



*Child Care
Resource and
Referral of
Georgia*



FALL 2011

Early Care and Education BULLETIN!



*From the Desk of Commissioner
Bobby Cagle, MSW*

Nathan Deal
Governor

10 Park Place South SE, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 656-5957

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

Dear Early Care and Education Professional,

Bright from the Start is all abuzz as we prepare to apply for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant. Governor Deal has designated our agency to lead this ground-breaking effort. We are excited about the potential for major improvements in our early childhood education system made possible by the Early Learning Challenge Grant. The goals and objectives of this grant closely mirror the strategic direction already being pursued by our Department. I will keep you updated on this important project.

Last month I participated in the National Business Leader Summit. The Pew Center on the States hosted the event in Boston to create and sustain momentum for increased partnerships between business and early childhood communities. While you may not think of businesses and early childhood education in the same thought, this type of coalition can be a great partnership. It is important that everyone understands the critical role of investing in early childhood education. I was honored to represent our state as part of 200+ business executives, policy makers, and civic leaders from across the country.

Georgia is on the leading edge when it comes to providing quality care and education for our precious assets. To stay on this course, we must continue working together to ensure strong foundations and future success for the children we serve.

I appreciate your going above and beyond for Georgia's children and their families.

Best regards,

Bobby D. Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

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National Accreditation Spotlight

Ambra Metzger is the owner/director of Ambra's Preschool in Springfield, Georgia. Mrs. Metzger has been providing family child care to the Effingham community for many years. Mrs. Metzger just recently received accreditation from the National Association of Family Child Care in August. While working on accreditation, Mrs. Metzger also worked on obtaining her Associates Degree from Ogeechee Technical College. Early Start CCR&R provided Technical Assistance to Mrs. Metzger during the accreditation process. Congratulations on a job well done.



Cheryl Stephens is the owner/director of Precious Gifts in Statesboro, Georgia. Mrs. Stephens has been providing family child care to the Bulloch County community for over 15 years. She recently achieved national accreditation status through the National Association of Family Child Care. During the accreditation process, Mrs. Stephens received a TCC through Southeastern Technical College. Early Start CCR&R provided Technical Assistance to Mrs. Stephens throughout the accreditation process. We congratulate Ms. Stephens for these great accomplishments.

Congratulations to Bright Star Daycare in Midway for being awarded NAFCC Accreditation in July 2011. The staff at Bright Star are committed to offering high quality care. In addition to achieving national accreditation, in June 2011 each of the staff received their CDA credential. Deborah Eisner is the owner/director of the Group Home facility of 2 classrooms. Ms. Eisner is supported by her daughter, Jessica Eisner, in the preschool age classroom and Kate Michalowicz in the infant/toddler classroom. Jessica and Debbie Eisner each received the FIRST Incentive for completing the CDA and have benefitted from the Bright from the Start Scholarships and Incentives program.



Johnson County Head Start is a three-classroom program in Wrightsville, GA. They were the first of their district to go through NAEYC accreditation under the new standards. After much time and effort, they completed all of the criteria to submit for accreditation. With great pride, they achieved the high standard of NAEYC accreditation in July of this year. We are so excited to announce this program's accomplishment as our newest NAEYC accredited program in the north area of our region!

Pictured left to right: Carolyn Waters (site supervisor), Effie Bellamy (Cook), Patricia Hudson (Lead Teacher), Vicki Oliver (Lead Teacher), Laurettes Walker (Assistant Teacher) Angela Lewis (Lead Teacher), Bernice Johnson (Assistant Teacher) Not pictured: Felicia Grady (Assistant Teacher)



National Accreditation Spotlight

In July 2011, the Coastal Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc. was notified that the Glynn County Head Start achieved National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation! Glynn County Head Start, located in Brunswick, has 18 classrooms.

By partnering with families, creating various learning opportunities, this Head Start program excels in developing the "whole child." Families experience conferences in their homes, and have the opportunity to attend consistently held parent meetings. Fathers can be a part of The Fatherhood Initiative which focuses on making them a very active part in child learning experiences.

