



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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(404) 656-5957

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

Dear Child Care Providers and CCR&Rs:

Fall 2019 has arrived, but many of us at DECAL are already focusing on Winter 2020. That's the season of the December 31, 2020 deadline for eligible providers to earn a Quality Rated star rating in order to continue receiving Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) funding. We are committed to helping every program reach this important goal.

As of September 30, 2019, 57% of the providers who need to be Quality Rated have either received a star rating or are ready to be rated. With the deadline just 14 months away, DECAL will devote considerable resources to the remaining 43% of eligible providers. We will utilize our internal resources and external partners to support us in these efforts. Their messages will emphasize the importance of earning a star rating by the deadline, explain what's involved and keep the families receiving CAPS informed about the process and the impact it will have on the quality of available child care.

Our internal DECAL teams are organizing processes, outreach, and assistance for providers and families. Within the Quality Innovations & Partnerships unit (QIP), the Quality Rated team is building capacity to advise providers, to process the high volume of portfolios, and to conduct the onsite assessments necessary to complete all ratings by the 2020 deadline. The Early Education Community Partnership Coordinators (EECP) will serve as key messengers and ambassadors for DECAL, working in six regions around the state to consult with, partner, and recruit providers, and to explain the urgency of the deadline and the value of being Quality Rated to families and community groups. Beyond QIP, DECAL's CAPS, Child Care Services (CCS), and Instructional Support divisions, who have extensive and regular face-to-face contact with eligible providers, will be instrumental in helping them to understand the Quality Rated process and benefits, and in ensuring that all requirements and compliance measures are aligned.

Externally, CCR&Rs will play crucial roles in the run-up to the deadline. As the main boots on the ground, they'll work closely with unrated providers, delivering coaching and technical assistance on setting manageable internal deadlines that will keep them on track for meeting the star rating prerequisites. They will also provide other needed support, such as help with completing portfolios and scheduling onsite evaluations. Additionally, the CCR&Rs will be key liaisons between DECAL and existing Quality Rated providers regarding any changes in processes and schedules for re-ratings that are conducted during the 2020 deadline year. We will also collaborate with the Georgia Family Connection Partnership and the Department of Education to disseminate information and updates about the 2020 deadline, and to amplify messages to providers and families related to Quality Rated.

There's a lot at stake with the 2020 deadline—not just for the providers, but for the many teachers, children, families, DECAL staff, and community partners who're potentially impacted. By approaching it as a common goal and working hand-in-hand in this unified way to help achieve it, we're giving everyone involved the best possible chance for success.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs

A Director's Institute 2019

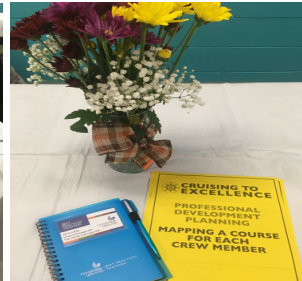
Presented by the Albany South Georgia Early Learning Committee



The “A Director’s Institute 2019,” featuring Kim Sewell, Asst. Project Director for the Best Practices Training Initiative at Georgia State University, was held in Albany on Friday, October 11th. The session entitled, “Providing Effective Feedback to Teachers and Creating Professional Development Plans,” provided directors with skills on mapping a course to properly give feedback to teachers, how to identify keys to successful performance appraisals, creating SMART Goals, and how to develop and identify goals for professional development.

This was the Institute’s 4th year and it was a very informative day with delicious food, door prizes, and peer networking!

“The training provided good tips to use with staff. Very informative and interesting!”



“The course was very informative, organized and easy to follow! Loved it!”

Criminal Records Check

Good Day,

To ensure you are compliant with comprehensive background checks you should do three things: know where to find everything CRC on the DECAL website, keep a copy of the new CRC phone tree, and record all DECAL e-mail addresses in your e-mail address book to avoid the emails going to your spam account, as shown below.

There are several changes coming with CRC's. You will find the updates on the DECAL website. We are going to reduce the CRC process from 3 steps to 2 steps. Instead of the RAP process (Register in Gemalto, Application in Koala, and Printing) the process will become 2 steps AP process (Application in Koala and Print). Decal is working to have an interface between Koala and Gemalto so that the information in your Koala application will be electronically transferred to Gemalto and Gemalto will send back a Registration I.D. This will simplify the process and ensure DECAL has an **application in Koala** for everyone printing.

