

Child Care Resource and Referral of Georgia



Early Care and Education BULLETIN!



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Nathan Deal Governor

Amy M. Jacobs Commissioner

Dear Early Child Care and Education Partners,

As we at the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) look ahead to 2018 and reflect back over 2017, I can't help but think about one major area of our work that consumed much of our time and resources AND that impacted many of you and the families you serve: The Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program.

Last year, DECAL assumed responsibility for administering ALL components of CAPS as the eligibility function of the program transitioned from the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to DECAL. We planned for the transition to take place in three "waves" to give us time to hire and train staff and to test and tweak processes for administering the program. Unfortunately, however, the "waves" converged to become a TSUNAMI that swept over DECAL CAPS staff unexpectedly.

BUT, slowly but surely, newly hired and trained CAPS staff have been working diligently to decrease the backlog of CAPS applications and renewals AND to set in place policies and procedures for new CAPS applicants moving forward.

I thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition. As I've reviewed our re-visioning of the CAPS program to align it with enhancing early education instead of just paying for child care, I'm excited for the children and families who benefit from the program. I truly believe that once the challenge of the backlog is resolved and we're able to begin really supporting families to move them toward self-sufficiency that Georgia will have one of the most successful subsidized child care programs in the country.

And, of course, we couldn't accomplish any of this without you...who care for Georgia's children day in and day out in child care learning centers and in family child care learning homes. Thank you for your service.

Best wishes for the New Year; I hope 2018 is a banner year for us all.

Sincerely, Amy M. Jacobs Commissioner

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• Region 5 Training News
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DECAL Corner

DECAL Launches Georgia SEEDS for Success Initiative

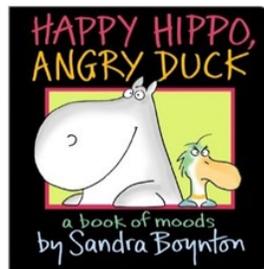
Are you looking for strategies to use to teach social emotional and behavioral skills to the children in your program? Are you searching for effective and positive ways to respond to challenging behavior in your classroom?

DECAL is proud to announce the launch of the **Georgia Social Emotional Early Development Strategies (SEEDS)** for Success Initiative. This initiative includes training, web-based resources and more for teachers, administrators and families.

Our **SEEDS for Story Time** guides are a great example of the resources available. Using popular children's books like *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, *Happy Hippo*, *Angry Duck* and *My Mouth is a Volcano*, DECAL has created guides with engaging activities such as art projects, games, and fun music and movement activities that teachers can use to use to promote and enhance social and emotional development in infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. These activities can be embedded in natural classroom routines and activities and they are linked to the GELDS---making lesson planning easy!

Check out the SEEDS for Story Time and other great resources on our SEEDS webpage

<http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/InstructionalSupports/Seeds.aspx>



Georgia's Pre-K Program 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year

Each school year, DECAL and the Naserian Foundation name one teacher from a public school system and one teacher from a private child care center, as Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year. The teachers serve as ambassadors for Georgia's Pre-K Program, making presentations, attending meetings, and modeling effective classroom practices. The winners for the 2017-2018 school year are Jodi McNamara from Kids R Kids #49 in Lawrenceville and Nathan Leatherwood from Calhoun Pre-K.

Each February, lead Pre-K teachers who have taught for a minimum of three years are invited to apply for Teacher of the Year. Applicants must also meet Georgia's Pre-K credential and Professional Development Registry requirements and plan to continue as a lead teacher for the coming year. Their school must be in good standing with all programs administered by DECAL (Pre-K, Child Care Services, Childcare and Parent Services [CAPS] and Nutrition Services).

In May 2017, six finalists for Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year were announced. This fall, all of them were interviewed and underwent a classroom evaluation. They were also visited by DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs and Stephanie Blank, CEO of the Naserian Foundation, which is sponsoring the statewide program.

The Pre-K Teacher of the Year program serves as an opportunity to recognize and honor outstanding Pre-K teachers who are committed to ensuring that Georgia's children have a great Pre-K experience.

