



Collaborative Action *for* Family Engagement

Learning at Home



Photo by Gustavo Fringe, Pexels

With a new year comes new opportunities to connect with families. In 2022, CAFE will continue to support you with our monthly newsletter as well as the many virtual events, helpful resources, and partner collaborations we have planned in the year ahead to help guide your child toward success at home and at school.

What is CAFE?

Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) is a program of MAEC serving Maryland and Pennsylvania. We engage in high-impact, culturally responsive family engagement. By building partnerships among schools, families, and community organizations, we improve all students' development and academic achievement.



Photo by Mentatdgt, Pexels

CAFE News



[Family & Caregiver Survey on Understanding Education Data](#)

Is your student's data tricky to find...and even harder to understand? MAEC is developing educational data guides to help family and caregivers access and understand their student's data. What do you want in the data guides? Fill out this brief survey to share your thoughts.

[FIC & CAFE Virtual Workshop Series - Families Leading the Way](#)

Family Involvement Conference and CAFE

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 1:30-3:00 pm

Join CAFE, FIC (Family Involvement Conference), and facilitator Sarah Holland from the Pennsylvania State Department of Education for a lively virtual panel conversation with family leaders from Maryland and Pennsylvania. Learn directly from families about how their children’s early learning programs, schools, and community partners have supported them on their journey to being strong advocates for their own children, as well as how they are using their voices to influence systems at the local and state levels. Families will share their personal experiences and journeys and speak to how other

families and professional partners have supported them to grow into a variety of leadership roles.

Resources for your Family



Photo by Elina Fairytale,Pexels

What's Happening this Month?



For Families:

Parents Night Out "Outer Space Exploration"

Legacy Martial Arts (Kennett Square, PA)

Friday, January 28, 6-9 pm

Take the night off and drop off your child for an evening of fun activities. Children will play various games designed around outer space exploration, create a craft, and enjoy a yummy snack. Ages 4 and up. The cost is \$30 per child.

Family Storytime at Montgomery County Public Libraries

Montgomery County Libraries (Virtual event)

Sunday, January 30, 10:30-11 am

Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination, this program encourages young children of all ages to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning.

Family Walk to Learn About Squirrels and other Animals in Winter

Cylburn Arboretum Friends (Baltimore, Maryland)

Sunday, January 30, 2-3:30 pm

Enjoy a family walk with a guide at the arboretum to celebrate belated National Squirrel Day (January 21). The walk content is geared towards children ages 5-10 years-old and will last 1.5 hours. Walks are free for members. There is a \$5 per child suggested donation to Cylburn Arboretum Friends (an accompanying adult is free) if you are not a member.

For Children:

Meatball Madness Kids Class

Vintage Kitchen (Scranton, Pennsylvania)

Tuesday, January 25, 5:30-8 pm

Learn how to make a variety of meatballs with pork, lamb, beef, and chicken. Ages 7-up. An adult family member/guardian is welcome to accompany children ages 5-7 in the class. The cost is \$45, including hands-on instruction, and all supplies and equipment. Bon appetit!

Celtic Knot Drawing

The Havre de Grace Arts Collective Youth Arts Program (Virtual Event)

Saturday, January 29, 10 am

FREE - Learn how to draw Celtic Knots from basic to more intricate designs. A fun activity for children of all ages. Registration is required.

Robot Building Party

(open to all non-registered, soon-to-be Girl Scouts in K-5th grade)

Girl Scouts Robot Building Party (Virtual event)

Saturday, January 29, 11 am

FREE - Imagine you could build any kind of robot you wanted. Would it be a robot that could make your life more fun, easier, or both? What would it do and how would it work? It's up to you! All those questions and more will be answered at the Robot Building Party. Girls will learn about robots—and build one too! These parties will be held over Zoom.

Storytime Activities and more!

Maryland Families Engage (Maryland)

Events throughout January

FREE - Join Maryland Families Engage with exciting activities for children, including yoga, musical storytime, toddler time, read to a dog, and craft time. Check out the website to learn more.



Photo by Nothing Ahead, Pexels

You are an Advocate!



You are your child's best advocate. Need strategies to help you along the way? Check out the resources below.

[8 Ways to Advocate for Your Child’s Success](#)

Our Children

Author and Family Strategist Charlotte E. Avery discusses eight ways for parents to support their children while they are at school, playing sports, taking music lessons, or participating in any other activity.

[How to be the Best Advocate for Your Child](#)

Crain’s Chicago Business

“Parents are children’s first teachers,” Beth Dirkes, family education specialist, emphasizes in this article. Learn how open communication and suggested approaches can help your child succeed.



Photo by Andre Taissin, Pexels

Financial Literacy is a Family Matter!



It's important that children understand the value and importance of money at a young age. Check out these resources on how to share financial literacy with your child(ren):

[**Want To Teach Your Kids About Money? Start By Including Them In The Conversation**](#)

NPR

"A healthy money mindset in the household starts by making a team effort," shares Jen Hemphill, Financial Expert and Host of *Her Dinero Matters* podcasts. Learn how to make this team effort as a family through open conversation about money and introducing the concepts of savings and allowance to your child.

[**Financial Literacy Videos for Kids**](#)

Penny Pinchin' Mom

Financial videos can be a great way to teach kids about money management. In this article, you will find an extensive list of videos, websites, and other helpful resources to share with your child.

