



Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators

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**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

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Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

September 2021

Dear Child Care Providers:

In this issue of your CCR&R newsletter, I'm writing to update you on our goal that all CAPS providers become Quality Rated by December 31, 2021 (the CAPS/QR Goal). This work has been one of DECAL's priorities for the past six years, and I'm happy to announce we are on track to meet the Goal!

Meeting this goal is the result of your willingness as child care providers to enhance the quality of care you're providing to children and families in your communities...and the result of the focused support services provided by your regional child care resource and referral agency. Through our CAPS/QR Goal, we're ensuring that ALL children, including the ones who need it the most, have access to high-quality early care and education.

The latest data support our projections that we will meet the CAPS/QR Goal by the December 31 deadline. As of August 31:

- 99% of children who have CAPS scholarships are cared for by providers who are star-rated or are on track to be rated by the end of the year.
- 97% of CAPS providers are already rated or will be by the deadline.

The QR team expects to rate more than 1,400 providers this year. Since June, an additional 174 CAPS providers have signed up for a Cohort Group, leaving just 99 who have not.

Although we're not throwing the confetti just yet, we wouldn't be so close to the goal line without everyone's commitment and partnership. I thank you for your contributions to the success of this effort and look forward to our continued partnership to benefit Georgia's youngest learners and their families.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

October is National Farm to School Month

October is National Farm to School Month, and schools and early care centers across Georgia will be celebrating all things OKRA leading up to and through October! *Livin' La Vida Okra* is a state-wide celebration to get kids eating, growing and participating in okra-themed activities. To participate in *Livin' La Vida Okra* at your school, home, early care center, or in your community, visit <https://bit.ly/livinlavidakokra> and sign up. You will receive free electronic resources to help you plan and implement your activities. Resources include standards-based lesson plans, activities, recipes, videos, school garden planting and harvesting information, and more!

Share your *Livin' La Vida Okra* pictures and activities on social media with #livinlavidakokra. Each week during October, anyone who uses this hashtag will be entered to win a gift card, and at the end of the month there will be a grand prize winner. Questions? Visit <https://farmtoschool.georgiaorganics.org/frequently-asked-questions> or email kimberlykoogler@georgiaorganics.org.



USDA offers reimbursement to At Risk Afterschool Programs for providing healthy nutritious snacks and meals through CACFP

When school is out and parents are still at work, children benefit from afterschool programs that offer a safe place to be with their friends, with structured activities, supportive adults, and good nutrition. Afterschool programs that offer these services may be eligible to receive federal reimbursement for meals and snacks served to eligible participants through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, administered by DECAL's Nutrition Services.

Your program may qualify for reimbursement if you:

- Serve children and teenagers who are age 18 or under at the start of the school year.
- Are located at a site where at least half of the children in the school attendance area are eligible for free and reduced-priced school meals (May apply for a waiver through September 2022).
- Offer educational or enrichment activities, after the regular school day ends or on weekends and holidays, during times of the year when school is in session.
- Meet licensing, health or safety codes that are required by state or local law.
- Serve nutritionally balanced meals and snacks that meet USDA's nutrition standards, with foods like milk, meat, vegetables, fruit, and bread.
- Hold a child care license or exemption from licensure.

For more information about the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals and to register for training, contact Leslie Truman by email at Leslie.Truman@dec.al.ga.gov or by phone at 404.657.1779. [Click here](#) for a CACFP Fact Sheet.

2021-2022 DECAL Scholars of the Year

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning have announced the recipients of the 2021-2022 DECAL Scholars of the Year. This year's program celebrates the 20th Anniversary of DECAL Scholars, which supports early care and educational professionals in Georgia in gaining more education and skills and earning financial awards. DECAL Scholars of the Year are limited to those who are actively pursuing a degree or credential in Early Childhood Education while also working in a child care program.

The four-year college/university winner is Ms. Edelina Lane of Ellenwood, a Family Child Care Provider who is a student at Point University. The Technical College winner is Quinecia Styles Smith of Newnan, a lead teacher at Parker Chase Preschool North in Peachtree City and student at West Georgia Technical College. Lane hopes to obtain a master's degree and open three child care learning centers in metro Atlanta before the end of 2023. Smith would like to become an inclusion therapist or curriculum specialist.

