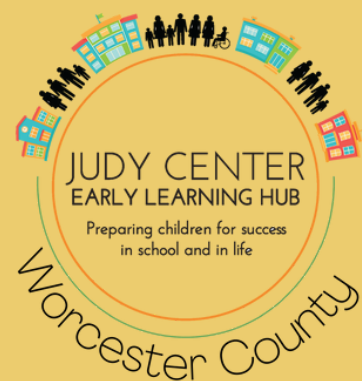


WORCESTER COUNTY JUDY CENTER EARLY LEARNING HUB

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

FALL 2023



WWW.JUDYCENTER.COM

WORCESTER COUNTY JUDY CENTER EARLY LEARNING HUB

Snow Hill Elementary School

515 Coulbourne Ln
Snow Hill, MD 21863
410-632-5224

Pocomoke Elementary School

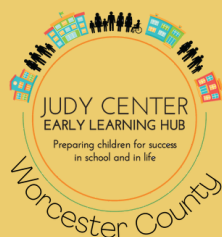
2119 Pocomoke Beltway
Pocomoke, MD 21851
410-632-5130

The Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub partners with school and community-based agencies, organizations, and local businesses to increase the number of children in Worcester County who enter school with the readiness skills needed to succeed.

The Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub has offices in two locations: Snow Hill and Pocomoke Elementary. Parents, teachers, and child care providers as well as other interested individuals are welcome to stop by for additional information.

Our Mission

The mission of the Judy Center Early Learning Hub is to provide comprehensive, integrated, full-day, full-year services that promote school readiness for children birth through age five. This mission requires the development of collaborative, integrated programs and approaches that support the young children's development in social and emotional, language and literacy, cognitive and general knowledge, approaches toward learning, and physical well-being and motor areas enhancing readiness for school while supporting families in their abilities to support their children's early learning.



A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dr. Gray Jack
Worcester County Judy Center
Early Learning Hub

Happy Fall families!

We hope everyone had a fabulous summer and are looking forward to the start of a new school year. The Judy Center Early Learning Hub had a blast with our families this summer. We loved seeing everyone at all of our events such as our Summer Tiny Tot Time, Maui Jacks Field Trips, Coco Funhouse, and our Ice Cream outreach events.

We are gearing up for all of our fall and winter events and the start of our Frog Street Home Education Program. The Judy Center added a new member to our team for the upcoming year. Ms. LaToya Purnell is the new Site Facilitator for PES and we are thrilled to have her on our team. Welcome Ms. Purnell!

New this year will be another playgroup opportunity at both schools. We will now offer StoryTime/Tiny Tot Time twice a week. Ms. Tajah and Ms. Ashleigh are preparing some fun activities and we know the children will have a blast!

We hope everyone has a fantastic start to the school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack

TINY TOT TIME

BIRTH-4 (NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL)

Tiny Tot Time Consists of:

- Interactive Play/Learning
- Music & Movement
- Arts & Crafts
- Connection w/ other parents
- Community Resources
- Free snacks



Come join us!

Every Wednesday &
Friday
at SHES
10:00AM-11:00AM

Call 410-632-5224 for more info.

Parents please bring picture ID to
sign in at the school.

Judy Center programming is developed with funds from the Maryland State
Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood.

Join us for our weekly

Tiny Tot Time at

- SHES on Wednesday & Friday from 10:00AM - 11:00AM
- PES on Monday & Wednesday from 9:00AM-10:00AM

Tiny Tot Time Consists of:

- Connection w/ other parents
- Community Resources
- Free snacks
- Interactive Play/Learning
- Music & Movement
- Arts & Crafts

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WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO WITH OUR SUMMER TINY TOTS



MEET THE STAFF



Dr. Gray Jack

I am the Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub's Director. I have been married for 16 years and we have three beautiful children who all attend WCPS. I completed my bachelor's degree in Recreation/Leisure Studies from Appalachian State University in 1998. In the 2005, I completed my Masters in Education from Wilmington University and began teaching 1st grade at BIS.. In May of 2018 I graduated from Salisbury University with a Doctorate Degree in Education with a focus on literacy.



