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Year-round outdoor play can boost kids' performance in school

Playing outdoors not only keeps kids healthy--it can also help boost soft skills that are important for school success, including executive functioning skills like decision-making and planning. As the school year goes on, parents can set their kids up to succeed by making sure learning occurs inside the classroom and outside in nature.

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Webinar - Developing culturally responsive approaches to serving diverse populations

On **Thursday, October 12, 2017**, from 2:00-3:00 pm ET, [join a webinar hosted by the National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#) to learn how programs can conceptualize and achieve cultural responsiveness. As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, it's important for community-based organizations to deliver culturally responsive services that match the multicultural, multilingual communities they serve.

This webinar panel will feature policy, training and technical assistance, and programmatic organizations, and builds on [the Center's resource guide](#) on this topic.

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New analysis - Shifting child care subsidy administration to a private, centralized system in MD

A [new analysis from Child Trends](#) finds that families are receiving longer child care subsidy vouchers under a new subsidy administration system in Maryland. The study examines how Maryland's new centralized and privatized method of processing and distributing child care subsidies and vouchers is helping Maryland meet new guidelines for the federal child care subsidy program.

Under the new system:

- **County-to-county differences in the length of vouchers nearly vanished;** this means that the amount of time a child care arrangement is subsidized no longer depends on families' county of residence
- **Eligibility periods are significantly longer;** this means families in MD have a longer period during which they are authorized to participate in the child care subsidy program and apply for a voucher
- **The difference between eligibility period and voucher lengths was smaller;** this means that families are now more likely to collect vouchers for child care that cover a larger span of their eligibility period

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