

Virginia's Families with Young Children: Fall 2021 Survey

This survey is about your family's experiences with early care and education programs. If two or more of your children attend the early care and/or education program that sent you this survey, please think about your youngest child attending this program.

The survey is anonymous, and your individual responses will not be shared with anyone. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer, and you may end the survey at any time. If you have any questions, please contact Grace Kegley by email (kgk4pu@virginia.edu) or by phone (434-297-6882).

Thank you for helping Virginia better support families with young children!

What is your zip code? _____

Your Child and Their Care

How old is your child? Think about your youngest child who goes to this early care and/or education program.

- Infant (younger than 12 months)
- Between 12 and 23 months
- Age 2
- Age 3
- Age 4 or 5 not yet in kindergarten
- In kindergarten or older
- Not applicable; I do not have a child

In a typical week, during which of the following times does your family generally need and/or use nonparental care for your child? *Choose all that apply.*

- Weekday early mornings (i.e., before 7 am)
- Weekdays during the day (i.e., between 7 am – 6 pm)
- Weekday evenings (i.e., after 6 pm)
- Weekends (i.e., on Saturday and/or Sunday)
- Overnight

Where is your child's early care and/or education program located? *If you use more than one program for this child, think about the program that gave you this survey.*

- At a public school
- At a caregiver's home
- In a building that is NOT a public school or a home (for example, in a community center, church, private school, or other building)
- Other, please explain: _____

Is your child's early care and/or education program a Head Start or Early Head Start program?

- No
- Yes
- Don't know

How much does your family pay for your child's program?

- This program is free for my family.
- We pay part of the cost. The rest is covered by a subsidy, voucher, or scholarship.
- We pay the full cost.

[if not free] How hard is it for your family to pay the fees for this program?

- It is not hard for our family.
- It is a little bit hard for our family.
- It is very hard for our family.

When did your child first start attending this program? [dropdown: less than 3 months ago, 3-6 months ago, 6-9 months ago, 9-12 months ago, 1-2 years ago, 2-3 years ago, 3-4 years ago, more than 4 years ago]

Finding Programs

Think back to when you first found this program. The following questions ask about your experience looking for early care and/or education programs and selecting this program.

How did you find information about early care and/or education programs for your child? Choose all the ways you learned about programs.

- Friend, family, neighbor, or co-worker
- Social services
- Health care provider
- Place of worship
- Local school or school district
- Head Start
- Child Care Aware
- Child Care VA website (www.childcareva.com)
- Internet search (for example, Google)
- Advertisements (for example, on the radio, on the internet, social media, or in the newspaper)
- Signs or posters
- Other, please explain: _____

Finding early care and/or education programs can be hard. How hard was it to find the following?

Was it hard to find programs...	Not hard	A little bit hard	Very hard	Did not look for this
... that your family could afford?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... that had openings?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... that felt safe during COVID?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... with the hours your family needed?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... that could take more than one of your children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... that are easy to get to or provide transportation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... that could meet your child's needs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... that were welcoming?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... with staff who spoke the language your family most often speaks at home?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How hard was each of the following?

Was it hard to...	Not hard	A little bit hard	Very hard	Not applicable
... find out about programs near you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... find out about ways to get help paying for programs (for example, subsidies, vouchers, or scholarships)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... complete the paperwork to get your child signed up for a program?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did you consider any **other** early care and/or education programs before selecting this program for your child?

- No, this is the only program I considered.
- Yes, I considered 1 or 2 other programs.
- Yes, I considered 3 or more other programs.

[if yes considered other options] At the time you were considering enrolling your child in this program, did you also consider any of the following options? *Choose all that apply.*

- An early care and/or education program at a public school
- An early care and/or education program at a caregiver's home
- An early care and/or education program in a building that is NOT a public school or a home (for example, in a community center, church, private school, or other building)
- Care with a relative
- Care with a non-relative in my own home (babysitter, nanny)
- Did not consider any other option

Was your child's current early care and/or education program your top choice?

- No
- Yes

[if no] Were there any other early care and/or education programs you liked better than your current choice but did not use because...

	No	Yes
Spots were not available	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was not eligible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It was too expensive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The hours available did not meet our needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The location was not convenient enough (e.g., too far to home, work, or public transit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please explain: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Think about your child's early care and/or education program. Which of the following describe your top three reasons for choosing this program? *Choose up to three.*

- Affordability
- Accepts child care subsidies
- Location
- Caregivers/teachers I trust
- Reputation in the community
- Hours that fit my/our work or school schedules
- Would help my child grow academically
- Would help my child grow socially
- Quality ratings and/or teacher qualifications
- It was the only option I could find
- Other, please explain: _____

When you were looking for an early care and/or education program for your child, were you aware of the Virginia Quality ratings?