Region 5: Getting to Know Your CCR&R Staff

Renetta Britt, Technical Assistance Coordinator



Renetta is excited to be a part of the CCR&R of Southeast Georgia! She comes with a background of over fifteen years of experience working with children. Renetta has served in the capacities of camp instructor, before and after school care, youth leader at her church, classroom teacher for the Richmond County School System, and director of a learning center. She has worked on her undergrad degree in Early Childhood Education at both Georgia Southern and Augusta Universities. Renetta is looking forward to what lies ahead as she pursues this journey in working with centers to help foster quality care for our children and their families.

Letty Kinslow, Technical Assistance Coordinator

Letty is really excited to be part of the CCR&R team. She has worked with children of all ages since 2001 and worked as a Curriculum and Training Manager for a child care center for the past three years. Teaching has been a passion since a very young age. Letty enjoys working with children, teachers and family members. She truly believes that it takes a team to provide high quality care. Letty has created and delivered training for early childhood educators and she enjoys helping classrooms flourish. On December 7th, Letty completed her Master's Degree in Adult Education and Community Leadership.



Region 5: Changes Within the Agency

Kristin Goetz, Professional Learning Manager



Kristin has been in the ECE field for over twenty years, in Missouri, Arizona, and Georgia. She started as a nanny and moved to teaching children in groups; beginning with Pre-K and eventually settling into her first passion of working with infants and toddlers. She held administrative roles in child care centers including serving in the director role, which ignited her second passion of working with teachers and administrators. Kristin has been serving as a coach/trainer almost ten years now and is grateful to serve in her role as Professional Learning Manager for Region 5. She is responsible for planning and providing training opportunities for Region 5 along with other forms of professional development for educators, including face-to-face training sessions, online and blended training opportunities, and Professional Learning Communities. The Professional Learning Department in our Region also conducts marketing activities to grow the number of *Quality Rated* program participants, works with other regional training entities to bring larger conferences to the region, and partners with other regional committees and community groups in order to support ECE initiatives and bring information to families and communities. Kristin also assists with the DECAL PLC Facilitators Program to help grow the number of certified PLC Facilitators in our state.

Rachale LaVoie, Community Outreach Coordinator

In addition to her previous duties, Rachale will promote, organize, facilitate, and attend community events to inform the community about *Quality Rated* within all 34 counties in Region 5. She will play a key role in creating, maintaining, and collaborating with unlikely (non-ECE centered) business partners to enhance community partnerships within the region. She will also provide assistance and resources to community partners to reach community, region, and state deliverables. Rachale is currently busy finishing her Master's in Management and Leadership. She feels this credential will be most beneficial to helping her create and maintain community partnerships.



Jenna Tucker, Fiscal Coordinator

Jenna has been with the CCR&R for almost four years, starting out as the Administrative Support Assistant, then transitioning into the role of Operations Coordinator. She has a Master's of Business Administration with a Specialization in Leadership from Liberty University, which has prepared her for her new role of Fiscal Coordinator. In her free time, Jenna is involved in her church, likes to spend time with her friends, and reading a good book with a strong cup of coffee.

Region 5: Quality Rated Program Recognition



Congratulations to Our Newest Quality Rated Programs!



- A World of Hope Child Care Learning Center - Grovetown, GA - 2 Stars
 Abby's Learning Center - Dublin, GA - 1 Star
 Allison's Learning Center - Swainsboro, GA - 1 Star
 Angel's Child Care & Enrichment Center I - Savannah, GA - 2 Stars
 Angel's Childcare & Enrichment Center II - Savannah, GA - 2 Stars
 Angel's Childcare & Enrichment Center III - Savannah, GA - 1 Star
 Annette Cuyler - Savannah, GA - 1 Star
 Big Blue Marble Academy - Medical District - Augusta, GA - 2 Stars
 Chapel Christian Academy - Lyons, GA - 1 Star
 Cricket's Learning Center - Augusta, GA - 2 Stars
 First Baptist Church of Springfield Weekday Education - Springfield, GA - 1 Star
 First Steps Infant/Toddler Care - Vidalia, GA - 3 Stars
 Glennville Christian Academy Daycare Center - Glennville, GA - 1 Star
 Happy Tyme Cottage Learning Center - Augusta, GA - 1 Star
 Lester's Learning Academy - Brunswick, GA - 2 Stars
 Lil' Angels Daycare and Kindergarten - Baxley, GA - 1 Star
 Love's Childcare Services Inc. - Statesboro, GA - 2 Stars
 Mary C. Grant - Savannah, GA - 2 Stars
 Prime Time Discovery, Augusta, GA - 2 Stars
 Quenitra W. Hilliard - Guyton, GA - 3 Stars
 Renee's Kid's World 2, LLC - Savannah, GA - 2 Stars
 Sprouting Knowledge Development Center - Augusta, GA - 1 Star
 Sugar & Spice Child Care - Statesboro, GA - 2 Stars
 The Family Y Child Development Center - Augusta, GA - 2 Stars
 Victoria's Academy and Learning Center - Savannah, GA - 1 Star

