



### Childcare Research & Statistics

- ✓ In 1947, it was unusual to find mothers with a preschool-age child in the labor force--only about 12 percent of mothers with children under the age of 6 were in the labor force. But in 1999, over 64 percent of mothers with preschool-age children were in the labor force, a rate more than 5 times higher than in 1947. The rate of participation for Richmond mothers with children under the age of 6 is significantly higher at 69%. Women with infant children have become increasingly engaged in the labor market as well. Today, 60 percent of all mothers whose youngest child is under age 2 are in the labor market, while in 1975 less than one-third of all such mothers were labor force participants.  
(2000 House Ways and Means Green Book, "Child Care")
- ✓ The daycare market is sizable with families spending an estimated \$43.5 billion on daycare in 2001, up 9% from 2000. Between 1997 and 2001, aggregate daycare industry revenue rose at an average rate of 7% annually.  
(PR for "U.S. Child Day Care Services, Nanny and Au Pair Agencies: An Industry Analysis," 5th Edition, Marketdata Enterprises.)
- ✓ According to the 2000 US Census, 42% of all children ages 3-5 are enrolled in a nursery or preschool program. Richmond area parents, however, enroll their children at a rate that is almost 15% higher (48%).  
(2000 US Census, Summary File 3)
- ✓ Children who attend high-quality early childhood programs demonstrate better math and language skills, better cognition and social skills, better interpersonal relationships, and better behavioral self-regulation than do children in lower-quality care.  
(Quality Early Education and Child Care From Birth to Kindergarten, PEDIATRICS Vol. 115 No. 1 January 2005)
- ✓ Virginia requires existing licensed childcare centers to provide a minimum of 25 square feet of indoor wall-to-wall space per child until June 1, 2008 when all centers must increase their square footage per child to a minimum of 35. Virginia is one of only seven states that does not require a minimum of 35 square feet per child.  
(Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission of the Virginia General Assembly, "Impact of Proposed Child Day Care Center Regulations in Virginia", 9/13/04 and VA DSS "Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers", 5/1/05)

- ✓ A landmark 1995 study came to the disturbing conclusion that only 24% of (daycare) facilities were “good,” 66% were “mediocre,” and 10% were “poor” quality...Two of the items which most centers scored lowest related to the amount of home-like comfort and privacy provided for children: the average center provided an environment that “lacks in creature comforts” with very little “space to be alone” and few “furnishings for relaxation.” The effects of the environment on the developing brain are more profound and wide-ranging than previously recognized.  
(Anita Rui Olds, *Childcare Design Guide*, pp. 4—6)
  
- ✓ Exposure to natural environments improves children's cognitive development by improving their awareness, reasoning and observational skills  
(Pyle, Robert (2002). *Eden in a Vacant Lot: Special Places, Species and Kids in Community of Life*. In: *Children and Nature: Psychological, Sociocultural and Evolutionary Investigations*. Kahn, P.H. and Kellert, S.R. (eds) Cambridge: MIT Press)