You may have noticed that when you call the CRC unit, we now have an automated phone system. If you follow the prompts you will reach the person directly that can answer your questions. You can find the phone tree at www.decal.ga.gov, click on the second green box at the right **Criminal Records Check**, scroll to the bottom of the page, look under the documents tab for the phone tree.

DECAL correspondence primarily comes via e-mail. All correspondence is sent from 10 decal e-mails ending with @decal.ga.gov. I have talked to several providers recently whose internet provider has marked DECAL correspondence as spam. You can find the 10 e-mail addresses under the same document tab above to add to your address book.

Glen Clardy

Georgia's Pre-K Program 2019-2020 Teachers of the Year

DECAL and the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning have named the 2019-2020 Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year. The recipients are Heather Williams of the Central Georgia Technical College Child Development Center in Warner Robins/Houston County, and Johnathon Hines of Barack H. Obama Elementary School in DeKalb County.

Each year, DECAL names two teachers, one from a public school system and one from a private child care learning center. The teachers will serve as ambassadors for Georgia's Pre-K Program, making presentations, attending meetings and conferences, and modeling effective classroom practices.

Pre-K lead teachers who have taught as a lead teacher in a Georgia's Pre-K class for a minimum of three years are invited to apply for Teacher of the Year. The application is posted on the DECAL website in February. Applicants must also meet Georgia's Pre-K credential and Professional Development System requirements and plan to continue as a lead teacher for the coming year. They must also be employed by a Georgia's Pre-K Program provider in good standing with all programs administered by DECAL (Pre-K, Child Care Services, Childcare and Parent Services [CAPS] and Nutrition Services).

In May 2019, six finalists for Georgia's Pre-K Program Teacher of the Year were announced, each receiving \$500. This fall, all of them were interviewed and underwent an extensive classroom evaluation. The 2019-2020 Georgia's Pre-K Program Teachers of the Year were each presented with checks for \$7,500 from the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning, which includes \$2,000 for their school, \$2,500 for their classroom, and \$3,000 for themselves. The awards are funded annually by the Naserian Foundation.

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.

Quality Rated Provider Highlights

The Play Zone Ellaville, GA 2-Stars!!

“Being from a one red light town in rural Southwest Georgia, I felt like there was no way our center could handle the changes that would need to be made for Quality Rated. Needless to say, I was dreading and putting off the inevitable. Well, the inevitable arrived in a little red sports car!!! Our first TAC came in and she could sense fear, nervousness, and dread. She came in and we started working! Then we had to change our TAC due to staff changes within our region. We literally came from bare minimum to 2 Stars!!! Being the only licensed facility in Schley County, we have something to BRAG about!!! I am so proud of my co-workers for their hard work and dedication to making this happen!!! The teachers put their hearts into changing their way of doing things and making the center a better place for the children, parents and their co-workers.”

Leah Clark, Owner/Director



Victory Kids' Academy Albany, GA 3-Stars!!!

“Our goal is to present the highest level of care that every child deserves. Victory Kids' Academy's staff members worked diligently and consistently toward a 3-Star Quality Rated program to accomplish this goal. There were obstacles, but by praying and having faith we knew we could overcome them. The team that we put together at VKA have a beautiful bond. Everyone wants only the optimal. We put in our best performance and did exactly what we agreed upon. The Quality Rated process was indeed a challenge, but within a year of opening, receiving 3 stars only proves that when working together nothing is impossible!”

Sharon Simmons, Director



Quality Rated Provider Highlights

Miller County Child Development Center Moultrie, GA 3-Stars!!!



“Miller County Child Development Center was awarded 3-Stars from Georgia’s Quality Rating Improvement System. All the staff worked together to reach their set goal of 3-Stars. They were awarded an individual incentive and an incentive for the school. With the school incentive, the staff decided to celebrate each month by having a luncheon and shirts to represent their accomplishment.

A big thank you to the TAs, Marian Whitlock and Estelle Rothwell, for all of their hard work!”

Miss Georgee’s Play-Kare Inc. Sylvester, Ga 3-STARs!!!

