

All parents want to support their child's health, happiness and development. Choosing quality child care is an excellent way to do this!



A quality child care program ensures a safe, fun environment where children can PLAY, LEARN and LAUGH!



For more information:

Child Care Licensing: 1-800-543-7545

Parent Info: www.dss.virginia.gov/contact_us/dolp_district.pdf

Child Care Aware of Virginia: 1-866-481-1913

Virginia 2-1-1: www.211virginia.org or dial 2-1-1

Virginia Star Quality Initiative:

<http://www.smartbeginnings.org/home/star-quality-initiative/about-star-quality/aboutthevsqi.aspx>

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CHOOSING QUALITY

CHILD CARE





Benefits of Quality Child Care

- ✓ Impacts how children learn, think, develop and behave
- ✓ Promotes social and emotional skills
- ✓ Promotes self-esteem and confidence
- ✓ Encourages curiosity and love of learning
- ✓ Prepares children for school
- ✓ Strengthens math and reading skills
- ✓ Increases probability of attending college

The Search Begins

START your search early.

LEARN about child care programs in your community.

LOOK for licensed programs in your area.

CREATE a list of preferred child care programs to call.

TALK to friends, neighbors and other parents.

THINK about how you want your child to be treated and cared for.

COMMIT to choosing quality child care!



Getting Started

CALL each child care program.

ASK the questions that are important to you.

VISIT your preferred programs (while children are there) with your child.

When visiting the program, observe or ask:

- Is this program licensed?
- What are the teacher qualifications?
- What are the health and safety practices?
- Does staff treat the children kindly?
- Understand children's needs?
- Help children solve problems?
- How do they encourage parents to be involved?
- Is staff experienced and trained?

Then ask yourself:

- Does staff seem patient and friendly?
- Do the children look happy and engaged?
- Does the staff show interest in my child?
- Do I trust this person with my child?
- Will my child be comfortable here?
- Will this program support my child's learning and development?
- Does this program meet our needs?
- Did I talk to other parents about the program?



Questions about the Setting

- Safe indoor and outdoor play areas?
- Safe equipment such as highchairs, cribs and cots?
- Safe, cleared area where babies can crawl and play?
- Locked storage for items that are dangerous for children?
- Working smoke detectors?
- Enough age-appropriate toys and materials for all of the children?
- Is the facility, inside and outside, clean and organized?

Questions about the Activities

- Quiet and active play, indoors and outdoors?
- Fun language, math and science?
- Pretend play, music, reading and art?
- Adequate supervision at all times?
- Washing hands when needed?
- Nutritious meals and snacks?
- A routine but flexible schedule?
- Enough care providers to give each child individual attention?



Choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make