



Alliance for Parent, Provider and Local Employer Solutions

APPLES for Children, the Western Maryland Child Care Resource Center, continues to be your **first stop for child care solutions** in Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties. However, in order to focus our resources on training and individual assistance to child care programs, the services provided by LOCATE: Child Care will now be centralized at Maryland Family Network. There, a single statewide counseling center will provide both individual phone counseling and online self-search capabilities.

What does this mean for the families and child care providers in Western Maryland?

The chart below helps illustrate that much of what you expect from APPLES will continue to be available.

LOCATE: Child Care searches	Families searching for care will continue to call 301-733-0000 or 800-924-9188. The calls will be routed to the centralized call center.
	Families who received child care search information at the Washington County Department of Social Services or at our Washington County office can come to our office for assistance in using the phone to call the centralized call center.
LOCATE: Child Care Assistance for Child Care Providers	Child care providers will continue to receive their annual questionnaires by mail, ensuring that their LOCATE database information is current.
	Child care providers updating their vacancy information can continue to use the website to update vacancies or call the APPLES phone numbers. The calls will be routed to the centralized call center.
	Child care providers needing information about local market rates will continue to call the APPLES phone numbers. The calls will be routed to the centralized call center.

You may talk to a different person than you have in the past, but as you can see, you continue to have access to the local information you need. Having access to a statewide data base will be particularly helpful for parents who work in one county but live in another.

The centralized LOCATE service will help all parents find and evaluate child care, while providing enhanced services to Spanish-speaking parents, military families, and families of children with special needs. Individual counseling services will be available five days a week – an increase for parents in many regions.

Child care providers will benefit from this increased focus on training and individual assistance. We plan to offer MORE workshops in specialized areas, and will continue to be available for your questions through our Help Line by phone or email. Watch for your Courier or your I-Care e-newsletter to find out more about the new professional development options.

If you would like more information, please call us at 301-733-0000 or 800-924-9188, or email us at help@applesforchildren.org.

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