



**Child Care
Resource
& Referral**
OF SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

AT SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Summer 2019 Edition



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Brian Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

June 2019

Dear Child Care Providers:

Now that summer has arrived, the number of outdoor events you'll want to plan for the infants, toddlers, and youngsters in your care will certainly increase. Realizing that you'll be preoccupied by complicated logistics while organizing high-quality field trips and outside playtime, we want to be sure that protecting child health and safety during those activities also remains top of mind.

[DECAL's Rules and Regulations](#) for providers include detailed and helpful guidelines for avoiding situations in which children could be harmed, including instructions for transporting them safely; maintaining a safe playground area; supervising them in water; and avoiding dehydration, heat exhaustion, and sunburn. We've also prepared [training modules](#) to help you comply with rules governing the new background check process that more comprehensively scans crime, fingerprint, and abuse databases to identify people who pose a threat to children. If you have questions or need guidance regarding any of these requirements, please contact your Child Care Services licensing consultant.

At this time of year, when the heat index in Georgia soars to unsafe levels, I'm especially focused on vehicular heatstroke risk. During FY2018, 12 children were left in vehicles by child care providers statewide. So far in FY2019, it has happened to 10 children. Thankfully they all survived. But one child left unattended in a vehicle is one child too many, and there is absolutely no reason for a child to suffer or die in these conditions. That's why DECAL and several other state agencies continue to promote the "Look Again" campaign that asks care providers, teachers, and family members to stay alert to the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles and to be thorough in accounting for every child in their care as they are transported from place to place. It's a simple, but effective process: When you arrive at your destination, check all areas inside the front and back of your vehicle, and after you've looked—just to be sure—look again.

By committing to "Look Again" and abiding by all of the other health and safety rules DECAL has put in place, we can give children a season of fun-filled outdoor learning experiences while keeping them out of harm's way.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

INSIDE:

- Teacher-Student Ratios and ERS Scores
- Accessing Inclusion and Behavioral Support at DECAL
- Making Your Own Nature Paintbrushes
- Quality Rated Program Recognition
- Quality Rated Endorsements
- South East Region Training News

How do Teacher-Child Ratios affect ERS scores?

Although none of the Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) require specific teacher-child ratios, scores for items that are measured within the scales are impacted by teacher-child ratios. Teacher-child ratios impact almost all scale items in some way because ratios impact supervision, teacher-child relationships, and the quality and intentionality of teaching taking place.

“Teacher-child ratios” are the measurement for how many children per teacher are in each classroom. For example, if there is 1 teacher and 10 toddlers, the ratio would be 1:10, but if there were 2 teachers in that same class with 10 toddlers, the ratio would be 1:5 or 2:10.

High teacher-child ratios make it difficult to earn high ERS scores because teachers have more children to teach, and it is noticeably tougher to get all the routines and play done, while still providing high quality teaching interactions with all children. Low teacher-child ratios make it easier to earn higher ERS scores because more teachers allow for easier supervision and sharing of classroom responsibilities, which gives teachers more time to take advantage of opportunities to intentionally teach throughout the day.

Items Potentially Impacted by Teacher-Child Ratios in all ERS Scales used in QR

Scale	Items Potentially Impacted by Teacher-Child Ratios
ITERS-3 (33 items)	4-23, 25-33
ECERS-3 (35 items)	4, 5, 8-35
FCCERS-R (34 items)	5, 7-23, 25, 27-34
SACERS-U (29 items)	14, 17-19, 22-32, 37, 42

As you can see, teacher-child ratios have the potential to dramatically impact scores, either positively or negatively. Lower teacher-child ratios typically provide a positive benefit and higher scores in scale items. Higher teacher-child ratios often result in lower scores in scale items. The reason for this is that all the ERS scales have items and indicators to measure the quality of teaching interactions, and the scales emphasize the need for positive teacher-child relationships. Those relationships provide the foundation for the quality and intentional teaching that occurs in high quality early childhood classrooms.

