

Maryland EXCELS Provider Thankful for Experience

Barbara Carter of Peek A Boo Family Daycare was so grateful for the help Quality Assurance Specialist Audrey Cupe-Green gave her for reaching level 3 that she decided to have a little celebration. Included were cake, smiles, comradery, see her note below.

Before Barbara Carter began participating in Maryland EXCELS, she was counting the hours until the end of the day. Now, the owner of Peek-A-Boo Family Day Care in Baltimore can't wait to get her day started! "I've always loved children, but I started to lose my enthusiasm. Maryland EXCELS has provided me with new skills. The more I learn, the more the children learn. Since starting Maryland EXCELS, I am excited about each day. The hours just fly by."

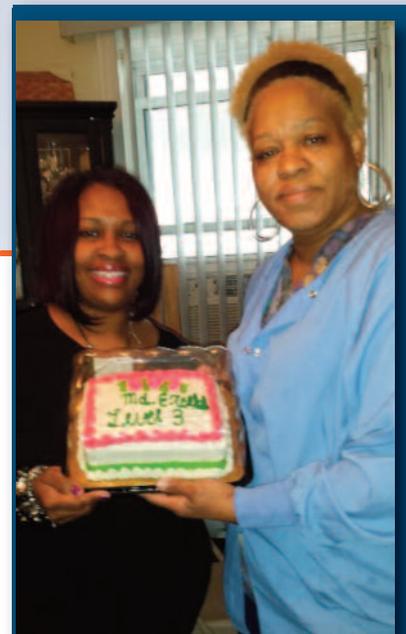
Barbara credits her new found enthusiasm to the curricula sources that are now available to her. She has spent time looking at the Healthy Beginnings and other resources to help prepare children for PreK or Kindergarten. In this effort, Barbara has improved her skills, which in turn, has improved her program. "In the beginning, I spent time on the MSDE and Maryland EXCELS websites learning as much as I could. Now, the children learn more each day."

According to Barbara, Quality Assurance Specialists Patty Aburn and Audrey Cupe-Green and Program Coordinator Michelle Gray have really made a difference in her experience. The support she received gave Barbara the incentive to gain the support she needed to reinvest her time

and energy into her business, the children, and ultimately, the community. "When you get into the mindset of working on Maryland EXCELS, there are people there to guide you. Audrey has been so helpful and is always positive. There are people really willing to work with you, [which] makes a big difference."

One of Barbara's biggest challenges has been the self-assessment process. "Facing things that need to change...was hard at first. But once I set my mind that I need to make changes to improve my business, it encouraged me to overcome this challenge."

Ultimately, Barbara wants others to see her child care program as different. Peek-A-Boo Family Day Care recently published at a Level 3 rating and Barbara knows she gained families from her Level 3 profile on the Maryland EXCELS website. "Parents have told me that they see my program on the web site and they are so excited about what I can offer to their children."



Mrs. Green:

I appreciate you, first and foremost, for all the encouragement I got from you when I first started with Maryland EXCELS. I thought, wow, this is going to be hard, but with your help and encouragement to take my time, and as time went by, things made sense to me. I thank you for these little things that some people may take for granted but I know you guys are out there to help us. As I go on this journey to continue to strive for what's best for my daycare, I thank you.

Barbara Carter, Peek-a-Boo Daycare

