

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**CITY OF SUFFOLK HOSTS SECOND “PLAYDATE FOR PROVIDERS”
NETWORKING AND RESOURCE EVENT FOR CHILDCARE PROFESSIONALS**

SUFFOLK, VA (January 13, 2026) The City of Suffolk Economic Development Department, in partnership with the Early Childhood Development Commission (ECDC), will host the second Playdate for Providers, an informational and networking event designed to support current and prospective childcare professionals.

The event will take place on Thursday, February 19, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Jungle Jamz Play Café, 1238 Holland Road, Suite #104, Suffolk, VA.

Playdate for Providers is designed to connect childcare providers with critical resources, subject-matter experts, and peer networks. The evening’s program will feature presentations on key topics impacting the childcare industry, including guidance on opening a childcare center from Sharon Howell of Child Care Aware of Virginia, staffing and recruiting strategies from Susan Stubenrauch, Coordinator of the Suffolk Workforce Development Center, and an overview of Suffolk’s new Family Day Home Grant.

Attendees will also have opportunities to network with fellow providers and local partners. Light refreshments will be provided, and raffle drawings will be held throughout the event. RSVP is required.

This event supports Suffolk's continued commitment to strengthening its childcare ecosystem by supporting workforce development, expanding access to childcare services, and fostering sustainable business growth within the community.

For more information or to RSVP, please visit the [Playdate for Providers February 19, 2026 Event Registration](#) page, view the event flyer, or contact Erin Dears, Small Business Development Manager, at edears@suffolkva.us or call 757-514-4042.

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