



November 4, 2020

Executive Child Development Center understands and accepts the County's decision to remain in Phase II of the Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery. However, the inconsistent requirement that we increase the staff/child ratios at the preschool level from 1 teacher to 14 children to 1 teacher to 10 children while maintaining a maximum group size of 14 children creates difficulties for centers. It should be remembered that the only age group that is operating with relaxed regulations regarding staff/child ratios are for preschool-age children.

The allowance of 1 teacher to 14 children presents several health, safety and financial advantages:

- As we continue to keep groups of children separate from one another, the 1 teacher to 14 preschoolers allows centers the flexibility to exclude staff with COVID-like symptoms when necessary. It reduces the introduction of outside substitute staff members into our separate intact groups of children, thereby reducing the risk of potential COVID-19 transmission. The already assigned teacher can work the additional hours to cover the 10-11 hours of operation temporarily.
- The 1 teacher to 14 preschoolers is economically advantageous for centers struggling financially. Requiring a center to add another staff member to care for an additional 3 children is a significant financial burden on centers.
- The November 27, 2020 deadline to return to the stricter ratios of 1 teacher to 10 children will necessitate dis-enrolling children by at least 1 child per classroom to accommodate an additional staff member in order to meet the requirement of the maximum 15 person group size.

Executive Child Development Center (ECDC) appreciates the Montgomery County Executive and Council for their efforts to keep all citizens safe and healthy during COVID-19.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Schmitz', written in a cursive style.

Anne Schmitz
Executive Director