

What is the Virginia Star Quality Initiative?

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

VSQI awards one to five stars of increasing quality 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(3.2010)

Barrett Early Learning Center
Bright Stars
Congregation Beth Israel Preschool
Covesville Child Development Center
First Baptist Early Childhood Development Center
Foundations Child Development Center
Hilltop Child Care Center
MACAA Head Start, Ferguson
MACAA Head Start, Jordan
MACAA Head Start, Twyman
Malcolm Cole Child Care Center
Mollie Michie Co-op Preschool
Park Street Christian Preschool
Piedmont YMCA Child Care
Salvation Army Child Care Center
Victory Hill Preschool
Wesley Child Care Center
Westminster Child Care Center

Brochure provided by
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**For more information on VSQI,
child care information and resources:**

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www.cyfs.org/ccq.shtml

VSQI - www.smartbeginnings.org/QRIS

Does Your Child Receive High Quality Child Care?



(434) 296-4119 ext.243

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 Parents

Learning Opportunities

Children of all ages benefit from rich learning environments.

- *Schedule for the day*
- *Designated play areas readily available*
- *Varied activities that stimulate a child's development*

Positive Interactions

A caring responsive relationship between the caregiver and children is essential.

- *Welcoming caregivers*
- *Responsive to children's needs and requests*
- *Communicate with the children*
- *Actively listen to children*

Safety and Health

Basic safety and health measures are maintained at all times.

- *Appropriate caregiver/child ratios*
- *Clean and well maintained environment*
- *Good hygiene and health practices*
- *Access to emergency needs*

Training and Education

Caregivers who have advanced training in child development and early childhood learning are more likely to offer higher quality programs.

- *Ongoing professional development experiences*
- *Membership with a professional organization*

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
- As state participant, can promote as part of the Virginia Star Quality Initiative

Assessment and Mentoring

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

Home-based Providers

May participate in the **Seal of Quality Child Care** program that provides similar benefits.

