

AN INVESTMENT IN PRIORITIES

Issue Paper:

Early Childhood Education in South Hampton Roads

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

ISSUE OVERVIEW

Early childhood care and education plays a crucial role in children's development and in parents' ability to hold jobs. The high cost of child care creates a Catch-22 that keeps those who cannot afford the child care fees out of work. As a result, subsidized child care is often the linchpin in a family's efforts to remain stable and self-sufficient.

Early Childhood Education

The experiences during the first years of a child's life are good predictors of success in later years. Research has shown that preschoolers who do not enter kindergarten ready to learn will have a lower rate of success in their first year of school and may never catch up to their peers. In South Hampton Roads, almost seven percent of kindergartners are held back, compared to four percent statewide.

Employment and Family Stability

In South Hampton Roads, 63 percent of children under six, more than 47,000 children, live in households where all resident parents are working (U.S. Census). In those households, child care is the only option, but a costly one. Families pay an average of \$6,200 a year for a preschooler to attend a licensed child care center. For an infant, the cost exceeds \$8,200 (National Economic Development and Law Center: *The Economic Impact of the Child Care and Early Education Industry in South Hampton Roads, Virginia*).

The region's median family income ranges from \$37,000 in Norfolk to \$56,000 in Chesapeake (U.S. Census). Nine percent of families in South Hampton Roads live in poverty, including 13 percent of families with children under five. For many households, child care poses a constant challenge that threatens parents' ability to go to work or keep working. In January 2006, just under 1,000 families in the region were on a waiting list for subsidized child care.

Government Assistance for Families

There are two types of government assistance available for early child care. First, the state provides child care assistance for families that receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and are enrolled in the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) program. Families choose a child care provider and assistance is paid directly to the center. The State of Virginia sets a market rate for child care and if the costs are more than the market rate, the family pays the difference.

Second, the Child Day Care Fee Program is a state-subsidized program that assists low-income families with financial resources to find and afford quality child care. If families meet state guidelines for eligibility, they pay a monthly co-pay which is 10% of their monthly gross income. The Child Day Care Fee Program pays the remaining costs up to the market rate set by the state.

These child care assistance programs are available in all jurisdictions in South Hampton Roads.

Government-funded Preschool Programs

Head Start is a federally funded child development program that serves low-income children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. The program uses the poverty guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine eligibility. In South Hampton Roads, all 28 Head Start programs are operated by the STOP Organization (see table below).

Through the Virginia Preschool Initiative, the state funds schools and community-based organizations to provide preschool programs to 4 year olds. The programs serve at risk children who are not in Head Start. Most of the 69 programs in South Hampton Roads are located in elementary schools (see table below). In Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, the programs are operated through a partnership with the YMCA of South Hampton Roads.

CAPACITY

Child Care Centers in South Hampton Roads*

Type of Center/Facility	Number	Infant - Preschool Enrollment
Licensed centers	326	17,119
License-exempt religious institutions	125	5,932
Family day care homes (licensed and unlicensed)	458	2,915
Total	909	25,966

* Does not include Isle of Wight
 Source: Virginia Department of Social Services

Licensed, Non-Profit Child Day Centers in South Hampton Roads

Number of Centers	Total Capacity
47	4,352

Head Start Centers (included in above number of centers)

Region	Centers	Capacity
Chesapeake	7	278
Norfolk	9	383
Portsmouth	3	239
Virginia Beach	6	257
Western Tidewater	3	210
South Hampton Roads	28	1,367
	Centers	Capacity

Head Start as a % of All Licensed, Non-profit Day Centers	60%	31%
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Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs (NOT included in above number of centers)

Region	Sites	Capacity
Chesapeake	4	240
Norfolk	37	1,914
Portsmouth	9	623
Virginia Beach	14	704
Western Tidewater	9	336
South Hampton Roads	73	3,817

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Licensed child day center: A center that provides care for two or more children in a setting outside a private home and must meet certain requirements enforced by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).

Unlicensed child day center: A center that provides care for two or more children outside a private home and is not required by Virginia law to be licensed. These include religiously exempt programs and certified preschools, which are required to meet other guidelines and are occasionally monitored.

