

Dear _____,

We're writing to inform you about changes regarding Maryland Family Network's LOCATE: Child Care services for children with special needs and our Family Resource Specialists.

LOCATE has long provided an enhanced special needs service to assist parents in finding quality licensed child care providers with experience and expertise in caring for children with special physical, intellectual, or behavioral needs; the 'enhanced' function involving our counselors making the direct calls to providers on behalf of the parents. Our commitment to supporting families in finding the best care for their children remains the same, but we will no longer offer this enhanced service as a separate function through LOCATE. Instead, LOCATE's Community Line and expanded online search functions will still be able to assist parents in their search for child care providers for children with special needs at 877.261.0060.

LOCATE: Child Care's relaunch of the online portal last year has been a tremendous success. Parents can access the portal at any time of the day to search for child care providers with the specific qualifications and experience they require. This means that even outside regular business hours, parents find the services they need promptly and efficiently.

We understand the importance of finding the right care for children with special needs, and we are committed to ensuring that parents have access to the resources they need to make informed decisions. We believe that the Community Line and our online portal will continue to serve as valuable tools and meet the needs of Maryland parents.

Finally, the Family Resource Specialist role embedded in each Child Care Resource Center was very helpful to parents seeking assistance in applying for Maryland's Child Care Scholarship Program and other aid, but it was funded through an American Rescue Plan grant which ends June 30. With lessons learned from the work, MSDE's Child Care Scholarship Central at money4childcare.com will become the sole point of contact for parents.

Thank you for your continued dedication to serving all children in our community. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.