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

- Bacon County Northside Head Start - Alma, GA
 Pathways Head Start - Augusta, GA
 Cornerstone Academy 2 - Martinez, GA
 Burke County Public Schools Early Head Start - Waynesboro, GA
 Super Kids - Statesboro, GA
 Sylvania Head Start - Sylvania, GA



Region 5: Quality Rated Endorsements



“Participating in technical assistance, we learned a lot about language and interactions and how to handle different situations. We are more aware of how to better support individual children throughout the day. We notice the children respond differently and are more engaged in our program.”

Allison’s Learning Center, Swainsboro, GA

“Participating in *Quality Rated* technical assistance did not add to the workload but rather enhanced my best practices in the classroom.” - Leah Watkins

Chapel Christian Academy, Lyons, GA



“I have been the owner and director of a child care facility for approximately two years. As a relatively new owner, I found the *Quality Rated* process informative, supportive, and relative to my goals as a child care provider. Initially, I avoided the idea of becoming *Quality Rated* due to negative feedback and fear of the unknown. Although the process was intense at times, it was specific to the needs and quality of care for the children. My technical assistance coordinator provided the information, techniques, and support that helped to guide my staff and I to a successful outcome - *Quality Rated!*” - Kathy Blige

Kat’s Little Angels Daycare, Savannah, GA

“I would recommend *Quality Rated* to anyone considering going into child care. It prepares you to better care for the children and families that you serve. Participating in *Quality Rated*, teaches you so much about the process of improving the quality of your program and the process was very helpful. I’ve had more calls and inquiries for child care now that my program has been rated, than I’ve ever had before. Plus with my rating, I’m now marketable to a broader audience of parents. *Quality Rated* pushed me to go above and beyond. It made me aware of what I was doing well and what I could be doing better.

After being rated, the package I received was amazing because I now have all kinds of materials to put out for children from birth to school-age. These new tools and equipment will provide the children with all kinds of great experiences.”

Mrs. Mary Grant, Savannah, GA



The recently 2-Star rated, stand-alone school-age program, Prime Time Discovery – Tobacco Road in Augusta was celebrated by their corporate office on Friday, December 8th.

Teacher Tips: Creative Artwork

Submitted by Cindy Beecher,
Technical Assistance Coordinator



Very often, we think that a child's artwork needs to look like something. We even sometimes like to give children an example or offer them specific colors they need to use when creating their masterpieces. But what exactly does this teach them? It may teach them to follow directions or learn colors, but will it teach them to be creative, critical thinkers? More often than not, it will make them frustrated because they cannot make their artwork look like the example you showed them. They will think the apple can only be red or the sky blue.

Art that encourages creative thinking and allows children to come up with their own unique solutions encourages out-of-the-box thinking and also stimulates their brain to grow new neurons. Freedom of expression in art leads to creative expression in other areas as well. It is an essential foundation for reading, writing, mathematics and scientific reasoning.

Here are some ways you can encourage creative artwork in your classroom:

- Offer a variety of materials and tools daily for the children to interact with during free play. Don't have a specific outcome in mind.
- Think "out of the box" as a teacher. Art does not just need to be paint and paint brushes. Try bubble painting, running cars through the paint, or using things in nature such as leaves or pine cones.
- Have smocks or old t-shirts available so children can feel free to get "messy".
- Have large paper on hand; this will encourage children to work together.
- Create a "junk box" with a variety of collage materials in it.
- Take art materials outdoors.
- Encourage children to express their feelings through artwork.
- Let children hang their masterpieces up in the classroom.
- Ask children to tell you about their creation and ask them if it is all right for you to write what they said on their artwork.
- Encourage them to share their artwork during circle time.