Glynn County Head Start demonstrates strength in teacher-child and child-child interactions; teachers strive to make every interaction an opportunity to learn.

Staff also work diligently to create a variety of learning opportunities in all areas of the indoor and outdoor classroom. A combination of these things along with well-trained staff and many other variables aid in developing the "whole child" and creating a high quality program.

Early Start CCR&R and Region 5 congratulates Glynn County Head Start on providing high quality child care and achieving NAEYC Accreditation!



Family Child Care Leadership Summit

During my years at Bright from the Start, I have been impressed that our field incorporates research and data into everyday decision making and long range planning. Recently, I was provided the opportunity to speak, with my colleague Dr. Laura Johns, at a Family Child Care Leadership Summit hosted by Quality Care for Children. I was to discuss the recently published *Quality Study of Family Child Care* whose findings indicate that overall quality in child care in Georgia is low and that systemic improvements need to be made. I was nervous about the presentation and worried that many providers would take the research personally and see it as incorrect or as a personal affront to their profession.

Neither outcome took place. During the sessions, the discussion focused on how we, as a field, must work together to improve quality for Georgia's children. Many times, research is used to support a political agenda or as something to be read and placed on a shelf. It was refreshing to hear a discussion about research being used as a springboard for continual improvement. I thank the participants for a beneficial session with great ideas.

If you have not visited our website lately, please do so. There you will find a new study about Georgia's early learning and Pre-K standards. Under the research page is information about and an evaluation of the Summer Transition Program that we have offered the last two years. I am a big proponent of summer programs, and the results support my enthusiasm.

We at Bright from the Start strive diligently to be good stewards of the public resources with which we operate. For this reason, we will continue to use research and data to inform our decisions. The next few months will be exciting as we prepare for the Early Learning Challenge Grant. I'll keep you posted on the research end and you let me know if you have any questions.

Bentley Ponder

Director of Research and Evaluation

Early Start Child Care Resource & Referral
of Southeast Georgia at Savannah
190 Crossroads Parkway
Savannah, Georgia 31407
912.443.3011

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Training Dates: September - December 2011

DATE	LOCATION	TRAINING HOURS	CEUs	Contact Person	Phone Number
9/24/11	Rincon	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
10/8/11	Swainsboro	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383
10/22/11	ECI- Savannah	Six	.6	Lisa Jordan	912.652.7981
11/5/11	Brooklet	Six	.6	Lauren Dumas	912.443.3383

All dates and locations are tentative until final approval has been received from the Georgia Training Approval System office and the host site. If you register for a conference and a change is made, you will be notified with the new information. *For up-to-date training opportunities, visit our website at <http://ccrofsoutheastga.org>*

Training Description:

All training workshops offered by Early Start Child Care Resource and Referral have been approved by the Georgia Training Approval System and are accepted as part of the annual training requirements for child care professionals in Georgia. Workshops are research-based; competency oriented; and meet the standards of the Georgia Early Learning Standards. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on, interactive workshops specific to the age group they work with. A variety of topics is included in each training event. These topics include, but are not limited to: health and safety, child development, positive guidance, administration, and building partnerships with families.

For information about starting a child care program

Family Child Care and ROMs:

<http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/FamilyDayCare.aspx>

Child Care Center/Group Day Care Homes and LOMs:

<http://decal.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/ChildCareCenterGroupDayCare.aspx>

For approved training:

<https://www.training.decal.ga.gov>

<http://ccrofsoutheastga.org/caregivers.asp>

Registration payments may be made by check,
money order, or credit card.

Gloria Bennett

912.443.3381

gbennett@savannahtech.edu

Lauren Dumas

912.443.3383

ldumas@savannahtech.edu

18th Annual

Early Childhood Institute

“Giggle, Wiggle, Clap & Learn”

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Savannah Technical College

5717 White Bluff Road

Savannah, GA 31407

Earn 6 hours of state approved training!!

