



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

For Immediate Release

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Virginia Quality Program for Early Care and Education Reaches Milestone

Richmond, VA. (January 22, 2018) - [Virginia Quality](#), the Commonwealth's voluntary rating and improvement system for early learning child care providers, recognizes a milestone achievement in reaching over 1,000 program participants. Since 2015, the number of quality-rated, early learning programs has increased from 394 to 1,001 child care and preschool providers. This recent success will yield greater access to quality child care and preschool programs for Virginia's children and families.

Research indicates that quality child care and early learning programs positively impact a child's development. With 90 percent of brain development occurring before age five, early child care and education is critical to a child's future success. Currently, an estimated 39,931 children attend Virginia Quality early education programs. Additionally, over 10,000 educators are engaged in ongoing professional development based on Virginia Quality Standards.

Administered through a public-private partnership between the [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) and [Virginia Early Childhood Foundation](#) (VECF), the Virginia Quality program functions to support child care and preschool programs in providing high quality early care and education, and recognizes programs for the services they provide to families. VECF, a state partner in advancing school readiness, creates results-oriented partnerships to ensure that young children are healthy and prepared for school, life and workforce success.

Participating Virginia Quality programs demonstrate their commitment to quality at five different levels across four nationally recognized quality standards. Each quality level builds upon the preceding level and prepares for the one that follows. Quality levels are awarded to child care and preschool programs based on the following standards and best practices:

1. The education and qualifications of the staff
2. The curriculum or intentional teaching approach the program uses to guide children's learning
3. The learning environment
4. Teacher-child interactions

To learn more about Virginia Quality programs that have made a commitment to quality child care and early learning, visit www.virginiaquality.com.