

Network News

e-Newsletter of the VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

VIRGINIA
INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST

NETWORK

"Achieving Excellence in Early Care"

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Back to School for Early Childhood Professionals Professional Development Resources

With the beginning of the school year upon us, it is the perfect time to visit our own professional development needs as child care professionals. One place to begin is with [Virginia's Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals](#). This tool defines eight content areas which describe the knowledge and skills needed to support optimal growth and learning of children. Within each content area, there are four levels that establish a range from introductory skills to an advanced level. The idea is to utilize professional development training to move from one level to another within the content areas. When deciding on which professional development opportunities to take advantage of, refer to the [Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals](#) to determine which of the competencies need more attention or which of the competencies need to progress from one level to the next. If a hard copy of the Competencies is not available, [click here](#) and scroll to the bottom to access an electronic version that can be printed.

In this issue, you will find more information on:

[Virginia Department of Social Services \(VDSS\) Infant/Toddler Endorsement Child Development Associate \(CDA\)](#)

In addition, you'll find our regular features:

[Resource Spotlight](#)
[Professional Development Opportunities](#)
[Did you know?](#)
[Working on Wonderful](#)

Professional Development Opportunity

Infant/Toddler Endorsement

To meet the need for a highly qualified early childhood workforce, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has established the Early Childhood Endorsement Program that include five age-related endorsements. This Program is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation of knowledge for working with children of specific ages. The Infant and Toddler Endorsement consists of 12 courses and 12 course-related projects that are applicable for our work with infants and toddlers. Participants may elect to take the courses with or without the projects; however the Endorsement certificate includes satisfactory completion of all 12 course and the project for each course. This is a collaboration between VDSS, the Virginia Community College System, child Care Aware of Virginia, and the Community College Workforce Alliance.

The VDSS Infant and Toddler Endorsement is applicable as :

- An entry-level certification for employment in the field of early childhood
- A demonstration of foundation of knowledge working with infants and toddlers
- A supplement to a child-related degree or credential that does not include instruction on infants and toddlers
- A supplement to a degree or credential outside the field of early childhood

Successful completion of courses can also fulfill requirements for teaching licensure renewal, annual licensing, training for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, and professional development for those participating in Virginia Quality.

Participants have two options by which to achieve an Infant/Toddler Endorsement:

OPTION 1 - VDSS SPONSORED COURSES

The Infant/Toddler Endorsement requires completion of the following 12 classroom - based or online courses. The courses can be taken in any sequence.

- Ages and Stages of Development for Infants and Toddlers
- Beyond Babble: Exploring Early Language Development
- Creating an Appropriate Learning Environment for Infants and Toddlers
- Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition and Reporting
- Early Childhood Theorists (Online or Independent Study)
- Guiding the Behaviors of Infants and Toddlers
- Health Screening for Child Care Professionals
- Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents
- Observation and Recording
- Planning Activities for Infants and Toddlers
- Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment
- Understanding Temperaments to Help Infants and Toddlers Learn and Develop

[Click here to learn how to achieve the Infant/Toddler Endorsement Option 1](#)

OPTION 2 - COLLEGE CREDIT COURSE

Upon successful completion of *CHD 166, Infant and Toddler Programs*, individuals become

eligible for the VDSS Infant/Toddler Endorsement.

[Click here to learn how to achieve the Infant/Toddler Endorsement Option 2](#)

Professional Development Opportunity *Child Development Associate (CDA)*

The **Child Development Associate (CDA)** is a professional development opportunity for early educators at all levels of education and experience. Since the early childhood education field is constantly evolving, it is important for educators to stay current with key education practices. The CDA demonstrates your knowledge, skills, and abilities when working with young children as well as your commitment to career advancement and professionalism. It is offered in several settings to include infant-toddler and family child care.

Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education (VAECE) has established an annual scholarship project to assist educators working with young children who obtain their CDA. VAECE will reimburse 50% of the amount paid towards the cost of direct assessment credentialing fee or 50% of the amount paid towards the renewal fee paid by the Candidate. Click below for more information and an application.

[Click here for links to CDA Guidelines and Forms.](#)

Professional Development Opportunity *Infant Mental Health Endorsement*

The **Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement** is to recognize the professional development of infant and family service providers within the infant and family field. The Endorsement will offer individuals a professional development plan that focuses on knowledge, best practice skills, and supervised work experiences that lead to increased confidence and credibility. Those who earn the Endorsement will be recognized for their education, training, leadership roles, and work experiences within a rapidly growing field.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Bonnie Grifa, bgrifa@vcu.edu, for assistance.

Scholarship Programs

There are two scholarship programs available to child care providers. The first, the **[Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program](#)**, allows early educators to attend undergraduate courses at Virginia's accredited colleges as funding allows. Below is a summary of the program. [Click here](#) for more detailed information.

The current maximum allowable benefits are either eight classes, or a lifetime award of \$3,570.00, whichever comes first. The scholarships pay the colleges directly for tuition and a technology fee for up to two courses per semester. It is the student's responsibility to submit a copy of the scholarship award letter to the college business office. Expenses for travel, books, and activity fees are the responsibility of the student. Students must apply each semester for which they wish to receive a scholarship and during the corresponding semester application period:

Fall (June 15-August 1)

Spring (October 15-December 1)

Summer (March 15-April 15)

[Click here to learn information about Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program eligibility and application.](#)

Funded through a state appropriation and administered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, the second scholarship program is **[Project Pathfinders](#)** which is designed to support current child care and preschool teachers and providers with financial support to pursue credentials, certificates, and degrees through Virginia's Community College System.

