



## **A message from Smart Beginnings Central Virginia (SBCV)**

### **FREE CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-12**

#### **Ready Regions: Increasing Access to Safe Learning Spaces During the Pandemic**

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, families in Central VA and across the state are struggling with childcare, forcing many parents to make difficult decisions. Recently the Governor and VA General Assembly approved funding to help communities increase access to safe alternative learning spaces for children ages 3 through 12 years old, to support their health and well-being and make it possible for parents to return to work. Working with the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services, child-care assistance will be available in high-need regions throughout the Commonwealth.

In our area that includes the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Nelson and the city of Lynchburg. The **Ready Regions** effort will be coordinated through Smart Beginnings Central Virginia (SBCV) at the United Way of Central Virginia.

#### **What this means for Lynchburg City Schools families:**

There are more than 30 slots available for children ages 3-8 at Elizabeth's Early Learning Center, at the HumanKind campus, 150 Linden Ave., Lynchburg. SBCV is working on establishing additional locations. Slots will be filled in the order requests are received and will be available in early January. Please contact Jane Gerdy at 434-528-5698.

For more information or to let SBCV know if your family needs to find safe child care for preschool and school age children, at no cost, beginning in January 2021, visit [www.smartbeginningscv.org](http://www.smartbeginningscv.org) or leave a clearly stated message at 455-6921.

Be well and stay safe.