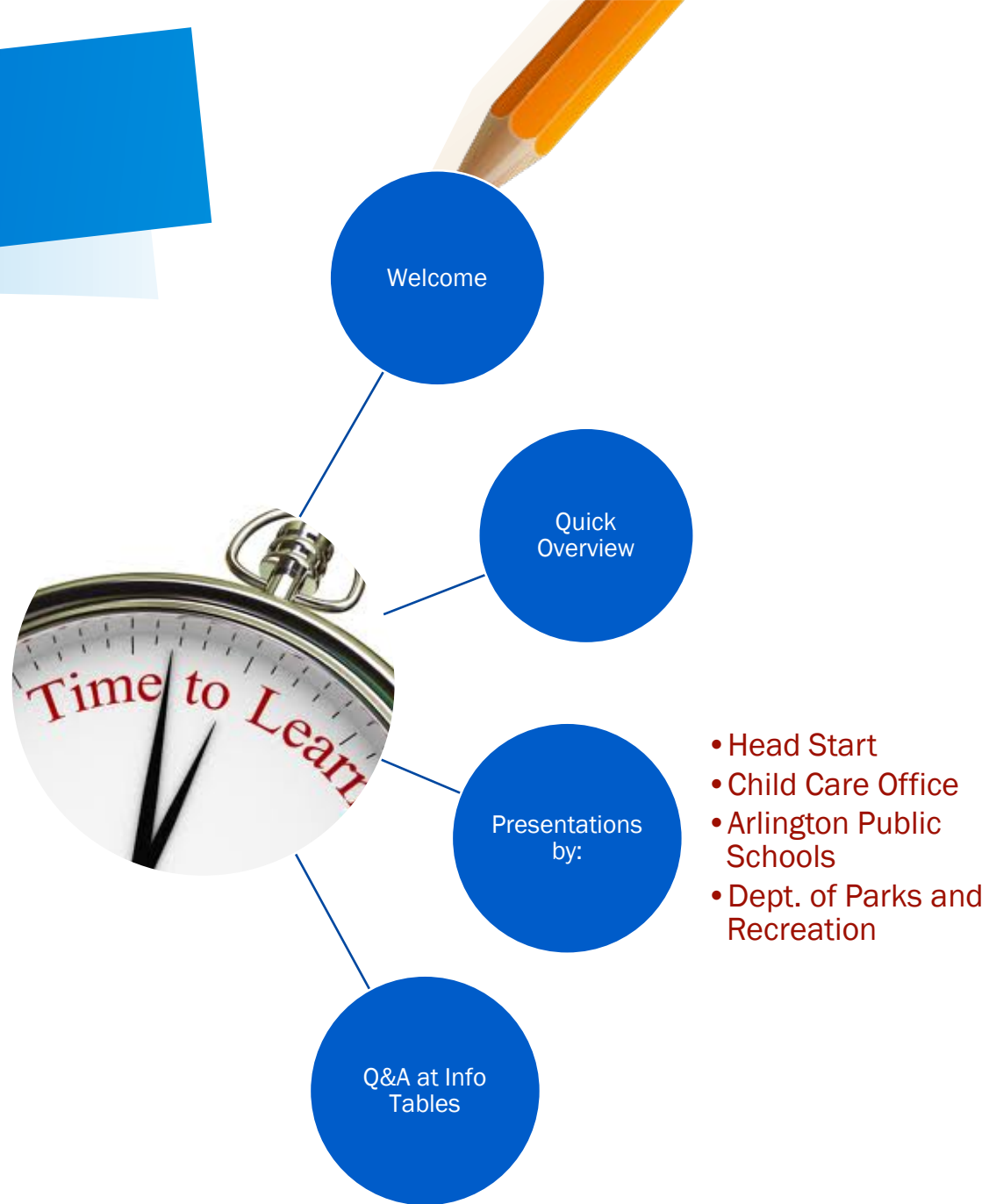




# Before Kindergarten

Educational and Care Options  
in Arlington County

# Agenda



# Head Start



## Early Head Start & Head Start

### Our Early Head Start Program

The Arlington Early Head Start (Vermont Center) is full-year child development programs for children between the ages of **6 weeks and 3 years old**. We provide a safe and nurturing learning environment and respond to each child's individual needs and interests.

Experiences in the classroom support each child's growth in : physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development.

At least 10% of enrollment opportunities are made available to children with disabilities.

# Child Care Office



## Licensed Child Care in Arlington County

The licensing and regulation of child care programs exists to protect children and to assist parents in making informed decisions about the care of children in child care programs.

# Licensed Child Care in Arlington County

- Arlington County requires anyone providing care to one or more unrelated children, for compensation, to be regulated or licensed.
- Such programs are monitored by the Child Care Services Office.
  - Each program receives at least two unannounced visits per year.
- The types of licensed child care programs in Arlington County are:
  - Child Care Centers
  - Family Child Care
  - Private Schools

## Exempt Programs:

Religious institutions that request exemption from Arlington County Code Chapter 52



# Child Care Centers

- Any facility operated for the purpose of providing care, protection and guidance to a group of children separated from their parents or guardian.
- Child care centers are licensed by Arlington County and Virginia Dept. of Social Services.
- Arlington County also regulates the following programs as child care centers:
  - cooperative playgroups
  - parent's day out programs
  - preschool programs





# Family Child Care

- Care that is provided in a private family home where nine or fewer children are received.
- Arlington County approves home-based programs up to a maximum of four (4) children.
- Arlington County licenses home-based programs with a capacity of five through nine (9) children.




