



# better beginnings

EVERY CHILD DESERVES OUR BEST

Dear Parents and Families,

March 17, 2020

Many families are struggling to find child care so that parents can work to earn an income or provide important services. This letter is to caution you. **Please do not choose your child care provider based on social media.**

**SAFETY & HEALTH:** When choosing child care, the most important thing is to ensure the safety and health of your children.

### Before you choose child care, ask these questions:

- Is this home or child care facility licensed by DHS?
- Have background checks been done on every person caring for children in this facility?
- Is the facility clean? Is it safe?
- How many children is each adult caring for at the home or facility?
- How many people are in the home or facility, including children?

Right now, the CDC recommends no more than 10 people be in a child care home.

**THE BOTTOM LINE: LICENSING MATTERS.** Every child care provider who cares for more than five (5) children who are not related and is open more than 5 hours a day or 10 hours per week, **MUST be licensed and inspected by DHS Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education.** Among other things, licensing ensures the safety and health of children who are under the care of someone other than their parents.

Visit [ARBetterBeginnings.com](http://ARBetterBeginnings.com) and click the **Find Child Care** icon at the bottom of the homepage to find out if a child care provider is licensed.

Sincerely,

Dawn Jeffrey, Better Beginnings Program Manager

