BENEFITS of Quality Child Care

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

BENEFITS of Licensed Care

Choosing a licensed provider is the first step in selecting quality care. Licensed providers in Virginia must demonstrate compliance with health and safety standards, training and education, background checks and child care regulations. When you choose a licensed provider in Virginia, you are choosing to put the health and safety of your child first.

Learn more about the benefits of choosing a licensed provider, as well as tips to help find the right child care provider for you, by visiting www.childcareva.com.

As a parent, choosing quality child care is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make.

Changes to Virginia Law

Effective July 1, 2016, a family day home caring for more than 4 children (not including the provider's biological children or other children legally residing in the home) must be licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). Effective July 1, 2015, if a family day home does not have a license or a voluntarily registered certificate from VDSS, the family day home must notify parents in writing that the home is not regulated by VDSS.

For more information:

Virginia Child Care: www.childcareva.com
Licensing – Children's Programs: 1-800-543-7545
Virginia Quality: www.virginiaquality.com
Child Care Aware of Virginia: 1-866-543-7852
Virginia 2-1-1: www.211virginia.org or dial 2-1-1
Virginia Department of Social Services: www.dss.virginia.gov

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

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Virginia Child Care

Choosing Quality Child Care

ALL PARENTS want to support their child's health, happiness and development.

CHOOSING QUALITY child care is an excellent way to do this!

The Search Begins

LEARN about child care programs in your community.

LOOK for licensed or Virginia Quality rated programs in your area.

CALL preferred child care programs to ask questions.

TALK to friends, neighbors and other parents for referrals.

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

COMMIT to choosing quality child care!

VISIT several programs to observe or ask:

- Is this program licensed?
- Is this program Virginia Quality rated?
- Are staff qualified, experienced and trained?
- What are the health and safety practices?
- Are staff patient and kind toward children?
- Does staff understand children's needs and help them learn how to solve problems?
- Are parents encouraged to be involved?
- What would a typical day be like for my child?
- Are there enough age-appropriate toys and materials?

REFER to this safety checklist during your visit:

- ☑ Safe, clean and organized indoor and outdoor play areas with security
- ☑ Safe equipment (highchairs, cribs and cots)
- ☑ Safe, open area for babies to play
- ☑ Locked storage of items dangerous to children
- ☑ Working smoke detectors
- ☑ Health and safety practices consistently followed
- ☑ Emergency Plan shared with parents

THINK about your visit and ask yourself:

- Were children happy and engaged?
- Did staff show interest in my child?
- Will I trust this person with my child?
- Will my child be comfortable here?
- Will this program support my child's learning and development?
- What do other parents say about the program?
- Does this program meet our needs?