

**Sample Letter to the Editor**

I am writing as a (choose a descriptor: parent, grandparent, child care provider) about the need to invest in quality child care. Parents need child care in order to work. Children need a safe setting that will also promote their healthy development.

There are nearly 400,000 children under age 6 throughout Virginia whose parents work every week. For these children, child care is their early learning program. Expanding our state’s pre-k program is part of the solution to promoting school readiness. However, as the research shows, children begin learning at birth. Quality child care makes a difference in setting a foundation for school readiness.

It’s time for our policymakers in Richmond to support quality child care – payment rates that support quality programs and investments in staff training and education. Working parents want choices among quality providers. Children’s school readiness depends on it.