The Benefits of Early Childhood Care and Education

Benefits of Quality Child Care:

- **Impacts** how children learn, think, develop, and behave.

- **Promotes** social and emotional skills.

- **Encourages** curiosity and cultivates a love of learning.

- **Prepares** children for school.

Across Southeastern Virginia, there are many opportunities for your child to be a part of a quality program that promotes learning and development.

Visit https://www.minus9to5.org/ to learn more about ECCE programs that will best fit your child's needs.

READY REGION
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Find the best early childhood care and education options for your family by scanning the QR code below:

READY REGION
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MACON & JOAN BROCK VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES
Minus 9 to 5
AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

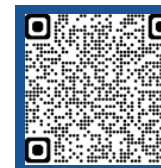## Ready Region Southeastern Family Council

Ready Region Southeastern's Family Council is designed for parents, caregivers, and guardians of children from birth to age five.

Our Family Council provides an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and guardians to weigh-in on Early Childhood Care and Education issues that matter the most to them.

Ready Region Southeastern has three separate Family Councils serving the Eastern Shore, South Hampton Roads, and Western Tidewater regions.

Scan the QR Code below to visit the Ready Region Southeastern website for more information!

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Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Program Guide

Child Care Centers & Family Day Homes | Child Care Subsidy | Head Start Programs | Mixed Delivery Programs | Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) |

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Head Start Preschool

Early Head Start:
Must be an infant or toddler younger than 3 years old.
Early Head Start offered in select Western Tidewater locations.

Head Start:
Must be 3 - 4 years old by September 30th (a child who turns 3 after this date is eligible after their 3rd birthday).

Children are eligible for no-cost Early Head Start or Head Start services if one or more factors are met:

- Family income meets program guidelines (under 100% of the federal poverty level)

- Family is experiencing homelessness

- Child is in foster care

- Family is receiving or is eligible for public assistance (SSI, TANF or SNAP)

- Selection criteria to identify children with disabilities

- Other criteria established at the local level

Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

Must be age 4 by September 30th.
Some programs serve children age 3.

Children are eligible for no-cost VPI slots at a Public School Program if one or more factors are met:

- Family income meets program guidelines (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level)

- Family is experiencing homelessness

- Parent/Guardian did not complete high school

- Child is eligible for special education services and has a documented disability or delay

- Child is eligible based on local criteria unique to each individual school division

- Eligibility does not guarantee placement; families with the highest need are placed first

Child Care Centers and Family Day Homes

Ages Birth to 5.

All children are eligible for fee-based services based on availability.

- Child Care Centers and Family Day Homes vary in price and some may even offer before and/or after school care.

- Parents could be eligible to receive assistance with the cost of childcare through the Virginia Child Care Subsidy Program.

To apply for Childcare Subsidy, scan the QR Code below or visit: CommonHelp.Virginia.Gov

Mixed Delivery
Full Day,Year-round Care

Ages Birth to 5.
Placement based on age by September 30th.

Children are eligible for low or no-cost Mixed Delivery slots at a Child Care Center if one or more factors are met:

- Family income meets program guidelines (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level)

- Family is experiencing homelessness

- Child's Parent(s) or Guardian(s) did not complete high school

- Child has identified disability or needs special education

- Child is eligible based on regional criteria unique to Ready Region Southeastern

- All adults in the home must be participating in one or more of the following activities: *working, job search, and/or education/training, or they are unable to provide care themselves*