“Miss Georgee’s Play-Kare had held a 2-STAR rating when we geared up to begin the renewal process for Quality Rated. Our staff knew that we had a busy road ahead of us. With a lot of hard work, dedication and determination, we were overwhelmed with excitement to find out we received a 3-STAR rating on September 9, 2019. Thanks to all of our wonderful staff for a job well done. We have always striven to provide the best quality care and love possible to all the children that we serve in our community.”





Congratulations
to the newest **QUALITY RATED** programs!

Pennie Sesberry/Dougherty	★ ★ ★
Melissa Wright/Houston	★ ★
Kimberly Spivey/Houston	★ ★ ★
Latrinka Barnes/Houston	★ ★ ★
Bobbie Sims/Sumter	★ ★ ★
Tri-County Child Development Center EHS/HS/Marion	★ ★
Future Leaders Academy/Muscogee	★ ★
Forrest Road Academy Learning Center, Inc./Muscogee	★ ★
Victory Kids' Academy/Dougherty	★ ★ ★
Tamika McKissick/Houston	★ ★ ★
The Learning Villa/Muscogee	★ ★
The Play Zone/Schley	★ ★
Barrington Academy/Henry	★ ★
Roots and Wings/Tift	★
Cusseta Road Head Start/Muscogee	★

Congratulations
to the **QUALITY RATED** programs who increased
or maintained their Star Ratings!

Yvonne Guest/Dougherty	★ ★
Childcare Network #101/Spalding	★ ★
Special Blessings Learning Center/Houston	★
Childcare Network #208/Henry	★ ★
Miss Georgee's Play-Kare/Worth	★ ★ to a ★ ★ ★
Tender Tech Child Development/Upson	★ ★
Ms. Brandi's/Colquitt	★ ★

Training Calendar for November, December & January

Date	Time	Class	Location	Fee
Tuesday 11/5/2019	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Supervision 101 <i>Learn the importance of supervision in the child care setting and provide supervision techniques to use in ECE environments.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Cindy Fick, BFTS Approved Trainer	North Highland Church 7300 Whittlesey Blvd. Columbus, GA 31909	\$10
Saturday 11/9/2019	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Play S.A.F.E: Playground Safety <i>Learn how to make sure your playgrounds are as safe as possible by covering supervision, age appropriate, falls to surface and equipment management.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Better Safe Than Sorry <i>Learn the importance of supervision in the child care setting and be familiar with rules and regulations, childproofing, fire safety, water safety and choking hazards.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Kim Reignier, BFTS Approved Trainer	Community Ministries Learning Center 1217 East McIntosh Rd. Griffin, GA 30224	\$20
Saturday 11/16/2019	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Plan It, Purge It, Place It: How to Organize Your Child Care Center <i>Learn how to organize your environment to run a smoother classroom.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Dramatic Play is More Than Just Make Believe <i>Learn the importance of dramatic play within the classroom. It's more than just make believe!</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Polly Raike, BFTS Approved Trainer	The Play Zone 139 Dixon Dr. Ellaville, GA 31806	\$20
Saturday 11/16/2019	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Growing Confidence with the GELDS <i>Learn new ways to increase confidence and knowledge in understanding the GELDS.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Lesson Plans with the GELDS and Children's Playful Yoga <i>Learn new hands-on movement poses, games and activities combined with using the GELDS to determine which standards are met to help you become more familiar with GELDS, lesson planning, and very fun active movements and poses that children love to try.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Hypnotherapy Principals of Language and Communication in Early Childhood <i>Learn ways to understand how your words influence the way children learn and take in ideas. Also, examine direct and indirect communication which can help you better understand how to be a more effective communicator with people in your life.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Lori Sugarman, BFTS Approved Trainer	Lifespring CDC 2010 GA Hwy. 133 South Moultrie, GA 31788	\$30
Super Saturday!				
Saturday 11/16/2019	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	CPR/First Aid <i>American Heart Association</i> Judy Gaines, Certified Instructor	Open Door Community House 2405 Second Ave. Columbus, GA 31901	\$50