Additionally, earning higher ERS scores results in higher overall star-ratings and increases the amount of compensation that programs receive for enrolled children who utilize CAPS subsidies. Programs receive a tiered quality bonus for all CAPS payments based upon star rating earned: 10% for 1-star, 20% for 2-stars, and 40% for 3-stars. Families at Quality Rated providers also receive a 15% discount on their family fee. Moreover, in order to continue to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) funding, eligible providers must be Quality Rated by December 31, 2020.

However, the potential benefits of lower teacher-child ratios do not stop at higher QR outcomes and higher compensation.

How do Teacher-Child Ratios affect ERS scores? (Continued)

- Lower teacher-child ratios help improve staff retention rates. When teachers have more support in the classroom, they often feel more satisfied with their work overall.
- Less teacher turnover can reduce the costs and time associated with training new employees, which when coupled with the higher quality bonuses for CAPS families can also help offset the expense of hiring more teachers.
- More staff retention can also increase the continuity of care the children receive, which helps to improve child outcomes. It also increases child and family satisfaction, which can increase your retention rate for children enrolled.
- Fewer children are suspended or expelled when there are lower teacher-child ratios.

Lower teacher-child ratios provide the needed support for increased and sustainable quality, promote positive teacher-child relationships, improve child outcomes, improve work climate for program staff, and enhance the overall experience for teachers, children, and families. All those benefits positively impact Quality Rated outcomes, but most importantly, positively impact the education and future of Georgia's children.

For more information, check out these additional resources.

- Quality Rated Validation Study Findings: <http://dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/Research.aspx>
- Features of Pre-Kindergarten Programs, Classrooms, and Teachers: Do They Predict Observed Classroom Quality and Child-Teacher Interactions? <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/policy-statement-ece-expulsions-suspensions.pdf>
- National Pre-K Study Findings: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/PreKEducationStudyCommittee/Documents/impact%20of%20teacher%20and%20classroom%20quality.pdf>
- Preventing Suspensions and Expulsions in Early Childhood Settings: <https://preventexpulsion.org/1d-implement-and-utilize-appropriate-child-teacher-ratios/>
- The Many Benefits of Continuity of Care for Infants, Toddlers, Families, and Caregiving Staff: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/jul2018/benefits-continuity-care>
- CAPS Quality Rated Deadline: <https://caps.dec.al.ga.gov/en/CAPSQualityRatedDeadline>

In December 2016, the DECAL Advisory Committee adopted the following:
*Quality Rated eligible providers must be star rated **by 12/31/2020** in order to continue to receive Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) funding.*

Contact your CCR&R to get started on your *Quality Rated* journey TODAY!

Exciting Changes Ahead! New Way to Access Inclusion and Behavioral Support at DECAL!

DECAL is expanding our Inclusion and Behavioral Support program! The reorganization includes more staff, expanded services and a new way to get in touch with us! Now you can just call 1-833-35-4HELP or email inclusion@dec.al.ga.gov to speak with one of our Regional Supervisors. Our team can help with everything from special education referrals to training and you can even have a Specialist come to your program to work with you to support a child with challenging behaviors. Please give us a call if you have a question or concern. The sooner the better! We want to partner with you to maximize your success and support the hard work you do every day. If you have any questions about how we can support you, give us a call or send an email. We'd love the opportunity to tell you more about what we can do for you.

Remember, just call 1-833-35-4HELP!

Make Your Own Nature Paintbrushes!

You will need:

Sticks (1 for each paint brush)

Lots of interesting pieces of nature

Elastic bands (or string)

Poster paint

Large roll of paper

Collecting the nature items for this activity is half the fun. Go on a walk and see what interesting things you can find. Look for different textures and patterns. Talk about which pieces of nature you think will make good prints.

How to make nature paint brushes:

Making the nature paint brushes is easy. Simply attach a piece of nature to each stick using an elastic band (or a piece of string).