"We are excited to recognize Edelina and Quinecia who represent thousands of Georgians who are balancing home, work and school to invest in their own education while continuing to serve children," said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "Similar to our Pre-K Teachers of the Year, this is a great opportunity for DECAL to recognize and reward early child care professionals who are committed to providing a high-quality early education experience here in Georgia."

As DECAL Scholars of the Year, Lane and Smith will each receive a \$1,500 award, \$500 for a classroom makeover, and a virtual classroom visit from Coy Bowles, lead guitarist for the Zac Brown Band. Bowles is also author of children's books, including "What's Behind the Little Red Door?" and a member of the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning Board of Directors.

"The Foundation is proud to support this important initiative by recognizing and rewarding our dedicated early childhood educators," added Carrie Ashbee, Executive Director of the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning. "When you are a teacher by day and scholar by night, it can be challenging to achieve the right balance. We hope these awards are a small way of recognizing the amazing commitment and dedication these early education professionals have to their students and families, both now and in the future."



New CAPS/QR Probationary and Provisional Statuses

In an effort to support providers as they work towards earning a star rating, two new CAPS/QR statuses have been created. For providers to participate in CAPS, they need to be Quality Rated by the end of 2021. The

Provisional Status allows providers that are newly licensed or new to CAPS to begin accepting CAPS scholarships as they work towards earning their rating. The Probationary Status will be offered to providers that do not earn enough points for a star rating but wish to continue accepting scholarships. Both statuses will involve additional support from Quality Rated, and providers will be expected to make adequate progress towards their rating by completing monitored benchmarks.

Quality Rated Provider Highlights

Hands On Learning Academy, Thomasville, GA 2-STARs!!

Hello, my name is Japonica, the owner and director of Hands On Learning Academy. I have been working in the child care industry for 7 years and have truly enjoyed every year. Working in a quality child care setting is a very exciting and fulfilling career that allows you to teach and learn as you go.

During my career I was introduced to the Quality Rated Program, a well-designed program that demands you to develop higher standards. My experience with this program was very rewarding and my assigned TAC was over the top! She helped me every step of the way.

I encourage all centers to participate in Quality Rated because high quality child care sets the stage for how well our children learn, think of themselves and interact with the world. I learned a lot throughout this process and received many resources to help the children learn. I was able to raise the standards of my center which enabled us to receive a 2 star rating!

~Japonica Campbell, Owner/Director



CCR&R Staff Highlight

Hello, my name is Estelle Rothwell, a Lead Technical Assistance Coordinator for CCR&R of Southwest Georgia at Albany. I have been employed for 9 years and the love for my job increases every day! My role consists of assisting providers with their online Quality Rated portfolio and supporting the Environmental Rating Scales to my onsite provider caseload.

I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Valdosta State University. I have worked in child care programs, afterschool care programs, and summer camps before joining the CCR&R. With every job, I have gained experience that has helped my career with the CCR&R.

I am a wife and a mother of 2! We have a golden retriever (Tippy) and a tabby cat (Abby). I enjoy camping, taking pictures, crafting on my Cricut machine, and being around family. Life is short! Love deeply and forgive quickly. Laugh when you can, apologize when you should, and let go of what you cannot change. Remember to make someone smile today!





Congratulations to our Newest Quality Rated Providers!

★	Crowder, Kandice - Family Child Care Learning Home
★	Lewis, Christine - Family Child Care Learning Home
★	New Beginnings Children's Learning Center
★	Mother Goose Nursery
★	Lamb Shelter Day Care & Learning Center
★★	Backyard Buddies Inc.
★★	Kribs 2 Kollege
★★	ABC Early Learning Academy @ Eagles Landing
★★	Cedars Preschool at Hudson Bridge
★★	Eagles Landing Day Care and Learning Center
★★	Learning Tree Education Center
★★	The Sunshine House #64
★★	Tift County Child Development Center
★★★★	Bailey, Valentina - Family Child Care Learning Home
★★★★	Ivywood Academy
★★★★	Little Angels Child Development Center
★★★★	The Chestnut Treehouse II, LLC