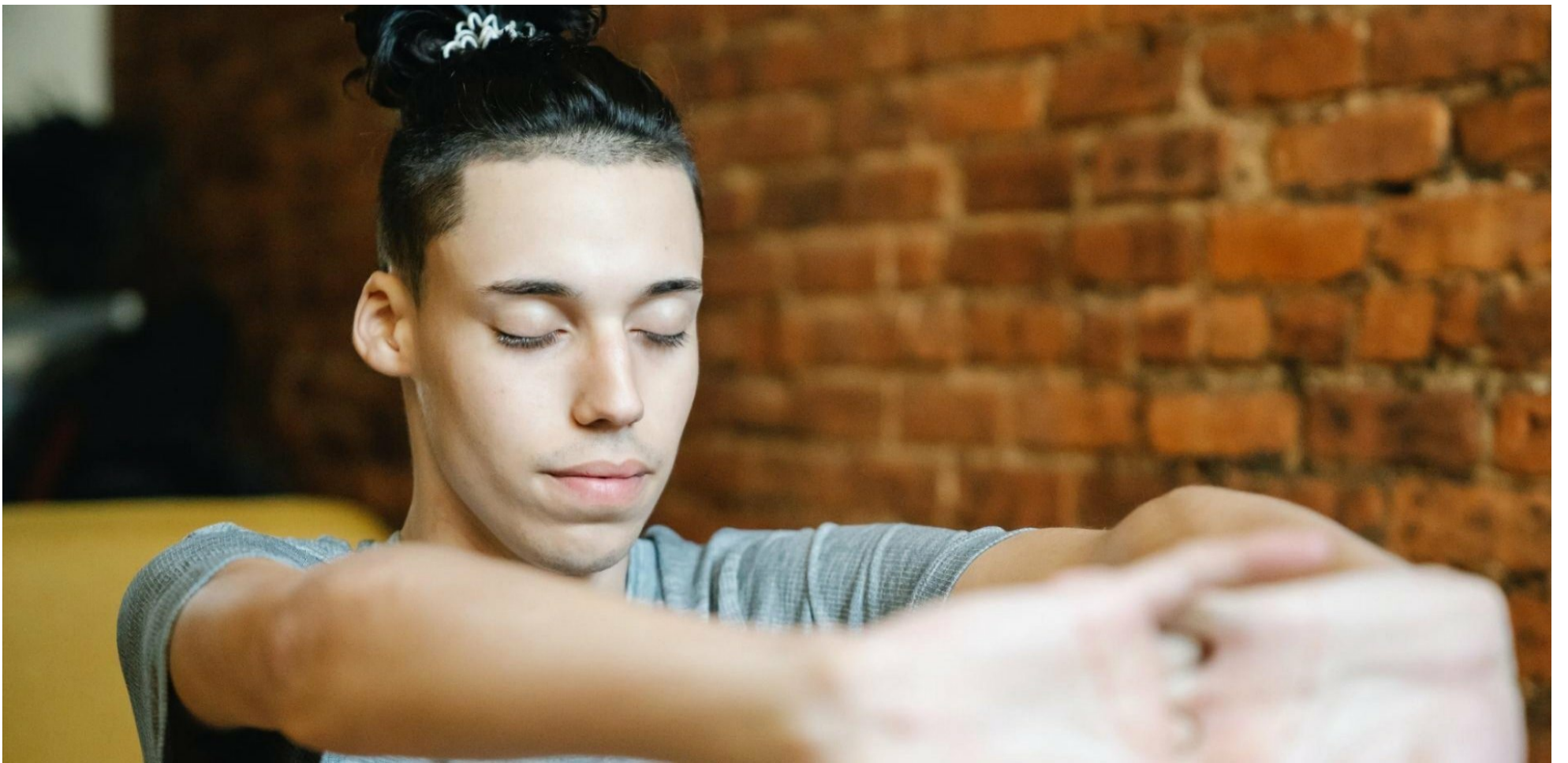


Photo by Erin Li, Pexels

Mindfulness Corner



It’s essential as a family to find peace during stressful times. Find techniques and build on skills to create more serenity in your family life.

[Kids Meditation in Spanish \(Ansiedad Meditación para Niños\)](#)

Wellemental

Let go of nervous or anxious energy. Yahel will guide you through a journey to becoming aware of your body, breath, and mind, and how to better understand your relationship to anxiety.

Deja ir la energía nerviosa o ansiosa. Yahel lo guiará a través de un viaje para ser consciente de su cuerpo, respiración y mente, y cómo comprender mejor su relación con la ansiedad.

[Kids Listen’s Empowering List of Mindfulness and Meditation Podcasts for Families](#)

Podchaser

Kids Listen is a grassroots organization of advocates for high-quality audio content for kids. Here you’ll find recommendations for podcasts for kids on affirmations, empowerment, mindfulness, meditation and relaxation techniques.

Are you on Twitter? Follow us [@CAFE_MAEC](#) for the latest CAFE news!



MAEC's [Collaborative Action for Family Engagement](#) (CAFE) program is funded by the US Department of Education under Title IV, part E of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). CAFE is one of twelve statewide family engagement centers.

MAEC is committed to the sharing of information regarding issues of equity in education. The contents of this guide were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Statewide Family Engagement Centers program. However, the contents of this guide do not necessarily represent the policy or views of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Department of Education or federal government, generally.

[Forward to a Friend](#)

