

VIRGINIA
INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST
NETWORK

“Achieving Excellence in Early Care”
www.va-itsnetwork.org



Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Author: The Virginia Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Team

Childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children. You typically can't see lead around you, and most kids don't show any signs that they are sick, but thousands of children are still impacted by lead exposure every single year.

Lead exposure in young children can lead to:

- Brain and nervous system damage
- Slowed growth and development
- Learning and behavior problems
- Hearing and speech problems

Lead can also negatively impact children many years after they are exposed. Some of the long-term impacts of lead exposure include:

- Reduced IQ

- Poor concentration
- Decreased performance in school

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control recommend children get a blood lead test at ages 1 & 2. It is the best way to find out if a child has been exposed to lead.

What are the different sources of lead?

There are many different sources of lead, but these are the most common:

- Chipping and peeling paint (in homes built before 1978)
- Water from pipes and plumbing containing lead
- Soil
- Imported toys and candy
- Ceramics and pottery
- Traditional folk medicines and cosmetics

You can read more about sources of lead [here](#).

What can I do to prevent lead exposure at my child care location?

The good news is, there are some simple and effective steps to reduce the risk of lead exposure in your facility and keep the children in your care safe from lead.

- Wash toys often
- Make sure all children wash their hands before eating
- Wipe down counters, tables, and food preparation areas daily
- Wet wipe and wet mop floors, baseboards, and entryways weekly
- Check often for chipping and peeling paint
- Move cribs and furniture away from any possible sources of lead
- Have your water tested for lead
- Encourage parents to take their children to get a blood lead test at ages 1 & 2
- Provide educational materials to families about preventing lead poisoning in the home

Resources:

[Certified Lead Inspector
Lookup Tool](#)

[VDH | Child Care Centers](#)

[VDH | Educational
Materials for Parents](#)

Do you know a family who might have lead paint in their home? Tell them about the [Lead Hazard Reduction Program](#), a program for income-eligible families that removes lead hazards from the home for free.



Healthy Habits for Life: is a 100-page resource guide that can be downloaded in English and Spanish. This resource guide helps you as an infant or toddler caregiver build good habits regarding food, physical activity, and healthy choices. Making changes can allow young children the opportunity to create healthy habits that last a lifetime. Click [here](#) access your resource guide to start incorporating healthy physical activity and nutritional habits into your everyday activities.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunity

Save the Date!

BABIES, TOTS & PLAY 2022

Director Institute

Coming to Richmond on November 12th!

The Place at Innsbrook
4036 Cox Road Suite C
Glen Allen, VA 23060

This exciting professional development institute will help early care administrators and family day home owners support providers in creating playful and encouraging educational environments while also developing positive interactions and relationships, which are critical to infant and toddler brain growth and enhanced program quality.

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

Did you know...?

The Virginia Department of Education is working with public and private partners to implement and scale VQB5.

Beginning in July 2022, VQB5 participation will be coordinated through Ready Regions

READY
REGIONS

VQB5 PRACTICE YEAR 2 REQUIREMENTS

✓ REGISTER AND COMPLETE SITE PROFILES

Program leaders and teachers will need to enroll in the LinkB5 data system to:

- ✓ Register for VQB5 (Between August 1, 2022 - September 16, 2022)
- ✓ Provide Classroom Information, Including Curriculum Use (Fall 2022)

✓ Receive CLASS® Observations. All classrooms including family day homes will receive two local CLASS® observations coordinated by their Ready Region. Some classrooms will also receive an external CLASS Observation.

- ✓ Fall Observation window (August 22, 2022 - December 23, 2022)
- ✓ Spring Observation window (January 23, 2023 - June 9, 2023)

To learn more about VQB5 and connect with your Ready Region scan the QR code or by visiting www.bit.ly/rrVQB5



Participating in VQB5 will offer:

- **Strengthened Quality.** Through VQB5, educators and leaders will receive individualized feedback and support to provide quality experiences for young children.
- **Training and Support.** Educators and leaders participating in VQB5 will have access to support, training, and resources to help improve interactions and curriculum, including CLASS® training.
- **Financial Recognition.** Eligible educators participating in VQB5 will receive up to \$2,000 through RecognizeB5.
- **Opportunity to Prepare and Receive a Practice Rating.** The 2022-2023 academic year is the last opportunity to practice participating in VQB5. Beginning in Fall 2023, participation will be required for publicly-funded sites.

Important Reminder: Effective July 2022, VQB5 participation is coordinated through the Ready Regions. To learn more about VQB5, click [here](#). To connect with your Ready region, please click [here](#).

Publicly funded sites include:

- Public School Preschools (VPI, ECSE, Title 1)
- Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
- Approved Subsidy Vendors (Child Care Centers, Family Day Homes, Local Child Care Assistance)
- CCAMPIS Programs
- VECF's Mixed Delivery Programs
- Military Child Care Fee Assistance Programs

Did you know...?

The Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network has Professional Development Opportunities for infant and toddler child care providers to earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential (Infant/Toddler, Family Child Care), Virginia Department of Education Infant and Toddler Endorsement or Infant Toddler Career Studies Certificate, and receive scholarships. If you work with infants and toddlers and would like to apply for assistance with any of these opportunities, please complete the Professional Development Interest Form by clicking [here](#).

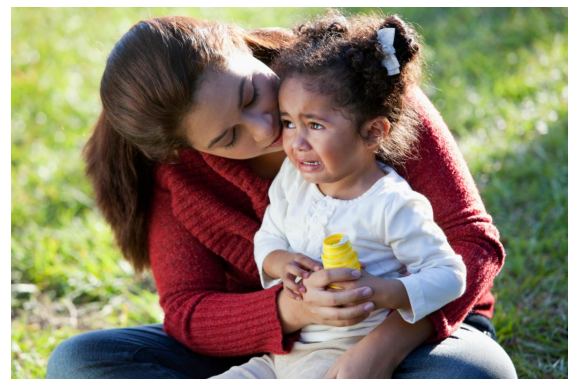


Should you have any questions, please contact **Mary Sheldon**, Professional Development Coordinator, at 757-378-3172.

Did you know...?

Our Infant and Toddler Mental Health Consultants have a new name. They are now Infant and Toddler Behavior Consultants (ITBC).

Our ITBCs work regionally throughout the state. ITBCs promote infant and toddler mental wellness by providing training and coaching on social emotional development and screening of infants and toddlers. In addition, they help assess social emotional learning environments by providing observations and consultations on implementing strategies that promote positive social emotional development in infants and toddlers. They also provide mentoring, parent education, technical assistance, and intervention strategies.



Please click [here](#) to meet the team.



A nonprofit agency changing the lives of babies, toddlers & their families

The Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network is supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$5,350,000 with 100% funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

[Visit CDR Now](#)