[Click here to learn more about Project Pathfinders.](#)

IMPACT Registry

IMPACT is Virginia's early childhood professional development registry. This free, voluntary tool documents and recognizes the professional achievements of practitioners and trainers who work in the early childhood education and school-age care profession within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Each level represents increased training and education, indicating a commitment to early childhood education, and creating a pathway to career growth.

This tool will:

- Help you track your formal and informal education, qualifications, and training
- Provide you with a pathway for planning your future education and training
- Maintain a record of your professional development housed in one convenient, secure, online location available 24/7

[Click here for links to
IMPACT Guidelines and Forms](#)

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT ON: Virginia Department of Social Services

The [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) provides information on Child Care Provider Resources to include:

- News, Events, and Bulletins
 - Guidance and Resources
 - Courses
 - Read-A- Book Program
 - Scholarship Program
 - Professional Development Publications
 - VDSS Endorsements
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Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:



Fall 2017 Training Locations and Dates

Glade Spring	Oct 7 and 14
Arlington	Oct 13 and 14

[Click here for the Fall 2017 1-2-3 READ! brochure.](#)
[Register online at www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org)



**Center on the Social
and Emotional
Foundations for
Early Learning
(CSEFEL) Modules 1 & 2**

Fall 2017 Training Locations and Dates

Suffolk	Nov 3 and 4
Sterling	Dec 1 and 2
<i>8:30 am to 4:00 pm</i>	
<i>Lunch on your own</i>	

[Click here for the Fall 2017 CSEFEL brochure.](#)
[Register online at www.va-itsnetwork.org](http://www.va-itsnetwork.org)

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the VA ITSN is offering a Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSFEL) Modules 3 & 4 Train-the-Trainer event on October 23-24, 2017 at The Westin 6631 West Broad Street Richmond? For more information, [click here](#), under the Professional Development tab.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW . . .

...that VA ITSN will soon be offering tiered incentives to caregivers who complete courses toward obtaining an endorsement, certificate, or credential? Stay tuned for more information!

Working on Wonderful (WOW)

Congratulations to the following programs that have recently completed Level 1 services with the VA ITSN!

Aleksandra Razavi	Northern	Marlene Campbell	Piedmont Roanoke
All God's Children	Valley	McShanna Jackson	Valley
Amanda McPherson	Peninsula	New Beginnings Family Daycare	Central
Apple Tree Learning Center	Eastern	Pathway Christian Academy	Piedmont Roanoke

Beautiful Beginnings	Central	Patricia Temple	Eastern
Believers Day School	Eastern	Pearl Brooks	Central
Belinda Lewis	Piedmont Southside	Prince of Peace Lutheran Preschool	Eastern
Blessing for You II	Central	Rebecca Washington	North Central
Boys & Girls Inc	Eastern	Rebekah Rogers	Valley
Broadlands Kindercare	Northern	Richmond City EHS at Foundations	Central
Building Bridges	Piedmont Roanoke	Rochelle Westmoreland	North Central
Capital Child Care	Central	Rosemary Kates	Central
Catherine Moss	Central	Roya Saddaat	Central
Cheriton Migrant Heat Start	Eastern	Russ CDC/Langley AFB	Peninsula
Cordie Martin	Eastern	Sandbridge Chapel Day School	Eastern
Culpeper Human Services Kid Central	North Central	Sharon Baptist Church Day School	Peninsula
Cynthia Fournier	North Central	Shavette Ziegler	Peninsula
Darlene Thomas	Central	Shepherd's Care Day School	Piedmont Roanoke
Earmie Washington	North Central	Silvia Miranda	North Central
East Coast Migrant Head Start Parksley	Eastern	Small World Child Care Center	Piedmont Southside
Edna Dukes	Eastern	Sonnia Jones	Piedmont Roanoke
Erika Pinto	North Central	Sparkles at Fairfax	Northern
Epecially Yours CDC	Central	Susan Baker	Peninsula
Good 4 Kidz III	Central	Tiawana Hargett	North Central
Ida Barbour Early Learning Center	Eastern	Tiny Tots Learning Center	Piedmont Roanoke
JEB Little Creek CDC	Eastern	Tiphany Griffith	Peninsula
Jennifer Ramirez	Eastern	Truly Blessed Living Center	Eastern
Jo-Ann Dixon	Eastern	UVA CDC	Valley
Joyful Care	Peninsula	Virginia Thacker	Eastern
Karita Burrill	Valley	Wanda Joyner	Piedmont Southside
Katherine van der Rest	North Central	Warwick Kids Academy	Peninsula
Kids Clubhouse Learning Center	Piedmont Roanoke	Willow Tree Academy	Valley
Krysta Shinn	Central	YMCA Child Care at Jefferson School Valley	Valley
Lakeeshia Colona	Peninsula	Ligia Pavon	North Central
Lorraine Bryant	Eastern	Love and Learn CDC	Central
Loving Arms Academy	North Central	Lynne Crotts	Valley

Working on Wonderful WOW

We are striving to achieve excellence in
early care for infants and toddlers!

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For more information contact Amy Stutt, VA ITSN Statewide Director at (757)378-3167.