

# Critchlow Adkins Expands Cordova Site

In early June, students at Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers in Cordova were filled with excitement as their teachers welcomed them into their brand new, expanded site for the first time. Critchlow Adkins's Cordova Site is located inside Chapel District Elementary School and was built in conjunction with the school's ongoing major renovation and expansion project.

Critchlow Adkins already had a preschool classroom in the school, but school-age activities were hosted in the school's cafeteria, rather than a formal classroom. This new site consists of three dedicated classrooms, a site director's office, and a teacher workroom.

The new center also helps address a major shortage of available childcare in Talbot County, allowing for up to 30 additional school-age students in before and after school care and summer camp programs.

Critchlow Adkins provides reliable childcare for employees of hundreds of local businesses, helping keep the Mid Shore community's economic engine running, and allowing parents to pursue their careers and further their education, knowing that their children are in a safe, nurturing, and educational environ-

Johnny Mautz, several Donor Advised Funds through the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, and contributions from many generous individuals and Critchlow Adkins Board Members.

Critchlow Adkins is a nonprofit organization serving families from across the Mid Shore through its educational, enriching, and engaging year-round preschool, before and after school care, and summer camp programs at five sites located throughout Talbot County. The organization has enjoyed a long-standing and robust partnership with Talbot County Public Schools (TCPS). Four of its five sites are located within TCPS elementary schools, and the fifth site is on TCPS property.

All five Critchlow Adkins sites have earned accreditation from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as well as EXCELS (Excellence Counts in Early Learning and School Age Care) Check Level 5 Ratings. Check Level 5 is reserved for the highest quality childcare centers in the state of Maryland. These are voluntary processes during which childcare centers undergo rigorous evaluation of their facilities and curriculums. They are graded based on criteria such as the use of age-app-



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ment. According to an economic impact study by BEACON and SG Insights, Critchlow Adkins has a \$2.2 million impact in Talbot County alone, and a \$3.7 million impact in the Mid Shore region.

This crucial project was made possible by generous grants from the Rural Maryland Council and Talbot County Council, a Maryland Legislative Bond Initiative sponsored by Senator

appropriate curriculum and multicultural lessons, family engagement, health and safety checks, staff credentials, and classroom observations.

CACC offers quality, financially accessible childcare, enrichment programs, and tuition assistance to local families thanks to the generous financial support from the community. Visit [cacckids.org](http://cacckids.org) or call 410-822-8061.