Mrs. Truitt

I am the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper for the Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub. As a Worcester County native & alumni of Snow Hill High School, I enjoyed serving the residents of Worcester County for over 40 years in community & corporate banking. I work closely with the teachers & child care providers of our area. I joined our amazing team in July 2018, and have been blessed each day since.

Ms. Johnson



I am the Site Facilitator for Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub at SHES. I have been employed with the Judy Center since, 2013. I completed my associates degree in Early Childhood Education from Wor-Wic Community College. My job responsibilities include; planning all events, collaborating with community partners, overseeing our home education program, and more. My passion is giving back to my community and seeing the littles grow and learn.

Miss. Tajah



I am the Home Educator for the Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub. I have been working for the Judy Center since 2021. I enjoy nothing more than being able to reach children in the community and at school. Creating those relationships and giving them the school readiness they may need is the way I see myself giving back to WCPS where I did pre-k through 12th grade.

MEET THE STAFF

Ms. Ashley



My name is Ms. Ashley and I'm the Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub's Social Worker. I completed my Bachelor's in Social Work from Salisbury University in 2011 and my Master's in Social Work from the University of South Carolina in 2013. (Go Gamecocks!)

I can help your family by assisting with linkage to community resources, parenting questions, goal setting and more. I look forward to working with you & your family.

Ms. Purnell



I am the Site Facilitator for Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub at Pocomoke Elementary School. This is my first year with the Judy Center, but I've been the bookkeeper at PES for 6 years. I completed my associate degree in business management at Wor-Wic Community College. I'm excited to start this journey with the Judy Center and working with these amazing children and their families.

Mrs. Lisa



I am the Education Liaison for the Judy Center. I graduated from Wor-Wic with an associate degree in early childhood education. I started Snow Hill Elementary as a Paraprofessional in September 2005. I moved to the Judy Center in 2016 as the home educator. This program helps the children, who are home with mom or a guardian, get ready for PreK. I love working with children.

Miss. Ashleigh



I am a Worcester County Judy Center home educator. I provide Early learning education for children ages 1-4. This is my third year working with children and for Worcester County Public Schools. I grew up in Northern Virginia, moved to Chincoteague, where I started a family and had four amazing children. I look forward to meeting more families and preparing children with a successful education.

POTTY TRAINING Assistance & Consultation



Meet with our Social Worker, Ashley Bruns, LMSW to help you come up with a Potty Training Plan! Ashley can help guide you through assessing your child's readiness to potty train and provide tips and tricks to help your little one use the potty! Contact Ashley via the information below to schedule your consultation!



**Families who participate will be provided with a potty training kit!

Use the QR code below to register or contact Ms. Ashley via phone or email.



Snow Hill or
Pocomoke areas



albruns@worcesterk12.org



410-632-5224

EASY FALL RECIPE

ONE DISH ROASTED POTATOES & APPLES WITH CHICKEN SAUSAGE

A scrumptious and easy one-dish baked meal that's perfect for chilly fall and winter evenings. Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients

- 3 red potatoes or your favorite potato variety (about 1 pound)
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 red apples (Fuji, Pink Lady, Honeycrisp, Gala, etc.)
- 1 yellow onion
- 4 chicken herb link sausages (12 ounces)
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 °F.
2. Cut potatoes into chunks, place in 2-quart baking dish.
3. Drizzle with canola oil. Toss to coat.
4. Roast potatoes in oven for about 20 minutes.
5. While potatoes are roasting, cut apples and onions into chunks, and sausage into 1/2-inch slices.
6. Remove baking dish from oven and reduce heat to 375 °F. Add all remaining ingredients to baking dish and toss.
7. Return baking dish to oven and roast an additional 30 minutes until apples and potatoes are tender.



ICE CREAM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In July we had our 2nd Annual Community Ice Cream Outreach Party in Pocomoke and Snow Hill! We got to meet new families and reconnect with past and present families we work with all while enjoying some wonderful ice cream on the hottest days of summer!

