makes a difference for the children and families we serve.

There is so much to look forward to as we head into the new year! I am truly excited to share that our upcoming training calendar is shaping up to be one of the most engaging and exciting we've had. We have a wonderful lineup in store, and I think you are going to love it.

Most of our trainings will be held in person — 3 hours each — giving us that valuable face-to-face time to connect, share, and learn together as a community. During the winter months, we will also offer virtual trainings at 2 hours each, making it easy to keep growing even during the busiest and coldest time of year.

Stay tuned for more details — you won't want to miss what's coming! In the meantime, enjoy your summer, keep learning, and know how much your dedication means to the children of Howard County.



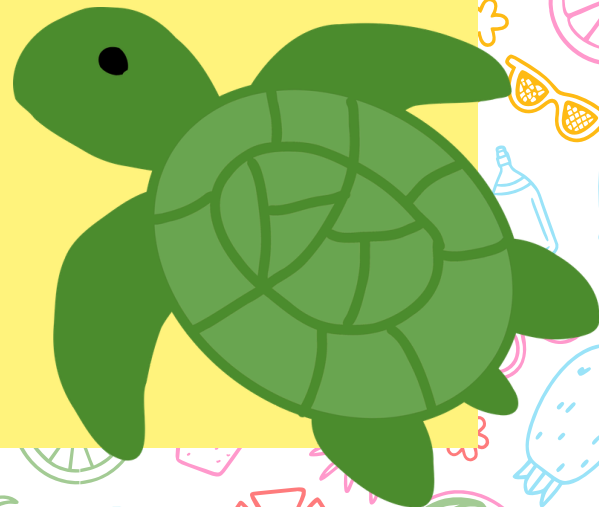
a note from

Anita

As we close out one school and fiscal year, another is starting.

With the credential program starting up again, there will be a need for PAUs. We offer many ways for you to earn those PAUs. Whether it is being a Board member, a committee chair, committee volunteer, or helping at a conference, PAUs can be earned. Please watch our newsletter for opportunities to help.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all in August.



Easy Recipes

HELLO SUMMER!

Yogurt Fruit Dip

- 1 cup vanilla yogurt
- 2 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 tbsp honey

Mix until smooth. Great with fruit!

Peanut Butter Dip

- ½ cup peanut butter
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup plain yogurt
- pinch of cinnamon

Stir together. Perfect with apples or celery

Easy Ranch Dip

- 1 cup sour cream or plain yogurt
- 1 packet ranch seasoning mix

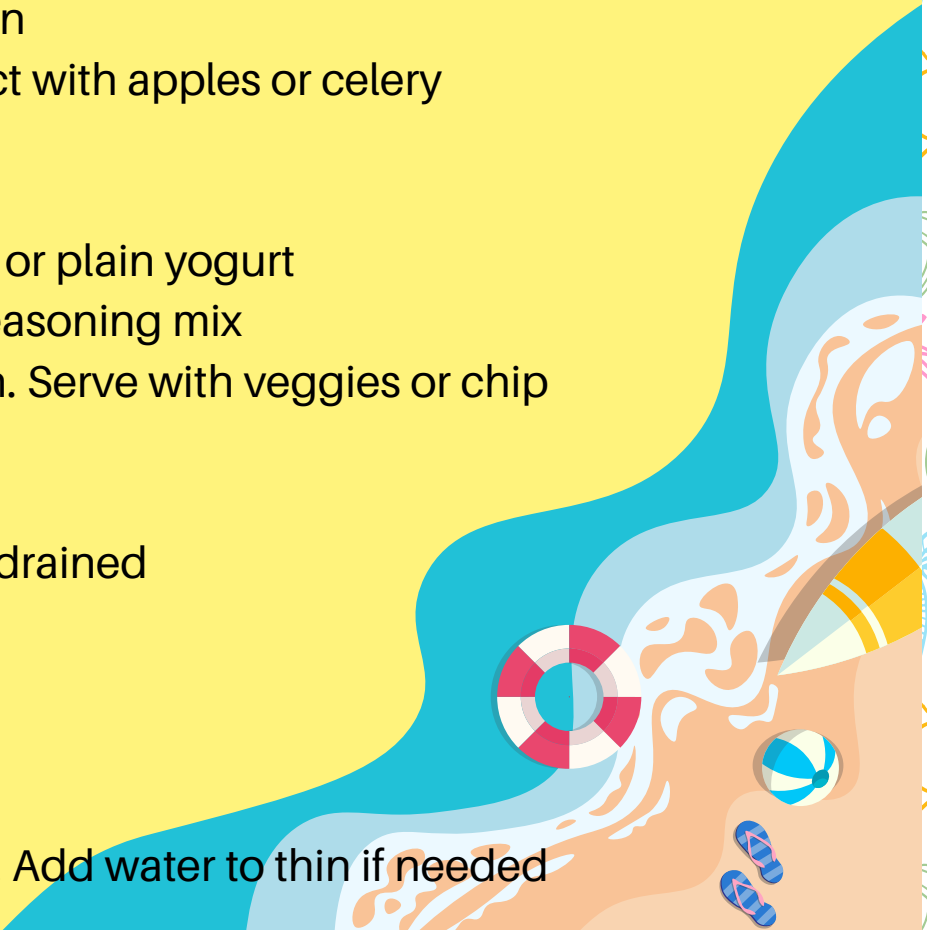
Stir and chill 30 min. Serve with veggies or chip

