



# wonders

early learning + extended day

Administrative Newsletter, February 2022

## Community and Parent Advocacy:

A recent survey from the [Children's Funding Project](#) found that 71% of voters believe the challenges parents face balancing child care and work during the pandemic is a serious/very serious issue. And 82% of voters believe it is extremely/very important for state and local governments to improve opportunities for all children to get a strong start in life. We believe that this is a moment of opportunity for families and the child care sector to influence how we rebuild and recover from the pandemic. [Click here for full details and to read the full article.](#)

For years, Wonders has been advocating for increased public investment in the sector and lending our voice and experiences to help inform policies that impact our work. We hope you would consider joining our advocacy efforts. The following organizations encourage families to share their voices in their collaborative efforts to make systemic changes which recognize public good provided by the child care sector and reduce challenges faced by families:

[Maryland Family Network](#)

[DC Under 3](#)

[Spaces in Action](#)

[Virginia's Ready Regions](#)

## Wonders News:



### Parent Education:

Wonders partners with [Childhood Development Consultants \(CDC\)](#) - a team consisting of a speech/language therapist, occupational therapist, and behavior therapist - to provide parents and caregivers across the DMV meaningful tools to address challenging behavioral and developmental topics at home. Our next parent and caregiver workshop, "[Developing Healthy Sleep Habits](#)" will be, Wednesday, March 2nd at 12:00 PM. **Our hour-long, free workshops are open to the community.** [Register today on Eventbrite.](#)

[Missed our latest webinar? No problem! We recorded the session for your benefit. The recording is only available for a limited time, so be sure to watch by Feb. 14th.](#)

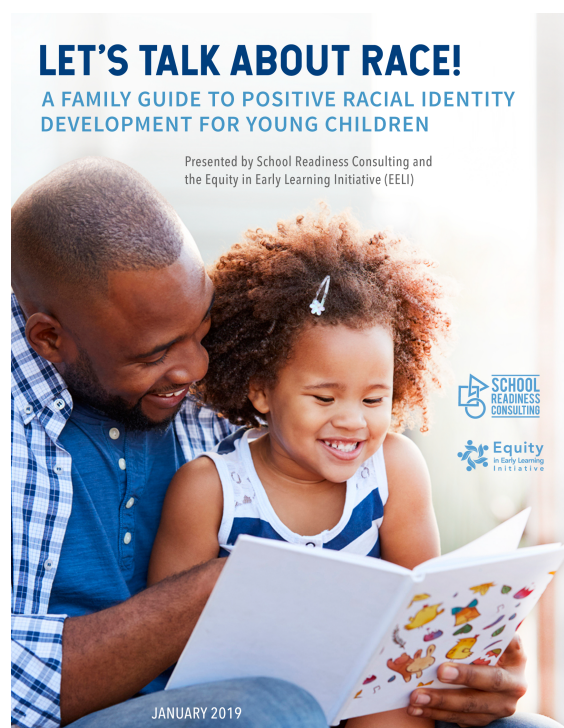
**Access Code: =hX1PIh**

### Educator Training Portal:

Wonders Professional Development Consortium (PDC) is excited to launch our **new training portal** for extended day program teachers. This new training portal holds hundreds of school-age specific certified workshops to allow our teachers to engage in professional development tracks specific to their career goals. We are excited to be able to offer this resource to our teachers **and will soon be offering membership accounts to out of school time educators across the DMV.**

### EELI:

Family Guidebook



Equity in Early Learning Initiative (EELI) seeks to develop best practices in early childhood leadership, teaching and learning, and family engagement around equity-focused practice and social justice education. Wonders, along with 4 regional partners, received funding from the Washington Area Women's Foundation to explore equity in early learning practices and to develop resources that can be shared with early learning programs throughout the DMV.

The family engagement tool, "[Let's Talk About It](#)", recognizes that parents are their children's first and most important teachers and have the opportunity to promote their children's deep appreciation of self and others. This guide is to help you contribute positively to your child's learning about human difference with information, resources, and the confidence you may need.

### Leading for Children: Leadership Program

Wonders Early Learning Leadership Team and the leadership team of the House of Representatives Child Care Center have partnered to offer a leadership study program called **Leading for Children**. The bi-weekly guided sessions explore what it takes to be an optimistic leader for children, using *The Five Commitments of Optimistic Leaders for Children: A Reflective Practice Journal*. The five commitments are personal identity (self-empowerment), interpersonal relationships (equitable learning partnerships), and group interactions (thriving systems). This collaborative learning opportunity provides valuable time and space for our

leadership team to think and reflect, which is especially welcome after two years of successfully leading through this pandemic.

**Summer Camp:**  
Tell your community members

- New and Returning Families
- Currently Enrolled Families

Registration is open for Wonders Summer Camp for children 6 - 12 years. Register before March 16th to receive our early bird rate. Our summer camp schedule is June 21th - August 5th.

Save the Date:



**Thursday, February 24th** Wonders is partnering with [Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza](#) in Bethesda! Join us for this fundraising event by dining-in or ordering out with ACFP between 11:00 am - 9:00pm! [Add this event to your calendar.](#)

Community Highlights:

**Weinstein-Crispell Donation:**  
IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD)

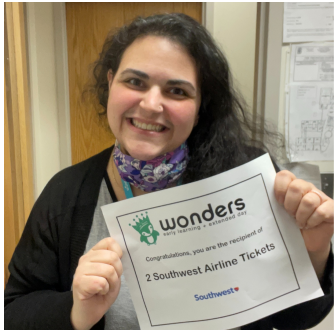


Wonders is very pleased to announce that Nedra Weinstein and Bruce Crispell recently donated \$25,000 to Wonders. The Weinstein-Crispell family made this donation in recognition of the, ***“outstanding work Wonders does in providing a supportive and enriching environment for children in their developmental years.”*** These funds will be used over time to provide training for Wonders educators in such areas as cultural competence, leadership, and anti-bias education. Thank you, on behalf of the entire Wonders team!

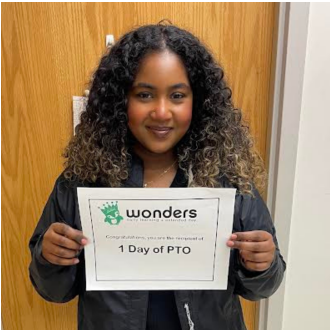
[Read Wonders' full announcement.](#)

In-Kind Raffle:

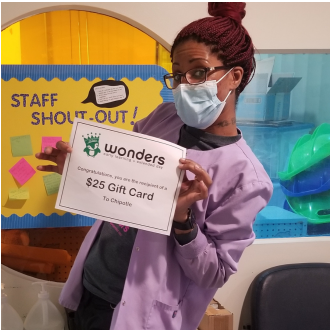
We want to thank our generous community members who provided in-kind gifts to Wonders! With these donations, we were able to host a [Wonders Team Raffle](#) - a new, fun, and unique opportunity for our team. Congratulations to the three raffle winners and thank you to our donors!



**Michele Knight**  
Program Director, Wonders  
Extended Day at Gesher



**Zaine Elboushi**  
Teacher, Wonders Extended Day at  
Gesher



**Shamieka Hodges**  
Teacher, Wonders at Edgemoor

Special Thanks:



**Ashlie Bagwell**  
**Debbie Brown**

Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
\*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

