



U-Launch Childcare with a Home Start

U-LAUNCH: Child Development Homes Welcome YOU!

Dear Childcare Educator Operator (CEO) Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for a membership to operate an approved childhood development home. As a CEO, you will have a tremendous opportunity to teach and care for young children, support your community and shape the future. But you will first want to make sure that opening a childcare business is best for you and the needs of your community. Be informed and have a plan!

To help you decide if you are ready to launch a childhood development home, consider the following:

- Do you understand the definition of a childhood development home?
A Childhood Development Home is a private family home that is an approved member of the U-LAUNCH: Childhood Development Homes Association and provides care, protection, and guidance for nine (9) or fewer children during any part of the 24-hour day. This number excludes children six years of age and older who are related by blood or marriage to the Childcare Educator Operator (CEO).

Childhood Development Homes operate as part of U-LAUNCH: Childhood Development Homes, a Licensed Family Day System, and are approved and overseen by the U-LAUNCH: Childhood Development Homes Authority (CDHA). These homes are not individually licensed by the Virginia Department of Education, as regulatory oversight and compliance are provided through the Family Day System structure.

- How do you know if providing childcare is a good fit for you? Do you have:
 - a passion for the quality care and education of children
 - the ability to provide a safe environment
 - good physical and emotional health
 - an understanding of children’s developmental needs
 - patience with children and their families
 - good communication skills with staff, children, and their families
 - the ability to understand good business practices
 - good organization skills
- Have you read the *Standards for Licensed Family Day Homes*?
- Are you prepared to maintain compliance with the CDHA standard operating procedures?
- Do you possess at least a high school diploma or equivalent and 3 months of childcare experience?

- Are you prepared to meet the ongoing training requirements for approval?
- Have you or any household member been convicted of a barrier crime?
[Background Checks | Child Care VA \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- Have you contacted your local zoning office to determine the number of children that your local zoning office will approve you to care for in your home?
- Are you and your household members ready to welcome corporate inspectors, children, parents, and other visitors into your home during business hours, sometimes unannounced?
- Are you and your household members ready to modify areas of your home inside and outside so that it is a safe environment for children in your care?
- Are you aware of the personal and financial costs involved to start-up and maintain a childhood development home?
- Are you aware of your responsibilities as a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect?

If you are ready to take the next step in the application process, please begin with the *Steps to Apply for an Initial Certificate of Approval*.

U-LAUNCH: Childhood Development Homes appreciates your efforts to provide childcare to families. We look forward to working with you as you strive to provide quality childcare to families in your community! U-LAUNCH: Childhood Development Homes offers information on training, resources, and professional development opportunities. This information will be an invaluable resource for you and your childcare business. Please contact a Program Specialist via email if you have any questions or need more information at cdha@ulaunchit.com.

In partnership,

Mrs. Nicole Ahmad, MS
Founder & Director of Operations
U-LAUNCH: Childhood Development Homes
571-552-2793 - cell **(OK to Text)**
www.ulaunchit.com - website



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