



# 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 facility child care licensed by DHS?
- Have background checks been completed on every person caring for children in this facility?
- Is the facility clean? Is it safe?
- What is the ratio of children to adults?
- How many people are in the home or facility, including children?

Currently, the CDC has recommended no more than 10 people occupy a child care home.

**THE BOTTOM LINE: LICENSING MATTERS.** Every child care provider who cares for more than five (5) non-related children 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 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