TIP: To avoid breaking your pieces of nature put the elastic bands onto the sticks first and then slide your pieces of nature into the bands. Make sure the elastic bands aren't too tight. You may need more than one band to keep your nature items in place.

Most importantly enjoy the process. Have fun, get messy and explore!

Source: <https://www.messylittlemonster.com/2015/07/stick-craft-nature-paintbrushes.html>



South East Region: Quality Rated Program Recognition



Congratulations to Our Newest Quality Rated Programs!



Akim Academy—Coffee
 Bree's Creative Learning Preschool Childcare Center—Lowndes
 Calvary Baptist Daycare Center—Chatham
 Coastal Cathedral Early Education Center—Chatham
 Country Loving Child Development Center—Screven
 Creative Kids Learning Center & Preschool—Glynn
 Crossing Jordan Learning Academy—Chatham
 Doodlebugs Learning Center—Screven
 Gwendolyn M. Herrin—Charlton
 Junction Child Care & Learning Center LLC—Toombs
 Kiddie Korner—Jeff Davis
 King's Childcare & Learning Academy—Emanuel
 L & L Learning Center—Bulloch
 Lil' Rascals—Bryan
 Little Angel's Learning Center—Laurens
 Little L.A.M.B.S. Preschool—McIntosh
 Diana Lowe—Ware
 Nip & Tuck Nursery and Kindergarten—Toombs
 Olive Tree Early Learning Center—Evans
 Pamper Me Day Care—Bulloch
 Raising Stars Learning Center—Effingham
 Second Baptist Church Childcare—Ware
 Cynthia V. Small—Evans
 Shalinda A. Smith—Emanuel
 Sylvia's Kiddieland Learning Center LLC—Liberty
 Teachers Too Early Childcare & Learning Center—Coffee
 The Childrens Ark—Laurens
 The Learning Academy—Glynn
 The Learning Bug Academy—Treutlen
 W.W. Law—Chatham
 YMCA - Pryme Tyme Frank Long Elementary—Liberty
 YMCA Prime Time @ Sallas Mahone Elementary—Lowndes
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Carrie Gould Elementary—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Charles Ellis Elementary—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Coastal Empire Montessori Charter
 School—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Guyton Elementary—Effingham



South East Region: Quality Rated Program Recognition



Congratulations to Our Newest Quality Rated Programs!



YMCA Pryme Tyme Heard Elementary—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Juliette Low Elementary—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Lyman Hall Elementary—Liberty
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Marshpoint Elementary—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Sandhill Elementary—Effingham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Savannah Classical Academy—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Shuman Elementary School—Chatham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme South Effingham Elementary—Effingham
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Taylor's Creek Elementary—Liberty
 YMCA Pryme Tyme Waldo Pafford Elementary—Liberty

Congratulations to Our Quality Rated Programs that Maintained or Increased their Ratings!

Appling County Head Start—Appling
 Atkinson County Head Start—Atkinson
 Bemiss Academy Preschool—Lowndes
 Blessings Daycare—Screven
 Brantley County Early Head Start—Brantley
 Brantley County Head Start—Brantley
 Cami's Kids Inc.—Laurens
 Clinch County Head Start—Clinch
 Coffee County Head Start—Coffee
 Creative Kids—Bulloch
 Juliette Gadson-Kyles—Chatham
 Charlene D. Green—Chatham
 Jackson Heights Christian Academy—Lowndes
 Jewish Educational Alliance Preschool—Chatham
 Lil Scholars Learning Center—Screven
 Little Feet Learning Academy—Laurens
 Diane P. Seabrooks—Chatham
 Steps To The Future Daycare and Learning Center Inc.—Bulloch
 Pamela R. Stokes—Lowndes
 The Learning Treehouse—Effingham
 Toombs County Head Start—Toombs

South East Region: Quality Rated Endorsements

“Even having to change out 5 rooms from ECERS to ITERS, our QR timeframe moved smoothly. Our staff embraced the new scales and will continue the Cox trainings for more language and interactions. We were pleased that we raised our score!”