POCOMOKE OUTREACH



SNOW HILL OUTREACH



JUDY CENTER SPECIAL EVENTS

MAUI JACKS FEILD TRIP

In June & August we took two field trips to Maui Jacks Waterpark in Chincoteague where families were able to splash around and enjoy lunch together!



COCO'S FUNHOUSE FIELD TRIP

In July we took families to Coco's Funhouse for a bouncy trip! Families were able to play and have lunch!



UPCOMING JUDY CENTER EVENTS



POCUMTUCK

- Thursday 10/5/23
Muffins with Men
- Thursday 10/19/23
Pumpkin Patch Trip
(Wright's Market)
- Thursday 10/26/23
Community Truck
or Treat
- Thursday 11/9/23
Paint Night



SNOW HILL

- Thursday 9/28/23
Community Partners
Fair
- Thursday 10/19/23
Pumpkin Patch Trip
(Wright's Market)
- Monday 10/23/23
Donuts with Grownups
- Wednesday 11/8/23
Paint Night

For more information about our upcoming events please follow our Facebook (Judy Center of Worcester County) or check out our website (judycenter.com).

Registration is required for all events

Parents & Caregivers



Inspire a Love
of Reading



A love of books and reading offers the foundation for literacy skills that set children up for future success. Parents reading to their children from birth improves a child's future reading ability.

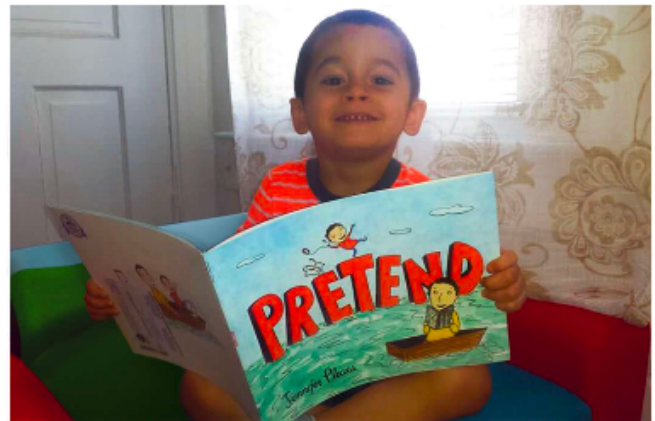
Dolly Parton believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything, and be anything. Through her Imagination Library program, she wants to ensure all children have books at home, regardless of the environment in which they live.

"The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school."

National Commission on Reading

As a parent or caregiver, reading with your child is the most important activity that you can do to help set them up for future success.

Through the Imagination Library, Dolly wants children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books create. Moreover, she could insure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income. For over 20 years, tens of millions of Imagination Library books have been sent to children around the world.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library puts books into the hands and hearts of children across the world.

Register your child to receive a book a month from the Imagination Library.

We partner with local communities to provide one free, specially-selected, age-appropriate, high-quality book each month to children from birth to age five. These books are personalized with your child's name and mailed directly to your home to create a gifting experience that makes books exciting and shows the child someone is thinking of them.

Visit the [ImaginationLibrary.com](https://www.imaginationlibrary.com) website to access proven and trusted resources for parents and caregivers including tips for reading to children and family engagement activities.

[ImaginationLibrary.com](https://www.imaginationlibrary.com)



A YEAR OF PLAY

September



September's theme is Cars, Trucks, and Buses. Try these fun activities to help your child learn more about cars, motion, and the world around them:

Talk Together

- For your baby: Take a walk see how many vehicles you can spot. Point them out and repeat their names: Truck! Bus! Car! Start to help your child make sentences as you watch the traffic zooming by: Cars go. Trucks go. The bus stops. Now it goes. Watch and listen for your baby's attempt to tell you when he spots a four-wheeled wonder. Listen for ka, tuck, and ba sounds. Watch for your baby to point and gesture at a bright yellow bus.
- For your toddler: This is an exciting time of year with school buses taking to the streets once again. Watch the traffic go by with your child. Use descriptor words to expand his vocabulary; notice the red car, the garbage truck, the yellow school bus. Use the actual terms for vehicles like bulldozers, front-end loaders, and cranes. Talk about how the school bus and the city bus are different. Read the stop signs with your child. Which cars does your child like best?