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be ignited."
Plutarch

Date	Time	Class	Location	Fee
Saturday 11/16/2019	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Mastering Math: Using ECERS-3 in the Preschool Classroom <i>Learn how to organize your math center with appropriate tools/materials, planning engaging teacher-directed math activities, and fostering math learning by asking open-ended questions.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner All About Art <i>Learn how to set up the art center with safe and appropriate tools and materials, fostering self-expression, and building language during the art process.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Lindsay Henderson, BFTS Approved Trainer	The Potter's House 1800 Central Ave. Tifton, GA 31794	\$20
Saturday 12/7/2019	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Teaching Dual Language Learners <i>Learn strategies and resources for teaching and supporting children who are developing two languages simultaneously.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Rock Solid Foundations: Friendship and Play Skills <i>Learn how to build social and emotional competence in young children by teaching children to understand emotions and solve problems.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Activities to Get Ready to Read <i>Learn fun and easy literacy games to play with children that get them on the path to reading and writing.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Kim Reignier, BFTS Approved Trainer	Highly Favored Daycare, LLC 4433 Roundfield Rd. Macon, GA 31210	\$30
Super Saturday!				
Saturday 12/7/2019	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	CPR/First Aid <i>American Heart Association</i> Judy Gaines, Certified Instructor	Special Blessings Learning Center 1821 Macon Rd. Perry, GA 31069	\$50
Saturday 12/14/2019	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Teamwork with a Purpose <i>Learn better communication skills and the importance of working together as a team.</i> 4 State Approved Hrs./Advanced Ethical Behavior in Early Childhood Education <i>Learn how ethical behavior plays a major role in the work place.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer	Albany State University- West/Bld. J, Rm. 128 2400 Gillionville Rd. Albany, GA 31707	\$30
Saturday 1/11/2020	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Creating Activities <i>Learn to be professional in all situations within the child care setting.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Building Bridges <i>Learn the importance of classroom management with tips and guidelines to get through the day on a positive note.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Polly Raike, BFTS Approved Trainer	North Highland Church 7300 Whittlesey Blvd. Columbus, GA 31909	\$20
Saturday 1/11/2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Let's Play House: How to Set Up or Improve Your Dramatic Play <i>Learn how to set up or improve your dramatic play center with the appropriate materials and have a great conversation with the children.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Meribeth Bice, BFTS Approved Trainer	Albany State University- West/Bld. J, Rm. 128 2400 Gillionville Rd. Albany, GA 31707	\$10

Date	Time	Class	Location	Fee
Saturday 1/25/2020	9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Get Busy Talking: Language and Literacy in the Classroom <i>Learn the importance of language in the classroom and how children use and understand language based on material from the ITERS and ECERS.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner	JR Dowdy Resource Center 1129 North 5 th St. Cordele, GA 31015	\$25
Super Saturday!		It's A Small World: Promoting Cultural and Linguistic Competency in Early Childhood Education <i>Learn as a teacher how to assess yourself as a professional and your programs to move forward in Cultural and Linguistic Competency.</i> 3 State Approved Hrs./Intermediate Shandry Johnson & Dianne Fitchlee, BFTS Approved Trainers		
Saturday 1/25/2020	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Make and Take Literacy Activities <i>Learn "make and take" literacy activities that are aligned with the GELDS indicators.</i> 3 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Make and Take Math Activities <i>Learn "make and take" math activities that are aligned with the GELDS indicators.</i> 3 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Angela Robinson, BFTS Approved Trainer	Open Door Community House 2405 Second Ave. Columbus, GA 31901	\$30
Saturday 1/25/2020	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	CPR/First Aid <i>American Heart Association</i> Judy Gaines, Certified Instructor	Auntie Ann's Afterschool Program 101 Jackson St. Whigham, GA 39897	\$50
Saturday 1/25/2020	8:30 a.m. - 3:30p.m.	Growing Confidence with the GELDS <i>Learn new ways to increase confidence and knowledge in understanding the GELDS.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Lesson Plans with the GELDS and Children's Playful Yoga <i>Learn new hands-on movement poses, games and activities combined with using the GELDS to determine which standards are met to help you become more familiar with GELDS, lesson planning, and very fun active movements and poses that children love to try.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Hypnotherapy Principals of Language and Communication in Early Childhood <i>Learn ways to understand how your words influence the way children learn and take in ideas. Also, examine direct and indirect communication which can help you better understand how to be a more effective communicator with people in your life.</i> 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Lori Sugarman, BFTS Approved Trainer	Joyful Noise Childcare and Learning Center 302 East Marion Ave. Nashville, GA 31639	\$30
Super Saturday!				
Saturday 1/25/2020	9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Health & Safety Orientation Training - Session 1 <i>This course is session one of a two-part series which satisfies the Child Care and Development Fund requirements for child care providers in Georgia.</i> 5 State Approved Hrs./Beginner Kim Reignier, BFTS Approved Trainer	Albany State University- West/Bld. J, Rm. 128 2400 Gillionville Rd. Albany, GA 31707	\$25