By encouraging children to be creative artists and allowing them to express themselves, you will be creating creative thinkers. Remember, it is all about the process, not the product.

<https://bebrainfit.com/the-health-benefits-of-art-are-for-everyone/>
<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/305-learning-to-write-and-draw>

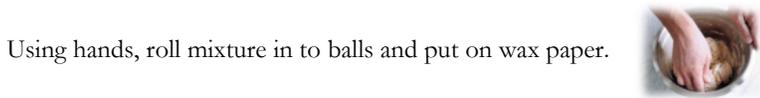
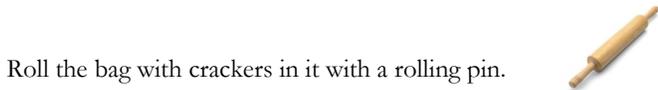
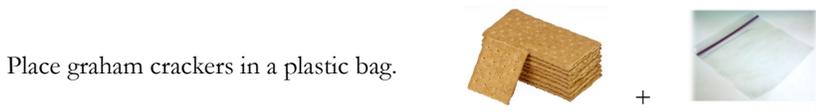
Kids in the Kitchen

Submitted by Jessica Boshuizen,
Technical Assistance Coordinator

Very Easy, No Bake Cookies



Cooking with children can build basic math skills, language literacy, new vocabulary, listening skills, and fine motor skills. It can also help with picky eaters, exploring senses, and building self-confidence.



Such a simple recipe to use with children of all ages and abilities with just a few minor adjustments to enhance learning and fun for everyone! You can add more items also such as chocolate chips or dates. Add a chart with words, numbers, and pictures. Talk to children as they work asking many questions to help with language and communication.

Art for All Ages

Submitted by Shelly Lawson,
Technical Assistance Coordinator

Watercolor Crayon Resist Art



Children can learn so much through art! This winter children can relate what you have taught them to their art activities. I love to read stories and share information then see what they can creatively come up with within the art center that pertains to our theme or whatever they choose to create!

Step 1: Provide paper, crayons, water color paint and resist definition.

Crayon will repel the water color away from it.

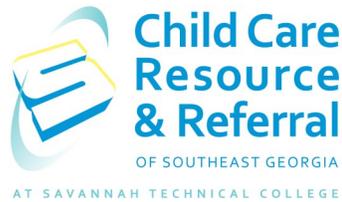
The paper can be any type and any color that the children choose. White crayon and white paper is preferred to get the full effect but the varying ideas of creativity that the children have will be good for experimenting and comparing differences.

Step 2: Children will draw on their paper with crayons.

Step 3: Use watercolor paints and encourage the children to paint all over their paper. They can use just one color or many! If your children are beginners at using watercolors, make sure they are using plenty of water mixed with the paint.

It is important that during the drawing and painting steps that you ask many questions and see if children understand why the watercolors are resisting the crayon. Talk about how crayons are made of a wax material. Here are a few question suggestions for any art activity:

1. **What can you tell me about your picture**
2. **How did you get the idea for this picture?**
3. **What do you like about your picture?**
4. **What title would you give this work? Why did you...**
5. **How were you feeling when you made this picture? How do you hope other people will feel when they look at your picture?**



CCR&R New Training Fee Policies

Effective January 1, 2018

**CCR&R sponsored trainings will be \$5.00/hour unless stated below

Who?	Free Trainings	Trainings at \$5/Hour
Programs receiving technical assistance through our agency while pursuing an initial rating, request for reassessment rating or required reassessment rating through <i>Quality Rated</i> .	All R&R Trainings	None
Rated programs AND actively participating in our agency's CQI process.	Free for Teachers: GELDS, Strengthening Families, Cultural Competency, Journey to Quality Free for Admin: GELDS, Strengthening Families, Cultural Competency, Journey to Quality, D2D, R&R Admin Trainings	All other R&R Trainings
All other programs regardless of QR application status or rating status	None	All R&R Trainings

**If we are providing trainings, we require that 15 people are actually registered online 48 hours prior to the date of the training or it will be cancelled. We don't want to cancel training sessions, but we have to ensure that the training will be successful for group activity participation. If a participant is a "no show" to a free training, they may be subject to paying for the next training session.



