

# What is the Virginia Star Quality Initiative?

The Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI), a voluntary program for child care providers, offers a consistent way to distinguish the level of quality of a child care center.

VSQI awards a star rating level to participating centers. Participation reflects a child care center's commitment to quality beyond the minimum requirements.

## Key Quality Components:

- **Education, qualifications and training of staff**
- **Provider and child interactions**
- **Structure**
  - Small class sizes
  - Low child to teacher ratios
- **Environment and instruction**
  - Age appropriate curriculum
  - Stimulating learning environments
- **Transition into kindergarten activities**
- **Partnering with parents and community**

Providers work closely with Child Care Quality Educators who support and help to integrate changes that improve the quality of their services.

# Participating Providers

As of May 2011, 27 local child care centers, preschools and home day care providers are participating in the Virginia Star Quality Initiative.

For a current list of VSQI programs, visit <http://www.cyfs.org/childcare/vsqi.php> or call (434) 296-4118.

Brochure provided by  
The Daily Progress



For more information on VSQI or other child care resources, contact:

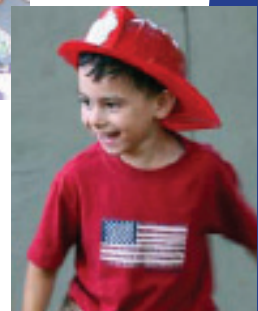
Mary-Margaret Gardiner  
(434) 296-4118 ext. 228

[mmgardiner@cyfs.org](mailto:mmgardiner@cyfs.org)

[www.cyfs.org](http://www.cyfs.org)

[www.SmartBeginningsinfo.org](http://www.SmartBeginningsinfo.org)

# Is Your Child in High Quality Child Care?



(434) 296-4118 ext. 228

# Why Quality?

*The first 5 years of a child's life are the most critical time to stimulate brain development.*

*A caring relationship between a child and a caregiver affects basic brain development and builds the child's ability to trust.*

*A child that participates in a quality early learning environment is more likely to be successful in school.*

## Benefits for Children & Parents

### Learning Opportunities

All children benefit from rich learning environments.

- *Daily schedule with quiet and active play*
- *Specific areas for different types of play*
- *Opportunity to explore and learn by doing*
- *Organized and accessible toys and materials*

### Positive Interactions

Caring and responsive relationships are essential.

- *Warm and welcoming caregivers*
- *Provision of individual attention*
- *Talk to children and engage them in conversations*
- *Ask questions that expand children's thinking*

### Safety and Health

Basic safety and health measures are maintained at all times.

- *Appropriate child to staff ratios*
- *Clean and well maintained environment*
- *Good hygiene and health practices*
- *Emergency procedures established and followed*

### Education and Training

Caregivers who have advanced training and ongoing professional development in child development and early childhood learning are more likely to provide high quality care.

## Benefits for Providers

### Professional Development

- Free training for program staff
- Enhanced training at a reduced cost
- Individualized program support/training designed to address program needs

### Resources

- Quality improvement grants
- Resource boxes with materials and curriculum ideas for all ages

### Promotion and Marketing

- Participating providers are recognized and promoted in the community

### Assessment and Mentoring

- Assistance with self evaluations, assessments and action plans
- Individualized support and consultations

### Home-based Providers

May participate in a Virginia Star Quality program that provides similar benefits.

