

**QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD  
CARE & EDUCATION  
FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO FIVE**

# **Toolkit**





SOURCE: CENTER ON THE DEVELOPING CHILD, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

→ **90%**  
**of a child's brain  
development happens  
before age 5**

**When parents engage positively and consistently with their children in the early years, then children will be set up for success in school and in life.**

**High-quality early childhood care and education have a significant impact on the lives of children and their families.**





# THRIVE

## BIRTH TO FIVE

**Our vision:** All children in our region will thrive and race, place, and income will no longer determine success in school.

**Our mission:** We will collaborate to build our region's early childhood system and are a trusted steward of early childhood resources for families, providers and the ecosystem supporting them.

# WHAT IS Quality Early Care?

To prepare all children for kindergarten, Virginia's early childhood system ensures that all children have quality teaching and learning experiences that meet their unique needs. In response to state law, Virginia has developed the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5) to measure and help improve the quality of all publicly funded birth to five classrooms and support families to choose quality programming across program types.

## FINDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION FOR YOUR 0-5 YEAR OLD

Virginia has developed the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five System (VQB5) to measure and help improve the quality of all publicly-funded 0-5 classrooms and support families in choosing quality early childhood care and education programs. VQB5 Quality Profiles are available for all publicly-funded programs.



SCAN FOR MORE



Virginia has many quality options for early childhood care and education for children aged birth to five.



Looking for Care?

Find quality early childhood care and education using our website at [thriveb5.org](https://thriveb5.org)



# What option is right for you?

## ▶ **HEAD START / EARLY HEAD START**

Free • Ages 0-5 • School Year

A federally-funded program helps eligible families with the cost of child care, typically in a public school setting. Families apply through the provider for full day/full year care.



## ▶ **VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE (VPI)**

Free • Ages 3-4 • Year Round

A state program that provides high-quality preschool programs for eligible four-year-olds in Virginia not served by Head Start.



## ▶ **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY**

Little to no cost • Ages 6 weeks - 12 years • Varied Hours

A payment or voucher from the federal or state government to help families with the cost of childcare.



## ▶ **MIXED DELIVERY**

Little to no cost • Ages 0-5 • Year Round

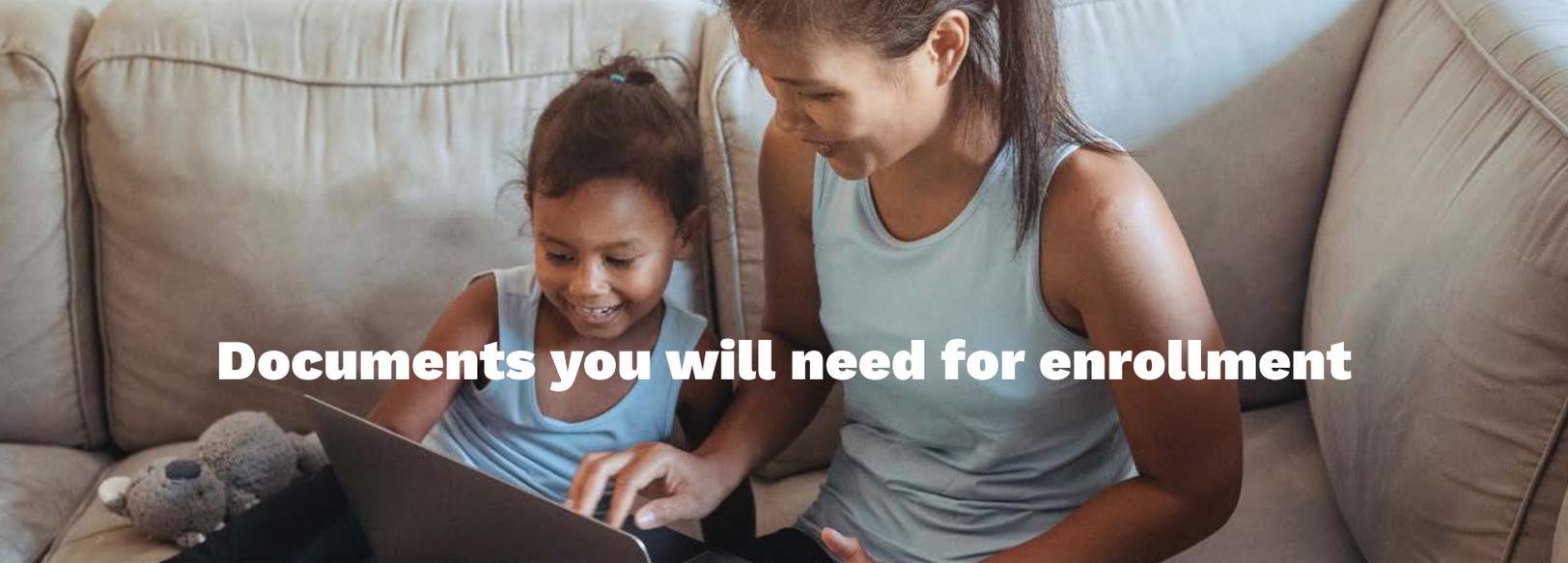
A state-funded program helps eligible families with the cost of child care in a private early childcare setting. Families apply through participating providers for full day/full year care.