Read Together

- Read books with wheels! For babies, try: *My Car and Machines at Work* by Byron Barton, *My First Truck Board Book* by DK Publishing, *Wheels on the Bus* by Annie Kubler, *Truck Duck* by Michael Rex, and Richard Scarry's *Cars and Trucks from A to Z*. For older toddlers, good choices include *Cars, Trucks and Things That Go* by Richard Scarry, *Miss Spider's New Car* by David Kirk, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* by Mo Willems, and *My Race Car and My Fire Engine* by Michael Rex.

Play Together

- For your baby: Seat your baby in her high chair. Pour a little washable paint onto a paper plate. Tape a piece of paper to your baby's high chair tray. Dip the wheels of a die-cast car into the paint and let your baby "drive" it over the paper. Voila! Car art! Have a "car conversation" with your baby. Seat your baby on the floor and sit across from her. Roll a toy car to her and encourage her to roll it back. See if you can get this back-and-forth game going. Turn-taking activities like this one are practice for both "real" conversations later on, as well as sharing skills that will be developing over the next few years.
- For your toddler: Play stop and go. Color one side of a paper plate red and write the word "stop" on it. Color the other side green and write the word "go." If you'd like, glue a popsicle stick to the bottom so you can easily hold it. Let your child pretend to be a car (encourage him to make brum brum honk honk noises). You will be the traffic light. The "car" has to stop at the red sign and can go at the green sign. Once your child has the hang of this game, see if he'd like to tell you when to stop and go. Have a car wash. Let your child pick out a few of his toy cars or a bicycle to wash. Fill a bucket with soapy water and give your child an assortment of rags and sponges. Watch him get everything squeaky clean. Have a towel nearby to make drying off easy when he is all done.

A YEAR OF PLAY

October

October's theme is Pumpkins. Try these fun activities to help your child learn more about fall and cooking:



Talk Together

- For your baby: Look at pumpkins in the pumpkin patch or at your local supermarket. Let your baby touch the pumpkins. Talk about how they look and feel—they're big, and round, and orange. Are they smooth or bumpy? Knock on the pumpkin. Is your baby interested in this sound? Let her try to knock on the pumpkin, too.
- For your toddler: Look at pumpkins in the pumpkin patch or at your local supermarket. Talk about the pumpkins with your toddler—their color, texture, shape, and size. Use new words to describe the pumpkins; this helps expand your child's vocabulary. For example, you can talk about the scratchy stalk or the tough vine. You can talk about where pumpkins grow—in a pumpkin patch. You can talk about how pumpkins grow—from seeds (think about buying a packet of pumpkin seeds to show your child). Which of the pumpkins is your child's favorite? Why?

Read Together

- Read stories about this most special part of fall—round, orange pumpkins! For babies, try: Plumply Dumpy Pumpkin by Mary Serfozo, The Little Pumpkin Book by Katy Bratun, and My Jack-O-Lantern by Nancy J. Skarmeas. For older toddlers, good choices include: Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell, It's Pumpkin Time by Zoe Hall, Pumpkin Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington, and Too Many Pumpkins by Linda White.

Play Together

- For your baby: Purchase a tiny pumpkin (or gourd) and let your baby finger-paint it using washable tempera paints. Give your baby a taste of pumpkin pie filling (look for a low/no sugar brand) or a pumpkin muffin. (But first talk to your pediatrician before introducing any new fruits and vegetables into your baby's diet.) What does your baby think of this new taste?
- For your toddler: Line a table with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth. Cut the top off a pumpkin (adults only) so that your child can help you reach inside with a big spoon and take out all the seeds. Let your child play with the seeds and "pumpkin innards." This kind of sensory play is great fun for toddlers who love to get messy. Be aware, though, that some children won't like the feeling of the smushy pumpkin and will want to get washed up right away. When you are done emptying the pumpkin, your child can paint it using washable tempera paints or draw on it using washable markers.

