

Are You A Grandparent Raising A Grandchild? Or Aunt, Uncle, Sibling, Or Other Kin Raising A Child of a Relative or Friend?

At Virginia Cooperative Extension, we are all about supporting families and creating nurturing environments for children. We firmly believe that every child deserves to grow up in a loving family, ideally their own. However, there are times when children cannot live with their parents, and that's where our team comes in.

We believe that when children cannot live with their parents, they should be given every opportunity to live safely with relatives or those with whom they have a family-like relationship. Did you know that almost ten percent of Virginia's children under the age of 18 are currently living in homes where grandparents or other relatives are the householders? That's why we are committed to providing these families with access to a range of programs and services.

Our vision is that every child and their relative caregivers will receive all the information and referral, peer support, respite care, recreational activities, and family advocacy they need to meet the specific needs of their families. We understand that every family is unique, and we strive to provide tailored support so that they can all thrive, no matter what challenges they may face.

Our goal is to make sure that every child in our community grows up in a safe, loving, and supportive environment. If you are a caregiver for a child learn more about how our monthly support group, peer mentoring, and summer respite programs could help you. Please contact us at: (540) 775-3062 or email lvwright@vt.edu.

Virginia Cooperative Extension offers programs to support families in creating nurturing environments for children. All children belong in families, preferably their own families. When children cannot live with their parents, they should have every opportunity to live safely with relatives or those with whom they have a family-like relationship. Nearly ten percent of Virginia children under the age of 18 currently live in homes where householders are grandparents or other relatives. Our vision is children and their relative caregivers will receive information and referral, peer support, respite, recreation and/ or family advocacy to meet the specific needs of their families.

Whether you're a grandparent, an aunt/uncle, or a family friend, we are here to provide confidential and non-judgmental information to you and your family. We provide:

- information, support, resources, and referrals, tailored to each family's unique circumstances
- linking caregivers to community support (i.e. legal, public assistance, respite, educational, housing, faith based, etc.) to ensure stability and safety within the home
- peer support and programs for kinship caregivers, youth, and children, too!

Contact us today to learn more about our monthly support group, peer mentoring, and summer respite programs. Please contact us at: (540) 775-3062 or email lvwright@vt.edu.