# Private Schools

Any facility operated for the purpose of providing specialized training courses for more than four (4) children such as beauty schools, dance schools and karate/self-defense schools.

# APS Early Childhood and Special Education


# Arlington Public Schools

## Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

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- The Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) is a high quality Pre-k program for four-year-old children at Arlington Public Schools and is free to all **eligible** students.
  - Children engage in enriching educational experiences, explore learning materials and new ideas, and build their skills as they prepare to enter kindergarten.
  - The Pre-k curriculum is research-based, fosters the development of literacy and math skills, and builds social-emotional foundations for lifetime learning.
  - Each class has up to 18 children with a certified teacher and full-time instructional assistant.
  - The program follows the elementary school schedule Monday through Friday.
  - <https://www.apsva.us/early-childhood-prek/>

# Arlington Public Schools

## Primary Montessori Program

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- The Primary Montessori Program is an interdisciplinary, multi-age approach to learning for students 3-5 years of age.
  - 2/3 of the available enrollment slots are available to families who meet federal income eligibility guidelines. 1/3 of the available enrollment slots are available to families above the federal income eligibility guidelines. Tuition is charged for students in the 1/3 and some 2/3 income ranges for three and four year olds and vary based a sliding fee schedule.
  - Students work independently and cooperatively in a prepared environment which allows students to work at their own pace. Montessori teaching materials are designed to promote habits of concentration, initiative, persistence, and discovery, while the Montessori philosophy and community emphasizes respect for others, peace, and creativity.
  - Each class has up to 23 children with a certified teacher and full-time instructional assistant.
  - The program follows the elementary school schedule Monday through Friday.
  - <https://www.apsva.us/early-childhood-prek/>



# Arlington Public Schools

## Child Find Services

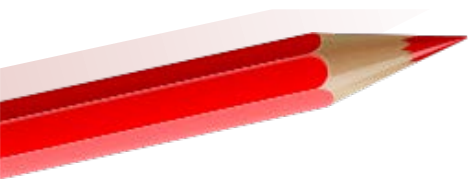
- The Child Find program, for children ages 2-5 years of age, determines whether children qualify for special education services through Arlington Public Schools.
- Children with suspected delays, such as in the areas of cognition, communication, hearing, vision, social-emotional skills, and/or motor skills, can be referred by anyone, including parents, to a committee to determine whether the child is eligible for special education services.
- The committee is made up of the Child Find coordinator, a speech pathologist, a psychologist, a social worker, and a special education teacher. Children need to be two years old by September 30th of the current school year in order to receive services in that school year.
- Services range from full time services in a school/community partner site to community-based resource services for students identified with a disability. Related services including speech and language therapy or other therapy services may be included in a student's Individualized education Plan (IEP).
- <https://www.apsva.us/special-education/child-find/>

# Department of Parks & Recreation

# Early Childhood Recreation



- Programs for children ages 1 -5 at 8 locations in Arlington County.
- For more information visit, <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/programs/tots/> or call 703-228-7394
- To register visit, [registration.arlingtonva.us](https://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747



Fee Reductions are available to qualifying families.



# Creative Preschoolers Programs



- Half-day preschoolers programs are designed to provide children ages 3-5 with their first social group experience outside the home.
- Emphasis is placed on experiencing age-appropriate recreation activities, being part of a group, cooperating, listening, sharing, developing play and movement skills, and discovering nature.
- The Creative Preschoolers Program is a 9-month program, running from September to May. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Programs offered at Carlin Hall, Gunston, Langston-Brown, Madison and Fairlington Community Centers.




# Little Explorers Camp



- Little Explorers camp provides a fun, exciting camp experience for our youngest campers!
- Creative play, crafts and physical activity are combined with themes to bring campers on a week full of adventures.
- Appropriate for ages 3-5 years
- The Little Explorers Camp is a 8 week program, running from June to August. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Offered at Fairlington, Carlin Hall, Madison and Langston-Brown Community Centers and an Elementary School Location (TBD)

# Cooperative Playgroups

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- Cooperative Playgroups provide children aged 1 - 4 with their first social group experience outside of the home.
  - This half-day, year-round program includes free play, snack, crafts and playground / gym time.
  - Parents / guardians commit to supervising 25 - 33% of the sessions and may drop their children off on the days that they are not supervising.
  - Playgroups are offered at 3 Community Centers: Madison, Lee and Fairlington.




# Pint-Sized Play time



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- Drop-in indoor play areas.
  - Appropriate for ages 1 - 5.
  - Parent or caregiver supervision required at all times
  - Offered at [Arlington Mill](#) and [Fairlington](#) Community Centers.

# Speaker Contact Info

Please feel free to contact any one  
of us with questions!

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- Erika Gibson, Arlington Child Care Office: 703-228-1680 [egibson@arlingtonva.us](mailto:egibson@arlingtonva.us)
  - Hilda Isham, Center Manager Early Head Start Vermont Center: 571-748-2761 [hisham@nvfs.org](mailto:hisham@nvfs.org)
  - Leah Davidson, Arlington Early Intervention Supervisor (PIE Supervisor) 703-228-1640 [ldavidson@arlingtonva.us](mailto:ldavidson@arlingtonva.us)
  - Kimberly Baldini, Arlington Parks and Rec Program Specialist, 703-228-4742, [kbaldini@arlingtonva.us](mailto:kbaldini@arlingtonva.us)
  - Elaine Perkins, Arlington Public Schools, Early Childhood Coordinator, 703-228-6157, [elaine.perkins@apsva.us](mailto:elaine.perkins@apsva.us)



Thank You!

The Arlington Early Intervention  
Inter-Agency Coordinating Council