

# Update

May 2014

A Newsletter for Fairfax County Child Care Programs

## Nutrition

### Join the USDA Food Program

Join the USDA Food Program and improve your family child care business. By participating in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program you can be reimbursed for some of the cost of providing healthy meals and snacks to children in your care.

Workshops on Tuesday, May 20 and July 22 will provide orientation to the USDA Food Program. At these

workshops, providers new to the USDA Food Program will be introduced to "Eat and Run," a book developed by the Office for Children to help family child care providers bring good nutrition and physical activity into their daily programs.

For more information or to register, contact Community Education and Provider Services at 703-324-8100.



## Community

### Help Paying for Child Care

If you know someone having difficulty paying for child care, the Child Care Assistance and Referral program may be able to help them with child care expenses. Parents who live in Fairfax County and

are working or in training, or meet other requirements, may be eligible for assistance with the costs of child care. For more information and to request an application, families can visit one of our locations 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., call 703-449-8484 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc).

#### Monday through Friday

Pennino Building  
12011 Government Center Pkwy.  
8th Floor  
Fairfax, VA 22035

#### Monday through Friday

South County Center  
8350 Richmond Hwy.  
Room 409  
Alexandria, VA 22309

#### Tuesday and Thursday

Heritage Center  
7611 Little River Turnpike  
Room 401, West Wing  
Annandale, VA 22003

#### Monday and Thursday

Lake Anne Human Services Bldg.  
11484 Washington Plaza West  
4th Floor  
Reston, VA 20190



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# Professional Development

## NVCC Early Childhood Development: Certificates and Degrees

Northern Virginia Community College offers two 19-credit career studies certificates, a 31-credit certificate, and an associate degree in early childhood development. The career studies certificate is accepted by the Office of Head Start as equivalent to a Child Development Associate credential and never needs to be renewed! The associate degree transfers to George Mason University in one of two programs: Bachelor of Individualized Studies in early childhood education, or Bachelor of Applied Science in human development and family science. Qualified students may be eligible for tuition scholarships from the Virginia Department of Social Services Childcare Provider Scholarship Fund. NVCC classes are available in person on three campuses (Alexandria, Loudoun and Manassas), and online; classes are held days, evenings and weekends. Browse to the early childhood development program options under academic programs in the current catalog at [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more information.



## Institute for Early Learning Classes

The Institute for Early Learning registration system was modified recently to provide child care professionals more opportunities to enroll in classes throughout the year. Registration now takes place on the second Wednesday of every month, and classes are available for registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The monthly registration system allows child care professionals to plan more effectively and to be more selective in choosing classes that fit with their personal schedules.

### **Number of Classes each Year:**

Family child care providers are still eligible to take six Institute for Early Learning classes and six Community Education and Provider Services classes as well as other special training opportunities that may be offered throughout the year.

**Enrolled Status:** Any class in which you are enrolled will count as one of your 12 allotted classes per year – whether or not you attend the class. Everyone who holds “enrolled” status for a class is guaranteed a place in the class.

**Cancelling a Class:** If you are enrolled in a class and you will not be able to attend, it is very important to cancel at least two

days before the class begins to avoid having it count as one of your 12 classes. Classes can be cancelled through IFEL online (the online training database), by emailing the Institute for Early Learning at [childcareclasses@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:childcareclasses@fairfaxcounty.gov), or by calling 703-324-3044.

**Waiting List:** If a space opens in the class before the class begins, individuals on the waiting list will be called and invited to attend.

### **Email Communication:**

Email is the primary way IFEL communicates. It is the fastest and most convenient way to receive communication from IFEL. Call us at 703-324-3044 to update or add an email address in the IFEL Online training database. If you do not have email access, IFEL communicates via US mail or by phone.

**Class Reminders:** An email reminder is sent approximately one week before each IFEL class begins. When you receive this email, please respond to let us know if you will be attending or if you need to cancel your registration.

# Virginia Preschool Initiative

VPI child care specialists work with family child care providers to mentor the provider and support pre-K children who are in their care. Through professional development and educational resources the mentor assists the provider in preparing eligible four year olds to make a smooth and successful transition to kindergarten.

VPI uses the Portage curriculum, which helps the provider to observe

the child's interests, strengths and needs and plan activities that support the individual goals for each preschool child in their care. In addition, Portage provides a way to engage families in experiences with their children that promote school success.

VPI serves children at risk for school failure who are four years old by September 30 of the year before they will attend kindergarten.

Family child care providers can participate in VPI if they have an eligible child in their care, participate in the USDA Food Program, and have a Child Development Associate credential or an early childhood education degree.

For more information, please contact **betsi.closter@fairfaxcounty.gov**.



Child care specialists in Community Education and Provider Services are partnering with county permitted family child care providers to improve the quality of their program for

## Supporting Quality in Family Child Care

children. Specialists work with two-three permitted providers each year. They jointly identify program areas that can be enhanced and develop a technical assistance plan to span 4-6 months. The five technical assistance areas are:

- ▶ Space and Furnishings.
- ▶ Personal Care Routines.
- ▶ Activities/Programming.
- ▶ Interactions.
- ▶ Emotional Environment.

In addition to coaching and technical assistance, providers receive professional development credit for their participation, extra training opportunities and supplies to support their program. To participate, the provider must have a county permit, be in business for at least one year, have children in care, and be active in the USDA Food Program or Child Care Assistance and Referral. For more information, contact your child care specialist in Provider Services at 703-324-8100.

## The Portage Curriculum

The Portage Project offers family child care providers school readiness curriculum materials and in-home coaching and support, in English and Spanish. The curriculum materials help providers to assess children's development, work with families, and plan experiences. Since 2009, the program has served more than 160 providers and 1,700 children, from birth to age 6.

Portage helps children to be ready for school, and is in alignment with

the Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning. Participating family child care providers also partner with Neighborhood School Readiness Teams to support children at risk for school failure.

Providers in the Portage Project receive five monthly in-home coaching visits (one hour each), scheduled at their convenience. Training credit is awarded for the meetings. The Portage program provides materials, including assessment books for each child, a

curriculum resource book, a wall chart summarizing development and other tools. Providers also receive email and phone support, and a monthly newsletter with information about many other programs.

Fairfax County's Partners in Prevention and Fairfax Futures jointly offer the Portage Project. For more information, email the program coordinator, Hazel Osborn, at **osbornhaz@aol.com**.

## Business Development

### Child Care Aware of Northern Virginia

#### Receive additional services for your home child care business.

State licensed and county permitted family child care providers are eligible for additional services that can help you improve your business. Child Care Aware of Northern Virginia is a resource and referral agency that is funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services and managed locally by Infant Toddler Family Day Care. By registering your business with this agency you will have access to many different benefits including:

- ▶ Advertising your child care program including an online profile to parents who are looking for care.

- ▶ Receiving individualized technical assistance on a variety of topics.
- ▶ Accessing in-person and online training classes and professional development opportunities.

There are two ways to register your family home child care business with Child Care Aware:

- ▶ Go online to [www.thechildcarenetwork.org](http://www.thechildcarenetwork.org).
- ▶ Call the Infant Toddler Family Day Care office at 703-352-3449.