Mary Wilson, Center Manager

*EOA Head Start and Early Administration
Savannah*

“When we first started this journey, I was apprehensive, reluctant. We had to come out of our old way of doing things. QR put us in a new phase, teachers were more at ease and it gave them a sense of enjoyment in the classroom through every aspect of the day. It was a great learning experience for me and my staff. Do not judge a book by its cover; QR sounded crazy but now you see the growth and the reasons behind Quality Rated. We love to see children learn and have fun.”

Cheryl Arkenwright, Director

*Crossing Jordan Learning Academy, LLC
Savannah*

“Wow! The process was initially intimidating and overwhelming; however, the best TA ever made this journey exciting. Staff was able and motivated to receive TA suggestions and began implementing best practices for improvement. With the combined efforts my fantastic staff, my guidance and TA, we were able to acquire a 3-star rating!”

Cami Brantley, Director

*Cami's Kids, Inc.
Rentz*

“This process was very beneficial for our program. No matter the star level you achieve, you will learn from the process. TA was very informative and provided knowledge to help us with the children. It's a winning process! All of the role modeling provided really benefited us and helped us to learn what was expected when interacting with our children.”

Tracey Broxton, Director

*Little Feet Learning Academy
Dublin*

“Challenging, but I enjoyed the help on learning ways to interact with the children and to help children of different ages interact with each other. I'm excited to be able to increase my rating. The training and coaching provided by the TAs was a great help.”

Charlene Green

*FCC Provider
Savannah*

“The TA process was necessary for me to learn how to provide quality care for children and families. It helped me to be able to translate my teacher experience into a quality family childcare home.”

Shalinda Rountree

FCC Provider

*Swainsboro
(pictured right)*

“My experience with Quality Rated was extremely difficult but very rewarding! Jessica was amazing and I could not nor would not have done all of this without her guidance. I have learned a lot and grew as an early childhood care provider.”

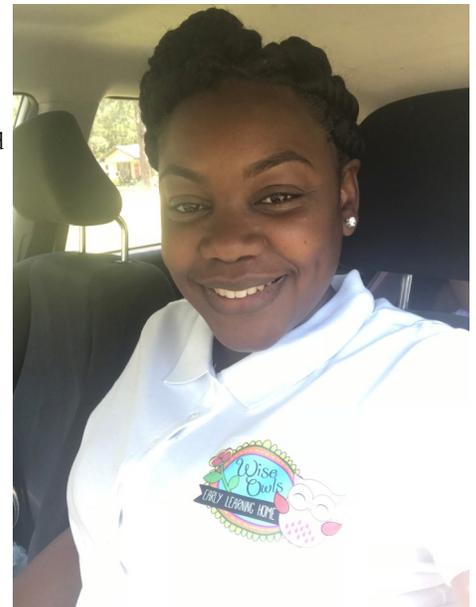
Madison Wilson, Director

*Junction Child Care and Learning Center, LLC
Vidalia*

“This has been a long but enlightening process. Ms. Jeneine was GREAT! I am looking forward to growing and improving for the future!”

Kelley Wiggins, Director

*Teachers Too Early Childcare and Learning Center
Douglas*



South East Region: Quality Rated Endorsements - Continued



“The Quality Rated process for our center proved to be an amazing learning experience for all of our staff, myself included. Having been through the process once before, we were anxious and a little apprehensive about going through a second time. However, with the technical assistance we received as well as the newer set of scales recently introduced, we were pleasantly surprised. Being prepared and having an extra layer of support throughout the center made the process much smoother. Building a team of staff that understood our goal and wanted it just as we did, was key. Our center was able to gain more knowledge to enrich our environment further as well as challenge ourselves professionally. We were able to enrich the environment of the children in our care further and that makes anything worth it!”