★	Stepping Stones Academy
★	Button and Bows
★	Mount Zion Day Care Center
★	Little Pirates Day Care and Pre-school
★	Annette's ABC-123 Learning Center
★★	Tracy's Stay-n-Play
★★	Bright Star @ Green Valley
★★	Child Care Network #221
★★	Higher Excellence Learning Center Too
★★	Bright Lil Minds
★★	Learning Adventures Preschool Academy
★★	A Brighter Choice Learning Academy
★★	A Brighter Choice Early Learning Center
★★★★	Watch Me Grow Toddlerville
★★★★	Once Upon A Time Academy
★★★★	The Children's Center at Mulberry

Ratings through 8/2021

Quality Rated Training Calendar- October, November, & December 2021

GELDS Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Standards 102: Child Development -2 hrs. <i>Learn basic milestones of physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development from birth to preschool. Learn how these milestones connect with GELDS indicators, with a special focus on social-emotional development.</i>	Maggie Girdler, BFTS Approved Trainer
GELDS Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Standards 103: Developmentally Appropriate Practices -2 hrs. <i>Learn developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) from birth to preschool and how to connect DAP to GELDS indicators.</i>	Kerri Chalon, BFTS Approved Trainer
GELDS Wednesday, December 15, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Standards 101: How to Use the GELDS -2 hrs. <i>Get introduced to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and learn how to use the standards to improve learning outcomes. This class provides an overview of the organizational structure of language and explains how the GELDS can be used to support developmentally appropriate practices.</i>	Marian Whitlock, BFTS Approved Trainer

To register for Quality Rated training, you must have a GaPDS account.

To create your account, go to <https://gapds.dec.state.ga.us/Home>



Training Calendar – October, November & December 2021

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Science Comes Alive in the Child Care Center - 2 hrs. <i>Make science a part of your preschool classroom. Learn valuable ideas to use within the classroom and the importance of teaching science.</i>	Polly Raike, BFTS Approved Trainer
Wednesday, October 6, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Core Rules and Regulations with Music to Minimize Citations! - 2 hrs. <i>With music, participants review, discuss and sing BFTS regulations: Discipline, Diapering, Sleep Safety, Medication, Physical Plant, Playground, Hygiene, Swimming, Field Trips, Transportation, Ratios, and Supervision.</i>	Lori Sugarman, BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, October 7, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Early Literacy in Infant, Toddler, and Preschool Classroom - 2 hrs. <i>Learn the importance of literacy development in the infant, toddler, and preschool classroom and how to incorporate early literacy activities in your program.</i>	Meribeth Bice, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, October 9, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. \$20	Creative Carnival - 4 hrs. <i>Learn how to guide children toward unlocking their creative and explorative nature by opening doors to the developmental domain. Learn how to create opportunities that stimulate creativity through activities in areas such as music, drawing, fine arts, drama, language, and including children with Special Needs.</i>	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Better Brains for Babies: Consistency - 2 hrs. <i>Discuss what constitutes consistency, how to create a consistent environment, and how a consistent environment shapes brain development. Learn how to avoid exposing children to an environment that is chaotic, inconsistent, or stressful.</i>	La Keshia Levi, BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Let's Keep Infectious Diseases Out of Our Classroom - 2 hrs. <i>Educators need to know what infectious diseases are and how they can cause harm not only to themselves but to adults and children around them.</i>	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. \$10	"A" is for Access - 2 hrs. <i>Learn how to clarify the meaning of accessibility of materials and identify common barriers to accessibility and solutions that ensure access within the classroom.</i>	Meribeth Bice, BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Creating an Effective Circle Time - 2 hrs. <i>Learn how to plan, develop, and implement an effective circle time that engages children socially to learn new concepts and practice language.</i>	Polly Raike, BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder - 2 hrs. <i>This training is designed to bring awareness of autism spectrum disorder to providers in hopes of educating and providing resources for better understanding.</i>	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, October 23, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. \$10	Workplace Ethical and Professional Behaviors - 2 hrs. <i>This class uses the NAYEC Code of Ethics and explores additional ways to learn about the workplace and professional ethical behaviors.</i>	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved Trainer