Unregulated child day center: A center that provides care for two or more children in a setting outside a private home and is not required to be licensed or certified and is not religiously exempt. Most of these centers are short-term programs like summer camp.

Licensed family day home: A home that provides care for up to 12 children in addition to the provider’s own children or children residing in the home and is licensed by VDSS.

Voluntarily registered family day home: A home that provides care for up to five children in addition to the provider’s own children or children residing in the home and has registered with VDSS. These homes must comply with guidelines for voluntary registration and some are occasionally monitored.

Unregulated family day home: A home that is not monitored and may provide care to no more than five children (four if the children are under age 2) in addition to the provider’s own children or children residing in the home.

In-home child care: An arrangement in which a provider cares for a child in the child’s own home. There are no regulations or licenses for this type of care.

United Way: United Way certified agencies have met criteria that qualify its programs to receive funds through designated individual donations or through United Way’s competitive funding process. The United Way criteria for certification include:

- Legal status: 501(c)(3), IRS Form 990, Registered with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Bylaws
- Officers and Board of Directors
- \$200,000 minimum annual operating income
- Outcome measures
- Annual audits

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This provider directory is a comprehensive list of non-profit organizations that provide low-cost or subsidized early child care. The directory does not include detailed information about family day homes or unregulated child day centers.

For more detailed information about specific child care programs, please use The Planning Council's Information and Referral online database at <http://www.theplanningcouncil.org/search>.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDER DIRECTORY

This directory lists non-profit, licensed child day centers and Virginia Preschool Initiative programs in each jurisdiction in South Hampton Roads. The directory identifies a contact name and number for each organization, the programs offered, the number of children served, the characteristics of the population served, and whether the organization is certified by United Way. The directory does not include for-profit child day centers, religious-exempt centers or family day homes.

CHESAPEAKE				
Agency	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Children's Harbor Chesapeake Toni Cacace-Beshears Ph: 397-2981 www.childrensharbor.cc/	Full Day Child Care and PreK program with sliding scale fee	150	12 months – 5 years	Y
HEAD START Contact: Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/headstart.html				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Carver Head Start Center	Preschool	118	3-5 years	N
Churchland Head Start Center	Preschool	71	3-5 years	N
Edith R. Jones Head Start Center	Preschool	20	3-5 years	N
Geneva Square Head Start Center	Preschool	15	3-5 years	N
MacDonald Manor Head Start Center	Preschool	20	3-5 years	N
Willow Grove Head Start Center	Preschool	17	3-5 years	N
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE Contact: Anita James Ph: 547-1165 http://www.pen.k12.va.us/				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
B.M. Williams Primary	Early Adventures	80	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Camelot Elementary	Early Adventures	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Carver Intermediate	Early Adventures	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Southwestern Elementary	Early Adventures	32	At-risk 4 year olds	N
TOTAL	11 programs	651 children		1 Y 10 N

NORFOLK				
Agency	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Children's Harbor Ghent Toni Cacace-Beshears Ph: 397-2981 www.childrensharbor.cc/	Full Day Child Care and PreK program with sliding scale fee	250	6 weeks – 5 years	Y
Old Dominion University Child Development Center Betty Ann Ward Ph: 683-3320 http://education.odu.edu/esse/academics/specprog/cdc.shtml	All day preschool	92	8 weeks-6 years old. Priority given to ODU employees, students, alumni	N
STOP Organization Infant and Toddler Center Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/	Infant/Toddler Child Care	40	2 weeks – 3 years	N
STOP Organization Coronado Infant Center Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/	Infant Child Care	12	Children of teen mothers in Norfolk Public Schools up to 1 year, 11 months	N
William A. Hunton YMCA Paula Jennings Ph: 622-7271 http://www.ymcashr.org	Child Care	12mo-2 years (16) 2-3 years (20) 4 years (24)	12 months – 4 years	Y
HEAD START Contact: Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/headstart.html				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Azalea Garden Head Start Center	Preschool	14	3-5 years	N
Brentwood Forrest Head Start Center	Preschool	71	3-5 years	N
Calvert Square Head Start Center	Preschool	15	3-5 years	N
Huntersville Head Start Center	Preschool	15	3-5 years	N
Newpointe Head Start Center	Preschool	51	3-5 years	N
Oakmont North Head Start Center	Preschool	20	3-5 years	N
St. Mary's Head Start Center	Preschool	100	3-5 years	N
Wellington Oaks Head Start Center	Preschool	80	3-5 years	N
Young Terrace Head Start Center	Preschool	17	3-5 years	N