“A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others.”
Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



Quality Rated eligible providers' goal is to be star rated by **12/31/2020** in order to continue to receive Child Care and Parent Services (CAPS) funding.

It's easy to enroll in Quality Rated! Simply click the link and create your account!

<https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>

Date	Time	Class	Location
Saturday 11/16/2019	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	GELDS Standard 101: How to use the GELDS 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner, ECE-5.1 Erica White, BFTS Approved Trainer	Central GA Technical College- Macon Bld. I, Quad B/D 3300 Macon Tech Dr. Macon, GA 31201
Saturday 11/16/2019	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	GELDS Standard 102: Child Development 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner, ECE-1, 4 Cassie Thompson, BFTS Approved Trainer	Central GA Technical College- Macon Bld. I, Quad B/D 3300 Macon Tech Dr. Macon, GA 31201
Saturday 11/16/2019	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	GELDS Standard 103: Developmentally Appropriate Practice 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner, ECE-2, 3 Kerri Chalon, BFTS Approved Trainer	Central GA Technical College- Macon Bld. I, Quad B/D 3300 Macon Tech Dr. Macon, GA 31201
Saturday 11/16/2019	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	GELDS Standard 104: How to use the GELDS 2 State Approved Hrs./Beginner, ECE-5.1 Rhonda Morway & Alicia Mills, BFTS Approved Trainers	North Highland Church 7300 Whittlesey Blvd. Columbus, GA 31909

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

To create your account, go to: <https://gapds.decal.ga.gov/>



Finding Trainings in the GaPDS

1. Click on **Find Training** in the top navigation bar.
2. Search by Training Name, Keyword, or other criteria, then click on **Search Training**.
3. Click on the training you are interested in.
4. Choose the session you would like to attend and click on **Register**.
5. Read the cancellation and certification statements, then check the box next to the statement, *Read the following and check the box indicating that you have read and agree to abide by the statements below.*
6. Select **Submit Enrollment**.

You are now registered!

You will receive an email to your email address on file and you will be able to view it under **Scheduled Trainings** in your PDS Profile.

This is also where you register for all Quality Rated trainings.

Please visit the GaPDS website: www.gapds.decal.ga.gov to learn more and to explore the changes!



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

TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Register online or mail this registration form with the appropriate fees to:

Child Care Resource & Referral
2429 Gillionville Road
Albany, GA 31791

www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php

..... IMPORTANT: YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL FEES FOR TRAINING ARE RECEIVED

TYPE OF FACILITY & NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ COUNTY _____

CLASS DATE _____ CLASS FEE _____

CLASS TITLE _____

TOTAL # OF PARTICIPANTS _____ TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

TRAINING REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- For training information and questions, contact the training coordinator: 229.500.2897/866.833.3552 or margo.sanders@asurams.edu.
- Registrations require payment to the CCR&R in advance and cannot be accepted by phone. You can register online by going to <https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr/> where you can submit payment through Eventbrite. Payment is not accepted at the door the day of the training.
- No one is admitted to a class without prior registration.
- Registrations should be received a week prior to the scheduled training date.
- Credit and refunds for cancellations are not allowed. Cancelling your registration requires at least a 24-hour notice. When calling to cancel, you may apply your payment toward another class at that time.
- Returned checks will be assessed a \$35 fee and must be resolved before registering for future classes.
- If you register for a free class and do not attend, your registration for free trainings in the future will not be accepted.
- Be on time, and please do not bring children to training. *Thanks for your cooperation!*

For Office Use Only: Method of Payment: Cash/Check/MO # _____ E-mail Confirmation _____



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

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www.asurams.edu/ccrr

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Like us on Facebook [@ccmofswga](https://www.facebook.com/ccmofswga) for the
latest updates on events and highlights from
our agency.

Don't miss out!



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