## ▶ **CITY OF RICHMOND EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION TRUST FUND**

Little to no cost • Ages 0-5 • Year Round

Similar to Mixed Delivery, The Richmond Trust is currently only available in the City of Richmond. Families apply through their provider for full day/full year care.



## Documents you will need for enrollment

# 1

### A CERTIFIED COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE (NO PHOTO COPY)

#### 5 ways to order a birth certificate

- Visit [www.vdh.virginia.gov/vitalrecords](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vitalrecords)
- Call 877-572-6333 (Option 1)
- By mail via Division of Vital Records: PO Box 1000, Richmond, VA 23218
- In person via VDH Division of Vital Records: 8701 Park Central Drive, Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23227
- Department of Motor Vehicles:  
You must have 2 forms completed upon arrival; to access, visit [www.dmv.virginia.gov/records/vital](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/records/vital) Locations vary; visit [www.dmv.virginia.gov/locations](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/locations)

# 2

### TWO PROOF OF RESIDENCY DOCUMENTS

#### 1 A leasing agreement or mortgage statement is required\*

- If you live with someone, you must obtain a notarized letter from the titleholder, along with the lease or mortgage. Notaries are available at any public library for free or bank (will charge up to \$5). (Will vary by locality.)

#### 2 Utility bills, driver's license, government issued ID, bank statement

# 3

## MOST RECENT RECORD OF YOUR CHILD’S IMMUNIZATIONS/SHOTS\*

### 5 ways to order a birth certificate

- Forms can be accessed online using the code to the right:
- A complete list of recommended vaccines and their descriptions can be found on the CDC Website.
- Contact your child’s pediatrician.



# 4

## COPY OF YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL ENTRANCE FORM\*

- The form can be accessed online using the code to the right: (Arabic, Dari, Chinese, Korean, Pashto, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukranian currently available.)
- If accessible, contact your child’s pediatrician.
- The physical must have been performed no more than twelve months prior to the date of entrance.



\*If your child is in need of an immunization or physical, access your local health department contact by scanning this QR code.

# 5

## IF APPLICABLE

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)  
Parents may request a copy of their child’s IFSP/IEP by contacting their school’s special education office or case manager.
- Court-ordered Custody Paperwork  
A copy can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Court in the county where your case was filed.



## Free At-Home Resources

Waitlists can feel daunting but here are resources you can use in the meantime:

**The Basics** are five science-based parenting and care-giving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development of children birth to five.



[thebasicsvirginia.org](http://thebasicsvirginia.org)



MAXIMIZE LOVE,  
MANAGE STRESS



TALK, SING  
AND POINT



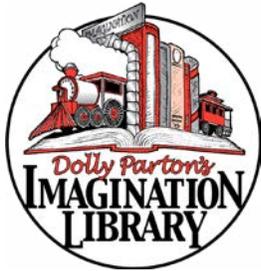
COUNT, GROUP  
AND COMPARE



EXPLORE  
THROUGH  
MOVEMENT  
& PLAY



READ AND  
DISCUSS  
STORIES



[imaginationlibrary.org](http://imaginationlibrary.org)

**Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, regardless of family income, to promote early childhood literacy and ensure every child has access to books during their most formative years.



[cdc.gov/act-early/milestones-app/index.html](http://cdc.gov/act-early/milestones-app/index.html)

**Milestones matter!** Track your child's milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with CDC's easy-to-use illustrated checklists; get tips from CDC for encouraging your child's development; and find out what to do if you are ever concerned about how your child is developing.



[peatc.org](http://peatc.org)

The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center, **PEATC**, is the parent information and training center serving families and professionals of children with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.



**THRIVE**  
**BIRTH TO FIVE**

**READY**  
**REGION**  
*Central*