- No
- Yes

[if yes] How much did the Virginia Quality ratings impact your choice of early care and/or education program for your child?

- Not at all
- A little bit
- Very much

Experiences at Your Child's Program

Think about your child's **current** care and/or education program. How happy are you with each of the following?

	Very unhappy	Unhappy	Neither unhappy nor happy	Happy	Very happy
The program overall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The affordability of the program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The location of the program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's caregivers/teachers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The hours of the program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way the program is supporting my child's academic and social development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way my child is treated at this program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way the program seems to support caregivers/teachers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Since July, how many days has your child missed due to COVID-related issues (e.g., to quarantine, temporary program closure)? *Your best guess is fine.* [dropdown: 0 days, 1 day, 2 days, 3 days, 4 days, 5 days, 6 days, 1-2 weeks, 2-3 weeks, 3-4 weeks, more than 4 weeks]

In general, how hard has it been to adhere to the program's COVID safety policies and requirements (e.g., masking, attendance policies, social distancing)?

- Not hard
- A little bit hard
- Very hard

Teacher turnover (e.g., teachers quitting or leaving their jobs) is an issue at some early care and/or education programs. As far as you know, how often do caregivers/teachers at your child's program leave?

- Rarely or never
- Sometimes
- Often

How worried are you that teacher turnover at the program disrupts children's learning and/or development?

- Not at all
- A little
- Some
- Very

Your Child's Development

Currently, how worried are you about the following issues for your child?

	Not at all	A little	Some	Very
My child's mental health and well-being	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's academic development (e.g., learning to read, count, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's physical health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's social skills / ability to interact with other children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sites may support children in various ways. How happy are you with each of the following?

	Very unhappy	Unhappy	Neither unhappy nor happy	Happy	Very happy
The way my child's program communicates with me about my child's progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way my child's program accommodates my child's individual needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way my child's program works with me to support my child's needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way my child's program connects me to additional resources to support my child's individual needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Does your child have an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) or IEP (Individualized Education Plan)?

- Yes, my child was professionally evaluated and has an IFSP or IEP.
- No, my child has been professionally evaluated but was not eligible for an IFSP or IEP.
- No, but I think my child may need to be professionally evaluated.
- No.
- Don't know

[If yes, has IEP] Who first suggested that your child should be evaluated for special education services?

- I or someone in my family
- A doctor or health care professional
- A teacher or other employee at my current care and/or education program
- A teacher or other employee at a previous care and/or education program
- Other, please explain: _____

[If yes, has IEP] Which of the following best describes the type of special need your child has?

- Speech, language, or communication
- Cognitive
- Social or behavioral
- Other, please explain: _____

[If yes, has IEP] How happy are you with the special education services your child receives through their current program?

- Very unhappy
- Unhappy
- Neither happy nor unhappy
- Happy
- Very happy

[If no, but needs evaluation] Have you tried to seek a professional evaluation for your child?

- No
- Yes

[If no, but needs evaluation] Have you faced any of the following barriers seeking a professional evaluation for your child? *Choose all that apply.*

- My program does not have the resources to evaluate my child.
- The cost of seeking a private evaluation.
- I don't know how to ask for an evaluation for my child.
- Other, please explain: _____
- None; I have not faced any barriers.

About Your Family

What is your child's gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other, write in: _____

What is your child's race/ethnicity? *Choose all that apply.*

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- Other, write in: _____

What is your relationship to this child?

- Mother
- Father
- Grandparent
- Foster parent or legal guardian
- Other, write in: _____

How many people in the following age ranges live in your household?

5 or younger *[drop-down 0-6, more than 6]*

Between 6 and 12 *[drop-down 0-6, more than 6]*

Between 13 and 17 *[drop-down 0-6, more than 6]*

18 or older (*include yourself*) *[drop-down 0-6, more than 6]*

Which language does your family most often speak at home?

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- Nepali
- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Other, write in: _____

About how much is your family's yearly income? *Your best guess is fine.*

- \$20,000 or less
- \$20,001-\$40,000
- \$40,001-\$60,000
- \$60,001-\$80,000
- \$80,001-\$100,000
- Over \$100,000

Is there anything else you would like to share about your family's experiences with early care and education in Virginia?

If you would like to be entered into a raffle for a \$100 Walmart gift card, please provide your name and email address below. Please note that providing this information is completely optional. Your name and email address will only be used for the raffle and will never be linked to your survey responses.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you for your time! We appreciate you sharing your experiences. If you have any questions, please contact our Project Coordinator, Grace Kegley, by email at kgk4pu@virginia.edu or by phone at 434-297-6882.