Do a cooking project with your toddler. Try making the easy pumpkin muffin recipe below. Involve your child in scooping, stirring, and dumping ingredients in. Be sure to keep him away, though, when it's time to use the oven and let those hot muffins cool down before you dig in!

Pumpkin Muffins

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 15-oz. can of pumpkin pie filling
- 3 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice (or substitute 1 tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp nutmeg, and 1 tsp cloves)
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 bag mini chocolate chips (optional)
 - a. Blend the sugar, oil, eggs, and pumpkin together for 1 minute on high. (adults only)
 - b. Add the pumpkin pie spice and cake mix. Beat for 2 minutes on high. (adults only)
 - c. Mix the chocolate chips in by hand (if using).
 - d. Pour the batter into muffin papers placed in a muffin pan. Bake as the cake mix box directs. Stick a toothpick in (should come out clean) to check for doneness. Makes about 1½ dozen muffins.

November

A YEAR OF PLAY

November's theme is Trees. Try these fun activities to help your child learn more about nature and fall:

Talk Together

- For your baby: Lay a cozy blanket down on the grass and lie underneath a tree with your baby. Talk about the tree, the branches, the leaves and the wind. Repeat the word tree and let your baby touch the tree's trunk and leaves.
- For your toddler: Take a walk with your toddler to see how many different trees and leaves you can find. Talk about how a maple tree leaves feel different than a pine tree's needles. Feel the tree's bark; how does your child think the bark feels? Is it rough or bumpy, smooth or sticky with sap? Look at the leaves on the ground. Collect some of your child's favorites and line them up on the ground. Name their colors. Then line them up by size, from big leaves to little leaves. Pick some leaves to bring home.

Read Together

- Read books all about trees and their leaves. For babies, try: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr., Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree by Eileen Christelow, and Leaf Baby by Mary Brigid Barrett. For older toddlers, good choices include: Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina, Go Dog Go by P. D. Eastman, and The Acorn and the Oak Tree by Lori Froeb.

Play Together

- For your baby: Collect a few leaves, some crinkly, some not. Give them to your baby to play with and explore with his hands. Crinkle one so he can listen to the sound the leaf makes. Which leaves does he seem to like best? What does he like to do with the leaves? Play leaf peek-a-boo. Find a big leaf that you can use to cover (most) of your face. Hold it front of you and then pull it away: Peek-a-boo! See if your baby wants to take the leaf and play peek-a-boo with you.
- For your toddler: Choose a few different leaves for your child to paint with. Squirt washable tempera paint onto a paper plate. Show your child how to dip the leaves into the paint and then "stamp" onto paper. Make "secret boxes" for your child to explore. Take three shoeboxes and cut a hand-sized hole in the side of each. Put a different interesting item inside each box (a few acorns, some crinkly leaves, a stick). Have your child put her hand inside and touch the object without looking. Can she guess what is inside? (Note: Some children may be reluctant to put their hand inside the box without knowing what is inside. That's okay—modify the activity by having your child help you put the items inside each box. This might help her feel more comfortable with touching without seeing.)



FALL LEAVES WREATH CRAFT

Materials

- Plain paper plates
- Faux fall leaves
- School glue
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Hole punch



Directions:

1. Prepare the paperplate wreath

- a. Fold your paper plates in half and cut a half-circle out of the straight end to remove the center of the plate. I followed the inner line to keep all of the sides even. To set up the activity we gathered some fall leaves, acorns, small twigs, paper and glue. If you don't have fall leaves, you can also find packages of them at craft stores and the Dollar Tree in the fall.
- b. Open up the plate and cut a hole at the top with the hole punch about a half-inch from the top. I cut 2 overlapping holes to better fit my ribbon. This is the top of the DIY fall wreath.

2. Add fall leaves to your wreath

- a. Add glue to the spaces on your wreath where you want to put the leaves and fill that baby up! We alternated colors and did some overlapping so that there would not be too much white space showing.
- b. Make sure that you do not cover up the holes you punched at the top of the wreath, we will be using that space next.