*Jana Fox, Director
The Learning Treehouse, Inc.
Rincon
(pictured left)*

“Being a participant in the Quality Rated process has brought improvements in our classroom environments, interactions with children and families, and personal care routines. The children are the beneficiaries of our 3 Star rating. Thank you to the support we received from the Technical Assistance Coordinators. They gave us guidance and assistance throughout the process. Thank you to our wonderful and dedicated teachers!”

*Jodi Sadler, Director
Jewish Education Alliance Preschool
Savannah*

“It was an amazing experience going through this process. My TA was very informative and knowledgeable. She provided me with great support and assistance at all times.”

*Natisha Whitehead, Director
Raising Stars Learning Center
Rincon*

“I learned so much from the Quality Rated process. My TA, Cynthia Beecher, was so patient with me. She taught me how to manage classroom behavior, gave me lots of resources, arranged my small classroom to maximize the space, and motivated me to learn as much as I could about best practices. The children's behavior improved tremendously, and I am so excited that I went through the process and earned a 3-star rating!”

*Cynthia Smalls,
FCC Provider
Claxton
(pictured right)*

“Quality Rated highlighted a lot of great practices we were already implementing at our school. The TAs helped us through the process, and guided us to improve our quality. I will advise anyone who is thinking about joining Quality Rated to just try it and learn all that you can in the process.”

*Nancy Issac, Director
Best Academy
Savannah*



South East Region: Quality Rated Endorsements - Continued

“Quality Rated was challenging, but throughout the process it allowed us to rethink our ways of teaching and thinking. Ms. Cathy was the light when we were in a dark place. She came with passion, knowledge, the individualized approach, going above and beyond to make sure we all learned at our ways of learners. She always encouraged us and reminded us of our goals. She would coach you and you would not realize what she was doing until after she summarized her visit goals. She did not make us feel low in knowledge. We can truly say she built a supportive and professional relationship with us.”

Sylvia Bacon, Director
Sylvia's Kiddieland Learning Center, LLC
Hinesville

“It has been a pleasure working with Jessica as we strive to get Quality Rated at all of our sites in Effingham County. She has been patient in every aspect of the process and always is there for us when we have questions (which are plentiful.) If it wasn't for Jessica's patience and perseverance we may have put off going through the process until next school year but she assured us that we could do it and we ended up getting QR at one of our sites! We hope Jessica continues to work with our staff as we truly feel that she apart of our team and for that we are grateful.”

Heather Smith, Child Care Director
YMCA Pryme Tymes of Effingham County
Rincon

“Our testimonial throughout the Quality Rated process is that we grew closer as a team and learned a lot through professional development, coaching, mentoring, and training. Our Technical Assistance Coordinator helped us with everything. She told us what we needed to do to become a quality program. Mrs. Cathy was awesome. We love and will miss her.”

Sonya Shuman, Director
Lil' Rascals
Pembroke

“Our knowledge of the program was non-existent until our CCR&R TA walked us through the process. We are very pleased with the outcome of the assessment and applaud the TA for extending her knowledge and time to help us through this process.”

Shanna Pullen, Director
King's Childcare and Learning Academy
Swainsboro
(pictured right)



“The teachers have learned how to educate the children on a higher level than just the basics; and now it's showing! The teachers are now wanting to go for something better than just the basics of the state level.”

Bree Carter, Director
Bree's Creative Learning Preschool, Childcare Center, LLC
Valdosta

Did you know over 20,000 people shop for child care and summer camps on DECAL's website every month? If you're a child care provider, update your profile on <https://decalkoala.com/> TODAY to make sure you're putting your best foot forward!