Shortcut Hummus

- 1 can chickpeas, drained
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 garlic clove
- Salt to taste

Blend until smooth. Add water to thin if needed

*All of these take
under 10
minutes and
can be made
ahead and
refrigerated!*



a note from

Claudia



As we move into another exciting season of growth and learning, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued dedication to providing high-quality care and education to the children and families in our community. Your commitment makes a lasting difference every day.

Membership in the Howard County Family Childcare Association is more than just belonging to an organization—it's about building connections, supporting one another, and strengthening the family childcare profession. Whether you are a longtime member or new to our association, your participation helps create a stronger network of providers who learn, grow, and advocate together.

I encourage you to stay engaged by attending meetings, participating in professional development opportunities, and sharing your ideas with fellow members. If you know other family childcare providers who would benefit from the support and resources our association offers, please invite them to join us.

Thank you for being an important part of our childcare community. I look forward to connecting with you and continuing to grow our membership and impact throughout Howard County.

Summer Art



Ice Cube Art

Make ice cube paint by filling an ice cube tray with water and adding 1 or 2 drops of food coloring to each section. Do not overfill, or colors may run into other sections. Place the ice tray in the freezer and freeze the ice completely. Once the paint is ready, place the poster board on a large tray and empty the ice cubes onto it. Use a spoon or stick to spread the ice around. The ice will start to melt and leave colors on the poster board.



Water Pistol Painting

During summer, you probably have lots of water pistols lying around. Instead of the usual water fight, add some watered down paint to the water pistols, and head outdoors with a canvas to try our Water Pistol Painting activity. You'll end up with a beautiful piece of art to hang in your home.

a note from

Uyen



We had a wonderful afternoon tea party, enjoying great conversation, sharing ideas, and building stronger connections. It was a valuable opportunity to learn from one another and celebrate the important work we do. Thanks all for taking the time to come out, especially Sona for her generosity of hosting. We hope more providers will join us at our next gathering so we can continue growing our network and supporting each other.





a note from

Nancy

Your Home has a Few Secrets

From tiny holes in the siding to wainscoting or the drawer under the oven, your house may include a number of features that serve a purpose even the most attentive of homeowners wasn't aware of.

No, a woodpecker didn't figure out how to hammer into your siding. If you spot some tiny holes, they're most likely "weep holes" that allow water to escape rather than make its way inside; vinyl siding is designed to allow for ventilation and for condensation to drain out.

Think a chimney cap is meant just to keep debris from falling in? Think again. It also helps wayward embers from escaping up and then damaging your roof or starting a chimney fire, says Best Life Online, which offered some other fun "secret" house features:

- * Wainscoting, that charming decorative wall paneling that typically reaches chair rail height, was originally intended to provide more insulation.
- * A toe kick, the indented strip of wood between the bottom of your cabinets and the floor, actually serves an anti-toe kick purpose: they make it possible for you to open the cabinet doors without hitting your feet and to work closer to the counter.
- * Ever notice that the backs of your oven knobs have screws? Once they're loosened, you can calibrate the knob with a thermometer to get a more accurate temperature reading. A how-to from GE Appliances says each notch on the back of the knob changes the temperature by 10 degrees.
- * That junk drawer at the bottom of your oven? Go figure - it's not a junk drawer. That space can serve as a warming drawer or a broiler, depending on your appliance, and can help you keep a dish hot while waiting for the rest of your food to cook. Remember this come Thanksgiving.



a note from

Kim

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the providers who participated in the **Mentoring and Networking** events throughout the year and generously shared their experiences, challenges, and strategies within their childcare programs.

Your contributions, openness, and willingness to support one another helped create a strong sense of community that truly blossomed at each meetup. It has been a wonderful year of learning, connection, and growth. I am grateful for each of you and the valuable perspectives you brought to our discussions.

I look forward to reconnecting with everyone in September. Until then, enjoy a well-deserved summer filled with rest, joy, and new memories!





summer reading ADVENTURES into the WILD! June 15 - August 15

JUST FOR HOWARD COUNTY FAMILY CHILD CARES!



Bring your family child care to the library for Summer Reading Adventures. Sign up and request materials to pick up at a library location by using the QR code or at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/vSWxsDFZeU>.

For each child in your care, receive a bilingual (English & Spanish) gameboard for the appropriate age.

Your family child care receives:

- FREE picture book
- Early Learning booklet (available in English & Spanish)
- Maryland Day by Day family literacy activity calendar (available in English & Spanish)
- Children's library class schedules

Read, listen, learn, connect, and celebrate all summer by participating in one of our summer reading programs. When games are complete, pick up a prize. Either you or the children with their family caregivers may bring the completed gameboards to any library branch to pick up their prize*.

