

Critchlow Adkins

Children's Centers: The Workforce Behind the Workforce

For 56 years, Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers has been a trusted part of the Mid-Shore community, providing high-quality, affordable childcare to four generations of local families. Today, parents continue to rely on Critchlow Adkins so they can go to work knowing their children are learning, playing, and growing in a safe and nurturing environment.

Founded by Happy Critchlow and Janice Adkins, the organization was built on a belief that remains at the heart of its mission today: when working families have access to quality, affordable childcare, the entire community benefits.

Across five locations, Critchlow Adkins provides preschool, before- and after-school care, and summer camp for children ages two through fifth grade. These programs give parents employed by over 100 Mid-Shore businesses the reliable childcare they need to go to work each day with confidence knowing their children are safe, supported, and receiving exceptional care.

The impact reaches well beyond Critchlow Adkins' classrooms. A 2023 economic impact study found the organization helps local families retain approximately $1M in earnings, while contributing about $3.7M annually to the Mid-Shore economy.

Inside the classroom, learning is designed to be fun. Literature-based STEAM activities encourage children to explore, create, problem-solve and ask questions. A strong focus on early literacy helps Critchlow Adkins' youngest learners build the skills and confidence they need for kindergarten and beyond.

Quality matters, too. All five Critchlow Adkins sites are accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education and have earned EXCELS Check Level 5 ratings, the highest level awarded to Maryland childcare providers, and the only private childcare center with this designation on the Mid-Shore.

Just as important is keeping care affordable. Critchlow Adkins accepts Maryland Child Care Scholarships and expects to provide an additional $200,000 in tuition assistance to local families in the 2026-2027 year. Support from local foundations, businesses, and individuals helps bridge the gap between affordability and the true cost of high-quality childcare. These investments support children, strengthen working families, and build a stronger Mid-Shore community. Learn more, enroll, or support Critchlow's mission visit at: www.cacckids.org.

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