



## Child Care in Virginia

- ✘ The average annual cost of full time center-based infant care is \$10,028, which is more than the average cost of tuition and fees at a four year college in Virginia.
- ✘ Child care center staff are only required to complete 16 hours of training annually.
- ✘ Virginia does not license child care homes until 6 unrelated children are in the home.
- ✘ Virginia does not require a fingerprint check against state and federal records before allowing staff to work in a child care center or licensing individuals to operate child care programs out of their home. There is no required check of the sex offender registry.

### NACCRRRA's 2010 Parent Polling shows:

- The top two concerns of parents about child care are quality and cost.



Susana Coro and her husband have two children, Max who is 7 years old and Yadida who is 4. When Max was a toddler, Susana looked everywhere for child care, but had difficulty finding a quality program.

A friend told her about an accredited center. However, they had no openings. She begged the director every day for months. Finally, a spot opened for Max. Center staff helped Susana apply for child care assistance. Max was screened and found eligible for speech services. The speech therapist came to the center and she and the center staff worked with Max. Susana was hired to work part-time in the center. When she was promoted to full-time, she lost her child care subsidy because she earned too much for child care assistance. Luckily, the program raised a modest amount of private funds and was able to assist her family. If the center did not help Susanna in a time of need, her children would not have been able to attend the center. It makes no sense that Susana could work in a program that she could not afford to send her children to.

Susana Coro is now an Assistant Teacher at the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Most recently, Ms. Coro testified before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Children and Families about the need for quality, affordable child care. Professionally, Susana recently obtained a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

### Child Care Aware® of America's Policy Recommendation:

- As part of the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the quality set-aside should be increased to at least 12 percent to ensure that states can expand the availability of quality child care.
- Require at least 30 hours of initial training in key areas such as health and safety and child development for all paid providers caring for unrelated children.
- Increase funding for child care so that more families can receive assistance and the assistance they receive is closer to the market rate of care.
- Coordinate with other federal programs to ensure that children in child care receive an early childhood developmental screening to identify children who would benefit from early intervention programs.

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