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Anecdotal Notes in the Early Childhood Classroom - 2 hrs. <i>Learn to observe and write anecdotal notes accurately and concisely for record-keeping in the child care setting.</i>	Polly Raike, BFTS Approved Trainer
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. \$10	Relationships, Interactions, and Temperaments - 2 hrs. <i>Learn how to build positive teacher-child relationships and interactions while discussing different temperaments of children.</i>	Angie Morey, BFTS Approved Trainer
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. \$10	Open-ended Questions are Important! Who, What, When, Where, & Why? - 2 hrs. <i>Learn how to incorporate open-ended questions in the classroom that encourage positive language development.</i>	Angie Morey, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. \$15	Professional and Leadership Development for Administrators - 3 hrs. <i>Are you an effective leader? How will you help staff make proactive career choices? Refine your leadership skills and come away with tools, resources, and action plans to help you grow professionally.</i>	Melvina Crawl, BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Better Brains for Babies: Experience and Learning - 2 hrs. <i>Learn the roles that genetics and experience play in learning and brain development.</i>	La Keshia Levi, County Extension Agent
Thursday, November 11, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Reviewing the Updated CACFP Meal Pattern for Center and Family Home - 2 hrs. <i>Training updates center-based and family home teachers on updated CACFP Meal Plans for infants - 12 years of age.</i>	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, November 13, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. \$20	Food Safety and Nutrition - 4 hrs. <i>Join us to gain additional knowledge in food preparation, storage, serving, nutrition planning, and proper dishwashing!</i>	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer
Monday, November 15, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Brown Bear Brown Bear -Sign Language Stories - 2 hrs. <i>Learn simple signs to childhood favorites while developing finger muscles for future writing.</i>	Lori Sugarman, County Extension Agent
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Sound of Music and Waves of Movement - 2 hrs. <i>Learn new ideas and the importance of music & movement in the early childhood classroom.</i>	Polly Raike, BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, November 18, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	The Art of Reading - 2 hrs. <i>GET READY - The Art of Reading is designed to assist teachers in creating reading stations. The opportunities provided are innovative, interactive, and a positive guide for children as they experience The Art of Reading.</i>	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, November 20, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. \$20	Best Practices for Healthier Children - 4 hrs. <i>Caregivers must remember that children are placed in our care to protect and care for them. We should make sure to help meet their health needs indoors and outdoors by providing practical strategies to promote language development, responsive care, and healthy personal care routines.</i>	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved Trainer

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Open-ended Questions are Important! Who, What, When, Where, & Why? - 2 hrs. <i>Learn how to incorporate open-ended questions in the classroom to encourage positive language development.</i>	Estelle Rothwell, BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, December 2, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Impact of Home Language in English Development - 2 hrs. <i>Learn the importance of supporting and understanding the Dual Language Learner(DLL) and the impact of Home Language within ECE programs. It provides an awareness of cultural affairs, customs, homelife, trust, and strengthening for the families and the ECE programs.</i>	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, December 4, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. \$15	Essentials of Disciplining Young Children with Challenging Behavior - 3 hrs. <i>Are the challenges of disciplining getting the best of you? Do you feel like everything you try doesn't work? Together, let's find out ways to improve implementation, parent involvement, and strategies for effective discipline for multiple age groups.</i>	Melvina Crawl, BFTS Approved Trainer
Monday, December 6, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Transitioning-Moving Right Along (Infants & Toddlers) - 2 hrs. <i>Verbal cues are an absolute necessity when encouraging young children to transition from one activity to the next. Practicing and making it fun for the children will support a smooth transition.</i>	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, December 9, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$10	Authority and Suggestions for Managing Classroom Behavior - 2 hrs. <i>Learn the difference between authoritative and suggestive wording. Explore obedience, confidence, fear, and confusion in communication styles.</i>	Lori Sugarman, BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, December 11, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. \$20	Make Every Move Count! - 4 hrs. <i>Learn to develop and implement ORIGINAL activities to enhance children's physical and cognitive growth and development. These activities will focus on children from infancy to 5+.</i>	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$10	Better Brains for Babies: Stress and Trauma - 2 hrs. <i>Learn how chronic stress and trauma can be toxic to the developing brain. Physical well-being, attachment, play, and consistency all have specific roles in empowering children to better cope with stressful situations.</i>	La Keshia Levi, County Extension Agent

