

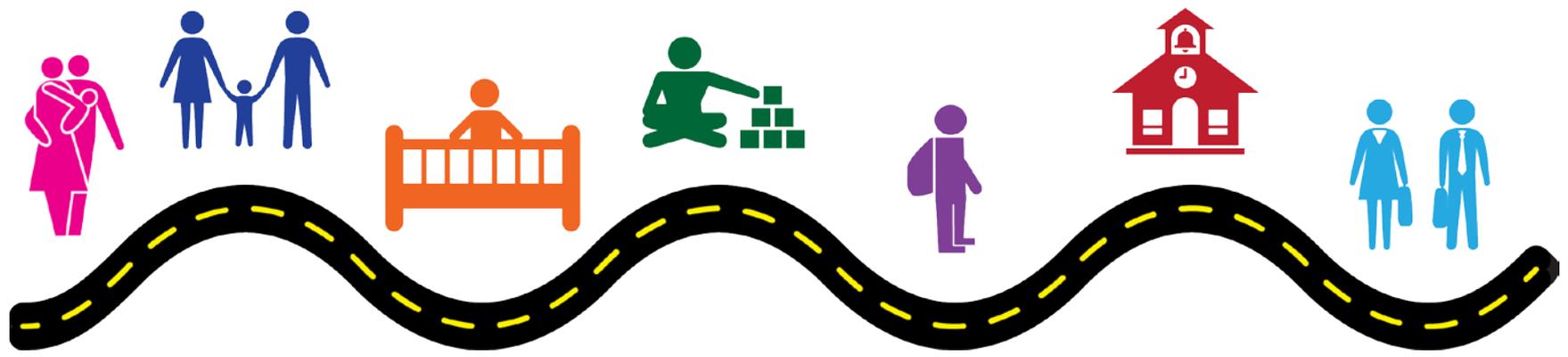


For Virginia's  
Children

# Child Care Safety

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Voices for Virginia's Children

## THE PATH TO VIRGINIA'S PROSPERITY



# Child Care in Virginia

- **Access**

- In “centers”- non-profit, proprietary, and faith based
- In “homes”- licensed when serving 6 or more children
- “Informal”- relatives, nannies, babysitters, etc.

- **Cost**

- Average cost is more than in-state college tuition
- 13,400 families a month receive assistance; Wait List of 10-11,000 families

- **Quality**

- Licensed programs serve as foundation
- Local ordinance permitted programs in NoVa
- Fledging Quality Rating System/VA Star Quality Initiative
- Other professional development resources

# In Virginia, thousands of day-care providers receive no oversight

The Post found there were at least 43 child deaths in such settings in the past decade in the commonwealth.



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## Day Care Reforms Could Save Children's Lives

Story Comments

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Posted: Sunday, January 11, 2015 6:00 am

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

It's a nightmare no one, much less a parent, can contemplate: dropping your child at day care and later receiving a call of an incident that's left your baby on life support, struggling to survive.



Richmond 42°

## Richmond Times-Dispatch

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## Children in unlicensed day cares are 5 times more likely to die

Story Comments Image (8) Print Font Size: + -

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Posted: Saturday, December 20, 2014 10:30 pm

By MARK BOWES Richmond Times-Dispatch



The tragic death of a Midlothian toddler in a fire at a home day care is indicative of a deadly, statewide trend: Children being watched in unlicensed facilities in Virginia are five times more likely to die of

## Richmond Times-Dispatch

CHILD CARE

## Today's top opinion: Day care needs tighter regulation

Posted 3 months ago

The news is not to be borne. A boy, 13 months, died in a fire at a Midlothian day care center.

The center lacked a state license although it reportedly cared for more children than the minimum required for licensing. State regulations stipulate that family day homes must receive licenses from the Virginia Department of Social Services if more than five children not related to the provider are receiving care at a residence, The Times-Dispatch's Mark Bowes reports.

This was not an isolated incident. A recent series by The Washington Post "revealed 60 fatalities at day care homes in Virginia since 2004. Of those children, 43 died in unregulated homes. Many of the deaths involved risky actions taken by caregivers," The Post found. The Chesterfield victim was the third child to die in an unregulated center in Virginia during the past month.

# **The Loophole- Unlicensed Home Based Child Care <6 Kids**

- If these providers become licensed they would be required to:
  - Complete a background check (possibly fingerprint)
  - Complete 16 hours of training per year including CPR and safe sleep
  - 2 unannounced visits to monitor health and safety

# Children impacted by proposal to link child care subsidy and licensing

	Percent of Children
Child Care Centers- <b>inspected</b>	67%
Home Day Care- <b>inspected</b>	8%
Local Ordinance Approved- <b>inspected</b>	4%
Religious Exempt Centers- <b>not inspected</b>	11%
Home Day Care- registered & <b>not inspected</b>	5%
Unregulated- <b>not inspected</b>	4%
<b>Subsidy Children in Inspected Care Arrangements</b>	<b>80%</b>
Subsidy Children in Care Arrangements <b>Not Inspected</b>	<b>20%</b>

# **The Opportunity- Protect All Kids**

**Anyone in the business of providing child care meets health and safety requirements**

**Step 1:** Implement fingerprint background check (SB 1168-Hanger)

**Step 2:** Reduce the threshold for home day care providers (SB 818-Favola); Phase-in by asking providers to give notice

**Step 3:** Make safety the first step to continuous quality improvement for all child care providers