3. Thread ribbons through the top holes

- a. Cut a strip of ribbon and thread it through the hole at the top of the paper plate wreath. Tie the two ends into a knot, leaving a loop that can be used for hanging. We chose orange ribbon to match our fall leaf colors and our ribbon was about 12 inches long – when folded and tied, the fall wreath craft hangs at about 6 inches.





PAWS AND THINK SUMMER ACADEMY ASSEMBLY



Miranda Mittleman and her dog Weaver for visiting Snow Hill & Pocomoke Elementary Schools this summer. Our friends learned lessons about self- esteem & self-reliance through the eyes of Weaver...reminding us to PAWS and THINK!



PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

Just Walktober CHALLENGE

* OCTOBER 1ST - 31ST

HOW IT WORKS:

3
You will receive a Walktober Challenge packet in the mail which will include a walk challenge calendar & reminder magnet!

2
Register for the Walktober Challenge through the Eventbrite link.

1
Sign up for the free, self-directed Just Walk Program @ www.Justwalkworchester.org (Enter "Walktober Challenge" in the Comment Box upon registration)

5
Self-report your steps and/or miles weekly by visiting www.justwalkworchester.org or call us at the number below.

4
Begin the challenge! Be sure to get in your steps during the entire month of October & check off your walk challenge calendar daily. Follow the walk times as indicated on your Walktober calendar and/or write-in your miles/walk minutes in the box provided each day.

7
The WCHD will calculate all steps/miles/minutes self-reported. The person that gets in the most steps and/or miles will win a fall wellness prize!

6
At the end of October, mail in or email your completed walk challenge calendar to the address and/or email below.

Send Completed Walktober Calendars to:
6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD 21863

or
Crystal.Bell@maryland.gov

For more information:

410-632-1100 ext. 1108

WALKTOBER 2023






WORCESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Nest

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

LOCATED IN WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Program Highlights:

-  **For ages 2 & 3**
Must be two by September 1, 2023
-  **Full-time staff to support your toddler**
Along with high school students enrolled in the WTHS Early Childhood Youth Apprenticeship Program
-  **Full-time and part-time options**
\$235/week (full-time) and \$55/day (part-time)*
*Financial Assistance may be available.
-  **Nutritious snacks provided**
Parent/Guardian must provide lunch
-  **Year-round learning center**
Hours are 7 am- 5 pm

Limited Spots Available



SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION

NEST.WORCESTERK12.ORG



ENERGY ASSISTANCE WORCESTER COUNTY LOCATIONS

Monday-Wednesday-Friday:

- Apply at the Berlin Head Start Center, 130 Flower Street, Berlin MD.

Tuesday-Thursday:

- Apply at the Snow Hill Head Start Center, 6352 Worcester Highway, Snow Hill MD.



Dreaming of Owning a Home?

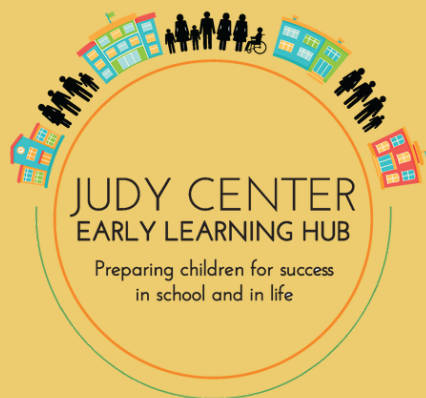
SHORE UP Can Help!

- Budget & Credit Counseling
- Services for Homeless Counseling
- Home Buyer Education
- Rental Housing Counseling
- Post-Purchase Counseling
- Home Improvement & Rehabilitation Counseling
- Delinquency & Default Resolution Counseling



Contact Us : 410-749-1142

Website : www.shoreup.org



The Worcester County Judy Center Early Learning Hub

Phone: 410-632-5224

www.judycenter.com



Judy Center of Worcester County