



Collaborative Action *for* Family Engagement

Learning at Home



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In March we commemorate [Women's History Month](#) and honor the extraordinary contributions of women throughout history. In our [latest episode of The Corner CAFE Podcast](#), we shine a spotlight on a contemporary trailblazer in family engagement: Young-chan Han!

Read on for practical resources, from free financial education and tax preparation services in Maryland and Pennsylvania, to tips on [supporting your child's communication skills](#).

What is CAFE?

Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) is a program at 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.

New from CAFE

The Corner CAFE Podcast



Episode #104: Young-chan Han

In this episode of The Corner CAFE Podcast, Young-chan Han of the [Maryland English Language Learning Family Involvement Network \(MELLFIN\)](#) joins Nikevia and Jessica to discuss effective strategies for increasing family engagement, focusing on **equitable practices and support for English Learner and immigrant families** in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Tune into the latest episode

Share with us!



Hello families & practitioners

We want to feature your voice in Learning at Home! Share your stories, tips, and insights on advocacy, financial literacy, and mindfulness. Whether it's a quick tip on budgeting, a mindfulness exercise that works for your family, or a blog about advocating for your

child's education, we want to hear from you.

Get Involved

Resources for families

You Are an Advocate!



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

[Family Q&A](#) (video playlist)

Parent Powered

This video playlist addresses common concerns for families, including tackling math anxiety and fostering sibling sharing, with expert advice and solutions.

[Play with Me! How Games and Playtime Can Help Your Child Learn Math](#)

(webinar)

MAEC's Consortium for Engaging Families Across Maine (CEFAM), Center for Family Math, National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
On April 9 at 1 pm (ET) learn how games, puzzles, and playtime can be opportunities to promote children's math learning. In this session, we will explore how games and playtime support a range of math skills in children, specific ideas for how families and educators can hype up the math during joint playtime, and where to find free and easy-to-access games and parent guidance.

[Supporting Children Who Have a Parent Incarcerated](#) (PDF)

Kentucky Youth Advocates

This information was compiled in partnership with people who are formerly incarcerated and their loved ones, to provide support and information to families currently impacted by incarceration. Every situation is unique, and you know what is best for your family. This resource is meant to offer practical tips and ideas for helping your child through this experience in supportive and healthy ways.

[Women's History Month resources](#) (webpage)

MAEC

This Women's History Month, we celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of women of diverse backgrounds, considering race, culture, religion, and sexual orientation. We invite you to expand your knowledge and awareness of the experiences and histories of women. From lesson plans to movie recommendations, our resource list can help get you started.

Financial Literacy is a Family Matter





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Parents are their children's first teachers, and when kids learn financial literacy from a young age, they are more likely to make wise financial decisions as they grow up. By using the resources below, families can build a strong financial foundation and learn how to teach their children about this important life skill.

[FAFSA Checklist & Timeline for Students & Families](#) (PDF)

U.S. Department of Education

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. It's time to submit your 2024-25 FAFSA form. Use this checklist to help along the way.

Financial Education and Free Tax Services | [Maryland](#) | [Pennsylvania](#)

(webpages)

Central American Solidarity Association of Maryland (CASA)

CASA provides individual and group-based financial education and assistance that includes: individual financial counseling, tax preparation assistance, workshops on issues such as obtaining identification documents, opening a bank account, writing a check, and more.

Mindfulness Corner



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Mindfulness practices can be helpful for families and children to reduce stress and anxiety, improve focus and emotions, and promote better sleep and well-being. The resources below can support your mindfulness journey whether you're new to mindfulness or looking for additional resources.

[How Mindfulness Can Help Caregivers](#) (webpage)

Child Mind Institute

Parents of children with special needs find these mindfulness techniques reduce stress and anxiety.

[Supporting Great Communication Skills for Kids](#) (webpage)

Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)

Have you ever experienced a moment you told a friend something and they reacted in a way you didn't expect? By practicing social language skills, we learn to understand the intentions, motivations, feelings, and beliefs of the people we communicate with. This resource shares some ways to support your child's social language skills.

Are you on X? Follow [@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.

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