For book lists, classes, events, and summer fun, visit us in person or at hclibrary.org/summer.

*while supplies last

For ages birth - 4 (in English & Spanish)

Head into the wild of your backyard, our Enchanted Garden, or anywhere butterflies love to take a rest on local flowers. Color butterflies on your game board, and when you get to 10, bring your game to the library!

For ages 5 - 10 (in English & Spanish)

Plan for Summer Reading Adventures in the wild — whether camping, in a local park, or on vacation. See what you can see — like Booker with his binoculars. Color all 15 fish in the big, blue river, then bring your game back to the library.

summer celebrations

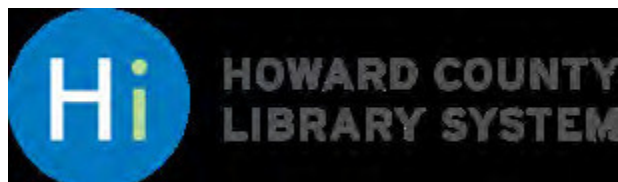


For everyone!

Go wild at one of Howard County Library System's Summer Reading Celebration events! Activities may include crafts, games, live animals, and more.

Wed	Jun 24	4 – 7 pm	Glenwood
Wed	Jun 24	5 – 7 pm	Central
Thu	Jul 9	5 – 7 pm	Elkridge
Wed	Jul 15	11:30 am - 2 pm (for everyone) 6:30 – 7:30 pm (for adults)	East Columbia
Sat	Jul 18	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Savage
Thu	Jul 23	5 – 7 pm	Miller

Sponsored by Friends & Foundation of HCLS and M&T Charitable Foundation.



A SUMMER MESSAGE FROM YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM



As we step into the sunshine season, I want to send a big, heartfelt thank you to every childcare provider in our association. You've poured your energy, creativity, patience, and love into the children and families you serve all year long, and it shows in every smile, every milestone, and every moment of growth.

Summer is our reminder to breathe a little deeper, laugh a little louder, and let joy lead the way. Whether you're planning fun outdoor adventures, refreshing your classrooms, or taking well deserved time to rest and recharge, I hope this season brings you warmth, inspiration, and plenty of moments that fill your cup.

Here's to sunshine, community, and a beautiful summer ahead.

Thank you for all you do online, in your classrooms, and in the hearts of the families you serve.

Wishing you a bright and joyful summer,
Natacha, your Social Media Department

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Have Something to Say? *We need YOU to contribute to our newsletter!*



Your contributions to our newsletter enhance the quality of HCFCCA. By sharing your insights, experiences, and ideas, you help foster a collaborative environment where we can all learn from each other and grow as providers. We are grateful for the knowledge you contribute to help us all become better child care providers.



DEADLINES

For the 2026-2027 school year:

August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

January 17
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 16

TOPICS TO CONSIDER

Nature: Bringing nature indoors, getting outside in all weather, identifying plants in your yard.

Art and Crafts: From open ended process art to handprint crafts for parents, showcase what you are doing in the art area.

Recipes: Share your tried and true lunch recipes and sweet treats you like to make for special occasions.

Book reviews: Tell us about a favorite picture book you've read with the children or an early childhood education book you've enjoyed.



**You can submit an article or ask for more information
at newsletterhcfcca@gmail.com**

We can help you participate in the Food Program.



Contact us!

Fernanda Brito

| 757-657-0711

Are you a licensed childcare home
or center provider?



Enjoy the nutritional & financial benefits of the Food Program.



What is the Food Program (CACFP)?

CACFP is a federally-funded program that **reimburses qualifying organizations for serving nutritious meals and snacks** to eligible children and adults.

CACFP Benefits:

Provide Nutritional Education

Receive Money for Serving Healthy Meals

Support Low-Income Families

Nourish Healthy Meals for Children

How can I join the Food Program?

You can join the Food Program
by **finding a sponsor.**



Learn More
Scan QR Code

SCAN ME

ATTENTION EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

You could be eligible for free
tuition, fees, and books at
Howard Community College
through the Child Care Career
and Professional
Development Fund
(CCCPDF!)

APPLY TODAY IF YOU...

- have worked in a licensed child care setting for at least one year
- be eligible for a MSDE Level 2 or greater Credential Certificate
- want to work toward an AAS in Early Childhood Development (career program) or an AAT in Early Childhood/Special Education or Elementary Education/Special Education (transfer programs)

TO QUALIFY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP, THE STUDENT MUST...

- work at least 10 hours/week in a licensed child care setting while completing the program
- maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA while enrolled
- continue to work in child care at least 20 hours/week in Maryland for a period of time (2 years for a 2 year degree, 4 years for a 4 year degree) after your degree is completed

TO LEARN MORE OR APPLY NOW...

Contact HCC's CCCPDF Coordinator:
Joan Johnson jjohnson6@howardcc.edu



You Can Get There From Here.