NORFOLK (cont.)**VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE**

Contact: Myrna Simmons

Ph: 628-3922

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/>

Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Bay View Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Berkley/Compostella ECC	Prekindergarten	162	At risk 4 year olds	N
Calcott Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Calvert Square Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Camp Allen Elementary	Prekindergarten	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Campostella Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Chesterfield Elementary	Prekindergarten	72	At risk 4 year olds	N
Coleman Place	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Crossroads Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Dreamkeepers Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Easton Elementary	Prekindergarten	126	At risk 4 year olds	N
Fairlawn Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Granby Elementary	Prekindergarten	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Ingleside Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Jacox Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Larchmont Elementary	Prekindergarten	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Larrymore Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Lindenwood Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Little Creek Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Monroe Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Norview Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Oakwood Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Ocean View Elementary	Prekindergarten	72	At risk 4 year olds	N
Oceanair Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
P.B. Young, Sr. Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Richard Bowling Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
St. Helena Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
Sewells Point Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N

NORFOLK (cont.)				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Sherwood Forest Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Suburban Park Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Stuart ECC	Prekindergarten	108	At risk 4 year olds	N
Tanners Creek Elementary	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Tarrallton Elementary	Prekindergarten	72	At risk 4 year olds	N
Taylor Elementary	Prekindergarten	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Tidewater Park	Prekindergarten	54	At risk 4 year olds	N
Willard Elementary	Prekindergarten	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Willoughby Elementary	Prekindergarten	38	At risk 4 year olds	N
TOTAL	51 programs	2,751 children		2 Y 49 N

PORTSMOUTH				
Agency	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Children's Harbor Olde Town Toni Cacace-Beshears Ph: 397-2981 www.childrensharbor.cc/	Full Day Child Care and PreK program with sliding scale fee	140	12 months – 5 years	Y
Girls Inc. Center for Youth Nancy Styron Ph: 465-3896 http://www.centerforyouthswhr.com/	Morning Preschool	20	3-5 years	Y
Ida Barbour Early Learning Center Daryl Clark Ph: 399-5402	Child Care Center	60	6 weeks – Pre-kindergarten	Y
Portsmouth City Public Schools Developmental Program for Infants and Toddlers Mimi McCoy Ph: 393-8791	Early intervention services for children with developmental delays in more than one area that affects access to education	48 for morning and afternoon classes; cannot turn away children needing services	2 years – 4 years	N
HEAD START Contact: Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/headstart.html				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Airline Boulevard Head Start Center	Preschool	119	3-5 years	N
Cavalier Manor Head Start Center	Preschool	40	3-5 years	N
Emily Spong Head Start Center	Preschool	80	3-5 years	N
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE Contact: Dr. Helen Taylor Ph: 393-8884 http://www.pen.k12.va.us/				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Churchland Elementary	Bright Start	90	At risk 4 year olds	N
Churchland Primary and Intermediate	Bright Start	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Diagnostic, Adjustive, & Corrective Center for Learning	Bright Start	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
Emily Spong Preschool Center	Bright Start	126	At risk 4 year olds	N
Hodges Manor	Bright Start	72	At risk 4 year olds	N

PORTSMOUTH (cont.)				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Mt. Herman Preschool Center	Bright Start	225	At risk 4 year olds	N
Olive Branch Elementary	Bright Start	20	At risk 4 year olds	N
Park View Elementary	Bright Start	36	At risk 4 year olds	N
Victory Elementary	Bright Start	18	At risk 4 year olds	N
TOTAL	16 programs	1,130 children		3 Y 13 N