For more information contact:

Lisa Jordan– 912.652.7981 or

Gloria Bennett– 912.443.3381

Do you still need your CDA Credential or other training? Early Start CCR&R can help!

If you can guarantee a group of 20+ more participants, we can offer a CDA program for your center or for 10+ participants, we can offer the training of your choice!

You can also combine with other centers in your area to meet the participant minimum!

Online Advanced Training

Developmentally Appropriate Practices

October 15 - November 26, 2011

Instructor: Melissa Lovett

Cost: \$30

Bright from the Start approved!

6 hours/.6 ceu's

Must have a minimum of a CDA or higher.

To register contact Lauren Dumas at ldumas@savannahtech.edu or 912.443.3383

Education Spotlight



Cecelia Adamson is the owner/director of Little Hands Preschool in Dudley, Georgia. She has been providing family child care in Laurens County since 2004. Adamson received her CDA on May 1st, 2011. She also recently received a check in the amount of \$1,200.00 from the FIRST Incentive program. We congratulate Cecilia on a job well done!

Congratulations to Michelle Mullins (left) and Ashley Stanley (right) on their recent graduation! Both graduated from Augusta Technical College with a Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Michelle is the Director of the Sunshine House #36 in Augusta GA, while Ashley is a teacher in the three-year-old classroom. Michelle saw the need for her staff to meet the upcoming regulations regarding education, starting December 2012 (shown below). Therefore, she decided to show excellent leadership and team effort by joining her staff in pursuing the classes together.

We wish them much future success!



Upcoming Education Rules and Regulations

Starting December 1, 2012:

Directors at Child Care Learning Centers will be required to have ONE of the following:

- Child Development Credential (CDA) & six months experience
- Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) in Early Childhood, or Infant/Toddler, or Program Administration, or School Age Care & six months experience
- Technical College Diploma (TCD) in Early Childhood & six months experience
- 40 hour Director Training and 5 years experience
- Associate's Degree & six months experience
- Paraprofessional Certificate & six months experience
- 25 quarter or 15 semester credit hours in Early Childhood & six months experience
- Bachelor's degree in a field *other* than Early Childhood & 3 months experience
- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood
- Master's degree in Early Childhood

Teachers/Lead Caregivers must meet the following minimum education requirements:

- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) in Early Childhood, or Infant/Toddler, or Program Administration, or School Age Care
- Technical College Diploma (TCD) in Early Childhood
- Associate's Degree in Early Childhood
- Paraprofessional Certificate
- 25 quarter or 15 semester credit hours in Early Childhood
- Bachelor's degree in a field *other* than Early Childhood & 3 months experience
- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood
- Master's degree in Early Childhood

For Group Homes:

- Attend an orientation course
- Attend 40 Hour director's training course *and*
- Meet the same requirements as listed under the director requirements

**For more information visit:
www.decal.ga.gov**

Environment Rating Scales

ERS Personal Care Routines

Our last issue of the newsletter introduced the ERS (Environment Rating Scales) and gave an overview of their set up, their purpose, and the valuable information they contain. In this article, we will focus on the second subscale of the ERS; **Personal Care Routines**. The Personal Care Routines subscale contains six items in each of the rating scales (ITERS-R, ECERS-R, and FCCERS-R) including *Greeting/departing*, *Nap/rest*, *Meals/snacks*, *Diapering/toileting*, *Health practices*, and *Safety practices*

Personal Care Routines have great importance in the lives of the children because of the potential spread of diseases during these activities. This is especially true in the case of infants and toddlers, who still have undeveloped immune systems, and the increased rate of the potential spread of diseases under infant and toddler conditions. The potential to avoid accidents is also addressed in this subscale. Barriers to high scores in the Personal Care Routines subscale include little accountability or oversight due to underfunding, lack of training and follow up, structural features of early childhood programs (including ratios and group sizes), lack of support for teachers, and poor physical facilities (including lack of access to sinks and toilets).