Toddler Time at Home



Click the link below for a variety of activities you can share with parents for use at home or use yourself for inspiration in the classroom!

<http://www.decal.ga.gov/InstructionalSupports/ToddlerTimeatHome.aspx>

TRAINING REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Due to COVID-19 health and safety precautions, training will be offered in virtual format until further notice.

1. To locate the training calendar and register for the webinar of your choice, go to www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php, where you can register and submit payment through Eventbrite.
2. Email blasts are sent twice a week as a reminder of upcoming sessions. Please check your email often.
3. Once registration and payment have been received, you will receive an email with an invitation to join the session along with handouts as attachments on the day of the weekday training or the day before for a weekend training.
4. You must attend virtually and participate in all activities, polls, chats, and breakout sessions during the training to receive a certificate.
5. No one is admitted to a training webinar without prior registration and payment if required.
6. Registrations must be received at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled training date.
7. Credit and refunds for cancellations are not allowed. Canceling your registration requires at least a 24-hour notice. When calling to cancel, you may apply your payment toward another scheduled training.
8. If you register for free training and do not attend, your registration for free training in the future may not be accepted.

How to Attend the Webinar Training Session:

1. Register for the training through the www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php website by purchasing a ticket, if required, through Eventbrite for the training of your choice.
2. Once registration and payment have been received, you will receive an email with an invitation to join the session along with handouts as attachments on the day of the weekday training or the day before for a weekend training.
3. When it is time to join the session, you will need to click the link in the email.
4. You may need to download an application to your computer or phone in order to join so please be sure to log in early.
5. Once the application is downloaded, you will be able to join the session.
6. Upon entering the session, please type your name and county you work in the chat box.
7. Please participate in all activities, polls, chats, and breakout sessions throughout the training.
8. Be sure to complete the Survey Monkey after the training to let us know your thoughts so we can better serve your needs.
9. Enjoy and thanks for attending our virtual trainings!

IMPORTANT:

YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL FEES FOR TRAINING ARE RECEIVED.

For training information and questions, contact Training Administrator, Margo Sanders:
229.500.2897/866.833.3552 margo.sanders@asurams.edu

SAVE THE DATE!



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

2ND ANNUAL SUMMIT ON TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

NOVEMBER 13TH OR DECEMBER 4TH

A VIRTUAL EVENT • 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

The summit brings Georgia's early care and learning community together to increase understanding and strengthen capacity related to trauma-responsive care for young children and their families.



LEARN

FROM SUBJECT MATTER
EXPERTS, EXPERIENCED
PRACTITIONERS, AND
EACH OTHER.



EXPLORE

WORKSHOPS IN VARIOUS
TOPICAL TRACKS. CHOOSE
THE SESSIONS THAT
BEST FIT YOUR INTERESTS.



CONNECT

THROUGH INTENTIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES TO
INTERACT WITH OTHER
ATTENDEES AND EXHIBITORS.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT. REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON.

BFTS credit hours and CEUs (social work, LPC, and MFT) available. Stipends available for Directors, Assistant Directors, Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and Family Child Care Providers who meet attendance requirements.

Note: Stipends may be limited to a maximum number of participants.



**CHILD CARE
RESOURCE
& REFERRAL**
OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA AT ALBANY
ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY

Like us on Facebook [@ccrrofswwga](https://www.facebook.com/ccrrofswwga)
then follow us for the latest highlights, fun activities, updates and
scheduled trainings! And visit:
<https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr/index.php>



Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest Georgia at Albany Albany State University

Serving Early Care Professionals Toward Excellence in Quality Child Care

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