VIRGINIA BEACH				
Agency	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Armed Services YMCA Robert Duetsch Ph: 363-1884 http://www.asymcahr.org/	Preschool	45	2-5 years old	Y
Judeo Christian Outreach Center Oceanfront Preschool Tony Zontini Ph: 491-6211 http://www.jcoc.org	Preschool program for at risk children to prepare for kindergarten	24	At risk 4 year olds	Y
Marilyn and Marvin Simon Family Jewish Community Center Alene Kaufman Ph: 321-2307 http://www.jccshr.org/	Preschool/Child Care	140	2-4 years old, family must belong to Jewish Community Center	Y
Salem Family YMCA Donna Gastler Ph: 471-9622 http://www.ymcashr.org/	Preschool	40	3-5 years	Y
HEAD START Contact: Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/headstart.html				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Atlantis Head Start Center	Preschool	48	3-5 years	N
Baker Road Head Start Center	Preschool	20	3-5 years	N
Bettie F. Williams Head Start Center	Preschool	40	3-5 years	N
Horizons Unlimited Child Care and Head Start Center	Preschool	100	3-5 years	N
St. Aidans Head Start Center	Preschool	15	3-5 years	N
Twin Canal Head Start Center	Preschool	34	3-5 years	N
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE Contact: Kristen Carter Ph: 467-8900 http://www.pen.k12.va.us/				
Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
Alanton Elementary	Early Discoveries	32	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Birdneck Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N

VIRGINIA BEACH (cont.)

Location	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
College Park Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Holland Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Louise Luxford Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Lynnhaven Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Malibu Elementary	Early Discoveries	32	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Pembroke Elementary	Early Discoveries	32	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Point O' View Elementary	Early Discoveries	32	At risk 4 year olds	N
Salem Elementary	Early Discoveries	32	At risk 4 year olds	N
Shelton Park	Early Discoveries	64	At risk 4 year olds	N
Strawbridge Elementary	Early Discoveries	32	At risk 4 year olds	N
White Oaks Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At risk 4 year olds	N
Williams Elementary	Early Discoveries	64	At risk 4 year olds	N
TOTAL	24 programs	1,210 children		4 Y 20 N

WESTERN TIDEWATER				
Agency	Program	Capacity	Population	United Way
The Children's Center (Suffolk) Barbara S. Mease Ph: 562-6806 http://www.thechildrenscenter.cc	Early Intervention- children 0-3 years with developmental delays Early Head Start- children birth-3 years, income restrictions apply Community Child Care- children 6 weeks- 5 years	95	Birth – 5 years	Y
Children's Harbor Suffolk Toni Cacace-Beshears Ph: 397-2981 www.childrensharbor.cc/	PreK program with sliding scale fee	150	6 weeks – 5 years	Y
HEAD START Contact: Lawana Dowden Ph: 858-1383 http://www.stopinc.org/headstart.html				
Hardy Elementary Head Start Center (Smithfield)	Preschool	20	3-5 years	N
Smithfield Head Start Center	Preschool	20	3-5 years	N
Suffolk Head Start Center	Preschool	170	3-5 years	N
VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE Suffolk: Pamela Connor, 925-6759 Isle of Wight: Ellen Couch, 365-1626 http://www.pen.k12.va.us/				
Booker T. Washington Elementary (Suffolk)	Early Start	48	At risk 4 year olds	N
Carrollton Elementary (Isle of Wight)	Early Start	16	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Elephant's Fork Elementary (Suffolk)	Early Start	32	At-risk 4 year olds	N
Florence Bowser Elementary (Suffolk)	Early Start	48	At risk 4 year olds	N
Hardy Elementary (Isle of Wight)	Early Start	16	At risk 4 year olds	N
Mack Benn, Jr. Elementary School (Suffolk)	Early Start	32	4 years	N
Mt. Zion Elementary (Suffolk)	Early Start	64	At risk 4 year olds	N
Nansemond Parkway Elementary (Suffolk)	Early Start	32	At risk 4 year olds	N
Windsor Elementary (Isle of Wight)	Early Start	48	At risk 4 years olds	N
TOTAL	14 programs	791 children		2 Y 12 N