How to Register for Trainings

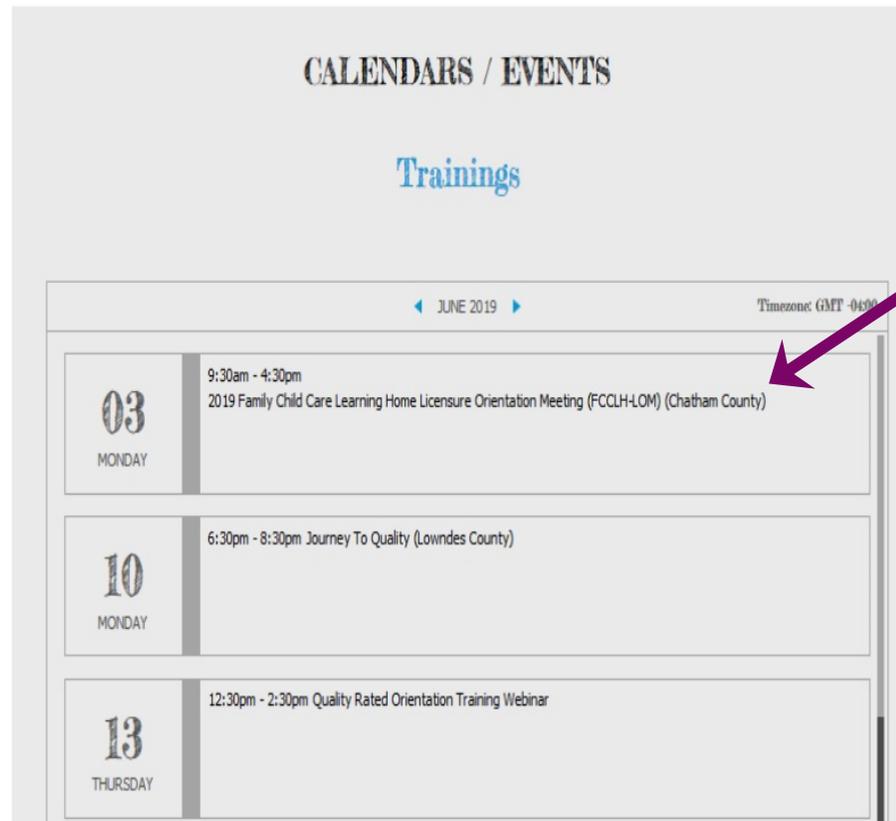
Go to: www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org

On the home page, scroll down until you see the quick menu.



Click on the *Training Calendar* link.

From there, you will be redirected to the *Calendars/ Events* page.



To register for all other trainings, please click on the time and title of the training you are interested in. The details screen will pop up with the link to GaPDS to register for the training.

New Professional Learning Opportunities

We realize that while face-to-face training may be great for some, for others it's difficult to find time in your schedule to attend these learning opportunities. For this reason, we have created some additional professional learning opportunities in various formats for you to try out. Read below to discover some of the various methods we have created for you. See something you like? Watch our training calendar on the website for availability (see page 10 for how to register).

Independent Instruction Courses

These trainings consist of reading and completing assignments on your own time. In these classes, assignments will need to be turned in to obtain a certificate.

Training Titles to look for include:

- [Language Development: Listen, Talk and Read](#)
- [Language Development: Math and Science](#)

Hybrid Courses

These trainings can have a combination of learning platforms, including visiting online resource websites, independent readings and assignments, and planning, implementing and assessing improvement projects in participant's classrooms. In these classes, assignments will need to be turned in to obtain a certificate.

- [Identifying and Improving Simple Interactions](#)

Virtual Training Courses

These trainings utilize online learning platforms to bring participants together virtually in real-time for a virtual classroom experience. Participants need camera and audio capabilities to participate.

- [Setting the Stage: Promoting Positive Behaviors](#)

