Searching for quality child care and early education programs that promote school-readiness has never been easier, thanks to Maryland EXCELS!

Quality matters! The early years are critical when it comes to building social, emotional, thinking, and learning skills. Children with these skills are more likely to succeed in school and in life.

Maryland EXCELS builds upon the foundation of the State’s rigorous child care licensing requirements. Every licensed program is inspected by the State at least once each year to ensure compliance with Maryland regulations.

Maryland EXCELS provides the opportunity for programs to demonstrate achievements that exceed state licensing requirements.

Upon review and verification, programs publish a rating from 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest quality level) on the online Find a Program portal and in the Quality Finder mobile App.

Publishing a rating at any level, including level 1, demonstrates a program’s commitment to continuous quality improvement.