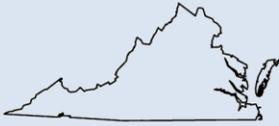


Child Care in...



Virginia

- ✘ VA does not license child care homes until 5 unrelated children are in care.
- ✘ Most child care homes with 1-4 children are not licensed, which means no background check, no minimum health & safety training, and no inspections. (Local ordinances in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County license or permit small providers).
- ✘ There are 14 categories of "license-exempt" care in Virginia. This means no background checks, no training, no inspections for child safety.
- ✘ Training should be required to address approaches to better meet the needs of children with special needs.

Child Care Aware® of America's Parent Polling shows:

88 percent believe that child care providers should have training in health and safety practices and child development before working with children.

703-341-4100

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Stephanie Serafini of Newport News is a mother of two children, including a boy who has been diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It has been a continuous battle for her to find affordable, convenient, safe, quality child care for her son.

Serafini has placed her son in a local park district after-school program, family child care homes, a church child care center, and in a government program for children with more severe disabilities. Providers either were not willing to address her son's special needs and he was asked to leave, centers shut down, or Serafini removed him when she saw that his needs were not being met.

Throughout this ordeal, her son began to feel that he was at fault and was not loveable, and it broke Serafini's heart to know he felt this way. Ultimately, she found a licensed child care center that advertised its ability to care for children with special needs. Serafini wishes there were more child care options for parents of children with special needs.



Child Care Aware® of Virginia's Policy Recommendations:

- Require all paid child care providers caring for unrelated children to have a license.
- Require training for child care providers to promote effective approaches for working with children with special needs.
- Adopt the recommendations from the license-exempt task force to promote child safety in license-exempt care (e.g., require registration for license-exempt providers, background checks for staff, CPR certification for at least one adult on site or with the children, and safe sleeping practices for babies).

Stephanie Kay Serafini
757-320-7584
sserafini@franklinamerican.com



Child Care Aware of Virginia
Angela Wirt, Executive Director
804-285-0846
angelaw@va.childcareaware.org