



Additional Resources

Advocacy

- [Voices for Virginia's Children](#)
Nonprofit and non-partisan, Voices for Virginia's Children is a persistent voice of reason in advocating for better lives and futures for children.

Learning

- [Born Learning](#)
The United Way of America and United Way Success By 6 partnered with the Ad Council, Civitas, and Families and Work Institute to create Born Learning, an innovative public engagement campaign that helps parents, caregivers, and communities create quality early learning opportunities for young children.
- [Chateau Meddybemps](#)
Chateau Meddybemps enables parents and teachers to help young children strengthen learning skills in unique and playful ways.

National Organizations

- [Children's Defense Fund](#)
Ensuring every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.
- [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#)
The nation's largest and most influential organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of programs for children from birth through third grade.
- [ZERO to THREE](#)
ZERO TO THREE helps children best navigate their first three years of life in order to develop a solid intellectual, emotional and social foundation.

Quality

- [Choosing Quality Child Care: Building Virginia's Future. Child by Child. Day by Day](#) from the Virginia Department of Social Services was designed for parents searching for high quality child care. The guide is available online at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/publications.cgi>. It includes information about child

care settings, provider characteristics, touring child care facilities, and questions to ask when interviewing and rating providers.

- [Is This the Right Place for My Child?: 38 Research-Based Indicators of High-Quality Child Care](#) was developed by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) to help parents in their search for child care. A [checklist](#) for parents is included. It discusses the importance and relevance of each research-based question used to evaluate child care programs.
- [Parenting Education Resource List](#)
Research Connections is a partnership of the National Center for Children in Poverty, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research and the Child Care Bureau, and the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation. They have released a new Parenting Education resource list that you may find interesting.

Safety

- [Healthy Kids, Healthy Care](#)
The Healthy Kids, Healthy Care website, developed by the [National Resource Center for Health and Child Care and Early Education](#), targets parents of children in child care programs and offers answers to questions about health and safety issues.
- [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$800 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

Shared Services

- The Alliance for Early Childhood Finance is dedicated to seeking more rational financing of early care and education in America through inquiry, analysis and communication among early care and education policy activists. The Alliance was originally created through a partnership between [Anne Mitchell of Early Childhood Policy Research and Louise Stoney of Stoney Associates](#). The report, [Collective Management of Early Childhood Programs](#), discusses ways to improve child care quality.
- [Merage Foundations](#)
Merage's Shared Services Toolkit includes information that is based on the experiences of existing comprehensive shared service organizations, as well as other resources to guide the start-up of local early care and education alliances. Infant Toddler is one of the shared services models listed in the toolkit.