

85%

of a child's
critical thinking
skills are
developed
by age 5



Why Quality Care Matters

Quality care now, when your
child is very young, will help
your child start school ready
to learn and ready to succeed!



To learn more about the
Virginia Star Quality Initiative, contact:

Smart Beginnings
www.smartbeginnings.org



To learn more about licensing requirements
and local centers contact:

**Virginia Department of Social Services
Piedmont Licensing Office**

(540) 204-9615
www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/index.cgi



To learn more about child care options
in your area contact:

Child Care Aware
(804) 285-0846
www.va.childcareaware.org

Smart Beginnings Central Virginia
(Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Nelson, Lynchburg)
(434) 455-6921

Smart Beginnings Danville Pittsylvania
(Danville, Pittsylvania)
(434) 797-8887

Smart Beginnings Martinsville Henry County
(Henry, Martinsville, Patrick)
(276) 403-5528

Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke
(Alleghany, Bath, Botetourt, Buena Vista, Craig, Covington, Franklin,
Lexington, Roanoke, Roanoke County, Rockbridge, Salem)
(540) 283-2781




VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

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Are you looking for childcare?




 **SMART
BEGINNINGS**



When choosing childcare, it's important to know what quality is and where to find it.

The **Virginia Star Quality Initiative** helps working parents identify high quality childcare providers. Participating childcare centers and preschool programs are assigned a star level based on the quality of care provided. Star levels help parents to make the best choice for their child.



What is High Quality Childcare?

- Teachers have experience, education and training in early childhood education
- Class sizes are small
- Teachers have warm, positive interactions with children
- Individual students receive attention
- Lessons are age-appropriate
- Environment is engaging with many small activity centers
- Curiosity and questions are encouraged