Director to Director Network: Establishing a Network of Support One Meeting at a Time

*In partnership with Quality Care for Children and The Georgia Alliance, Child Care Resource and Referral will be offering this valuable **administrative training series** during 2018.

*Each monthly meeting awards participants 2 BFTS Approved Training (ADM) hours along with conversation, collaboration, and camaraderie!

*In order to ensure we are meeting the current needs of our administrators, future session topics will be chosen by prior month's participants, with guidance from the facilitator.

Look for us in January 2018!

Chatham

Augusta

Ware

More areas to follow!

Check our website for upcoming monthly topic announcements and registration information.



HAVE TRAINING IDEAS? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take a moment to complete the short survey regarding training interest at the link below. Input is anonymous and appreciated to help us serve you better!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/573BDZY>

How to Register for Trainings

Go to: www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org



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



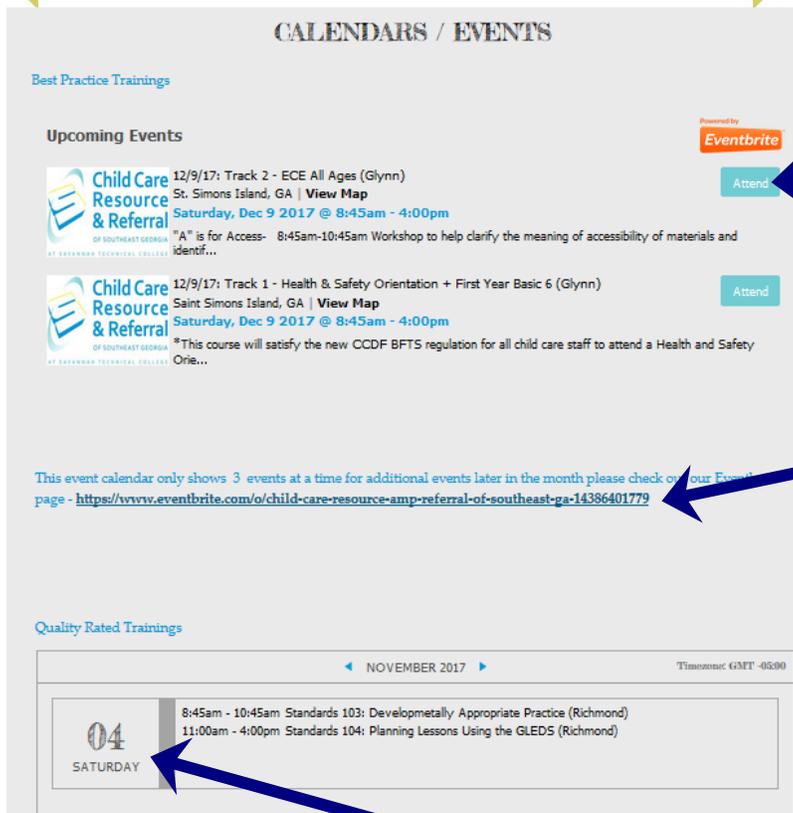
Click on the *Training Calendar* link.

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

Please click the *Attend* button to be redirected to Eventbrite to register for training.

***Only 3 Best Practice trainings may be displayed at a time. For a complete list of our currently scheduled best practice trainings, please click here.**

To register for a *Quality Rated* Training, please click on the date and corresponding training. The details screen will pop up with the link to GaPDS to register for the training.





Interested in or new to Quality Rated?

Save the date and mark your calendars to attend Quality Rated Orientation in a location near you!

Learn how participating in Quality Rated can benefit and revitalize your program, staff, and most importantly Georgia's children! We sincerely hope to see you there!



Orientation Schedule:

February 15, 2018 ■ 6:30pm-8:30pm ■ Chatham County (location to be determined)

March 15, 2018 ■ 6:30pm-8:30pm ■ Richmond County (location to be determined)

April 19, 2018 ■ 6:30pm-8:30pm ■ Ware County (location to be determined)

May 17, 2018 ■ 6:30pm-8:30pm ■ Tattnall County (location to be determined)

June 21, 2018 ■ 6:30pm-8:30pm ■ Chatham County (location to be determined)



PennState Extension

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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>



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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