To begin on the path toward improvement in this subscale, programs can learn from the ERS resources and obtain help and guidance from consultants. Programs need to invest time in training specific procedures of personal care routines, and continually follow up to ensure these procedures are occurring. Support from the front-line teachers is imperative! Finally, committing to improving structural features and renovating facilities will lead to higher scores in this subscale.

Below we have included program goals for each item in the Personal Care Routine subscale.



Greeting/departing

- Children are welcomed into the classroom/program
- Departure is organized
- Information should be shared with parents during these times

Nap/rest

- Provisions should be sanitary and individualized
- Schedule should be flexible to meet needs of individual children
- Provisions should be made for non-nappers/early risers

Meals/snacks

- Sanitary procedures are followed
- Pleasant atmosphere/conversation valued
- Children involved

Diapering/toileting

- Sanitary conditions are always maintained
- Equipment is child-sized and self-help skills promoted
- Provisions are convenient and accessible

Health practices

- Children encouraged to manage health practices independently
- Tooth brushing is implemented daily
- Health information available to parents/health consultant used by program

Safety practices

- Safety rules are followed, with help as needed
- Reasons for safety rules are explained to children
- Safety hazards/problems are anticipated and avoided

For more information on the scales, resources, or for further information, visit the Environment Rating Scales website: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu>



We're on Facebook!

"Like" us on Facebook to be the first to hear about our programs, training events & dates, and special announcements!

We will be giving away a free training conference worth \$30 when we have 250 people "like" our page.

www.facebook.com/EarlyStartCCRR



Congratulations!!!

Katrina Chance, Early Start CCR&R Assistant Director, has been selected for NACCRR's Leadership Development Program.

Activity Simplification: Modifying for Developmentally Delayed Learners

Simplifying a complicated task by breaking it into smaller parts or by reducing the number of steps can help children that display difficulty and frustration.

- ◆ If when playing with manipulative toys (e.g., puzzles, beads), a child is easily distracted by the pieces and often drops, bangs, or scatters the pieces rather than trying to put the pieces in or on something, **hand the pieces to the child one by one. Gradually increase the number of pieces the child has at one time.**
 - ◆ If a child has difficulty with craft projects that have multiple steps, **prepare the craft activity with individual children in mind. Some children may do the entire project. Others may receive projects that have been started, and they do some of the steps.**
- * Remember to provide a completed project as a visual support at the beginning of the activity, as well as a picture chart to show different steps along the way of the activity.

For more supporting resources for children with special needs in your program, contact your Inclusion Coordinator at the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.

Activity Simplification: Modifying for Developmentally Delayed Learners

Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs, 2nd Ed, Susan R. Sandall & Ilene S. Schwarty. (2008).

Changes to the Georgia Booster Seat Law

Effective July 1, 2011

Children **under age 8** must be properly secured in an approved car seat or booster seat while riding in:

- Passenger automobiles, Vans, and Pickup trucks
- The car seat and/or booster seat must:
- Be in the rear seat (some exceptions apply)
 - Be appropriate for the child's weight & height
 - Meet all federal standards
 - Be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions

Exemptions:

- Children under age 8 whose height is over 4'9" or 57"
- Parent or Guardian has a written statement from a

Physician that the child has a physical or medical condition that prevents placing or restraining them as required by law

Exceptions:

A child under age 8 and weighing at least 40 pounds **is not** exempt from the law. They may use a lap belt only instead of a car seat or booster seat when:

- The vehicle is not equipped with lap & shoulder belts; **or**
- Excluding the driver's seat, all seating positions with lap & shoulder belts are being used to restrain other children. In this case, the placement of car seats / boosters seats should be evaluated to determine if they can be repositioned to provide the best protection for all children being transported.

Fine:

1st conviction – not more than \$50

2nd & subsequent convictions – not more than \$100

Points assessed against violator's driver's license:

1st conviction – 1 point, 2nd & subsequent convictions – 2 points

For more information visit:

<http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/childpassengersafety/>

Car Seat Recommendations for Children Birth – 12 months

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

1–3 years

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

4–7 years

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

8–12 years

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

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