Upcoming Trainings

**For additional options, please see following pages*

DATE	TIME	CLASS	LOCATION
ONGOING	Hybrid (5 Hours of BFTS Approved Credit)	Identifying and Improving Simple Interactions	Hybrid (online and in own program) <i>*Email kgoetz@savannahtech.edu to register</i>
July 13, 2019	9:30-11:30 AM	Smooth Transitions	King of Peace Episcopal Day School 6230 Laurel Island Pkwy Kingsland, GA 31548
July 15, 2019	6:15-8:15 PM	Dynamic Large Group Times	St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool 10 W. 31st Street Savannah, GA 31401
July 27, 2019	11:00-1:00/2:00-4:00	Standards 104: Planning Lessons Using the GELDS	Savannah Technical College— Crossroads Campus 190 Crossroads Pkwy Savannah, GA 31407
August 1, 2019	9:00-11:00 AM	Smooth Transitions	Jackson Heights Christian Academy 3737 Inner Perimeter Road Valdosta, GA 31407
August 1, 2019	11:15 AM-1:15 PM	STEM in Every Classroom	Jackson Heights Christian Academy 3737 Inner Perimeter Road Valdosta, GA 31407
August 3, 2019	9:00-11:00 AM	Smooth Transitions	Little L.A.M.B.S. Preschool 2344 US Highway 17 Townsend, GA 31331
August 3, 2019	11:15 AM-1:15 PM	STEM in Every Classroom	Little L.A.M.B.S. Preschool 2344 US Highway 17 Townsend, GA 31331

For information about starting a Family Child Care and LOMs:

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/FamilyChildCareLearningHome.aspx>

For information about Child Care Centers and LOMs:

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/ChildCareLearningCenter.aspx>



Child Care Resource & Referral

OF SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

AT SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

YOU ARE INVITED! PLEASE JOIN US!

Setting the Stage: Promoting Positive Behaviors

Monthly Online Webinar Trainings

This virtual-based real-time, online training will help providers gain an understanding of factors that promote positive behaviors in children and make plans to set the stage for this environment.

Number of Training Hours: 2

Tuesday 6/25/2019 6:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday 7/23/2019 6:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday 8/27/2019 6:00pm-8:00pm

Monday 9/16/2019 6:00pm-8:00pm

Please note you will need to log into your PDS account to register (<https://gapds.dec.state.ga.us/>), then search by date for sessions. Select the appropriate session and click to register.

*Please note, you will need a device (computer, laptop, or mobile device) with internet access to the Zoom website in order to participate in this training. You will also need audio capabilities (through device or you can call in via phone) and in order to get the full benefits of this training, video capabilities as well (webcams on computer or laptop; mobile device permission for video).

*Participants registered in the PDS on the day registration closes will receive a link via e-mail to use to gain access to the training at the scheduled start time. Please ensure your e-mail address used with the PDS is current in order to receive the necessary link.



Child Care Resource & Referral

OF SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

AT SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

YOU ARE INVITED! PLEASE JOIN US!

Coaching to Change *(Administrators only please)*

Multiple Upcoming Dates!

This training is for directors to support their staff during changes the program may be going through. It is also a good tool to use with an employee who may be struggling with a certain area in the classroom or someone who is showing resistance to make changes required for the program.

Number of Training Hours: 2	
7/16/2019	Bulloch County
7/16/2019	Chatham County
7/27/2019	Camden County
8/5/2019	Chatham County
8/13/2019	Laurens County
8/24/2019	Liberty County

Please note you will need to log into your PDS account to register (<https://gapds.decal.ga.gov/>), then search by date for sessions. Select the appropriate session and click to register.

**Please visit our training calendar at www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org for specific session times and locations.



PennState Extension

BETTER • KID • CARE

On Demand Child Care Training

Featured module:

Georgia Health & Safety Orientation Training

All child care professionals are responsible to keep the children in their care healthy and safe. Individuals who care for and teach children need to know how to

- 1) create safe spaces,
- 2) use safe practices with children,
- 3) develop and implement daily illness prevention and management strategies,
- 4) plan to keep children safe if an emergency occurs.



This six-hour module provides an overview of required health and safety topics for Georgia child care professionals.

Eligible for CEUs
Accepted for CDA
Approved by Bright from the Start

This module is available at no cost to professionals who work in child care learning centers and family child care learning homes in Georgia.

Login in to On Demand to access the training at
<http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/on-demand>



Funding for this module is provided by Bright from the Start, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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