



Child Care Resource and Referral of Georgia



Early Care and Education BULLETIN!

Nathan Deal
Governor

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 754 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

Dear Early Care and Education Professional,

Even though Georgia was not awarded the federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant, Governor Nathan Deal and the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) remain committed to enhancing Georgia’s early learning and development system.

The theme of Georgia’s grant application was transforming a *good* early learning and development system to one that is *great* by building on the state’s substantial investments and solid foundation. The Governor’s Office, department commissioners, education agency heads, and private businesses will continue to work towards transforming Georgia’s systems and services from *good* to *great*.

While the state does not have resources to initiate all the projects put forth in the grant application, below are a few of the projects on which we will move forward:

Project 2: Consolidate Georgia’s Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) programs in DECAL. Governor Deal has directed the Georgia Department of Human Services, which currently administers the subsidized child care program, to plan for a transition of the program to DECAL.

Project 4: Fully implement a TQRIS with activities specifically designed to increase program quality, child outcomes, and access for children with high needs. Even without the Early Learning Challenge funding, Quality Rated, Georgia’s tiered quality rating and improvement system, has officially started enrolling programs.

Project 5: Complete revision of the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and implement a roll-out plan including professional development, curriculum alignment, marketing, and resource development. This project will begin the dissemination of the GELDS to child care providers and parents. The GELDS will be a comprehensive set of standards for children birth to age five aligned with the Georgia Common Core Performance Standards (K-12) and the revised Head Start Child Outcomes Framework.

Project 11: Build and enhance Georgia’s early learning data systems to improve instruction, practices, services, and policies. In partnership with the Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care and the current Race to the Top, DECAL has begun expanding current data systems to link additional data to the state’s Pre-K program and the Georgia Department of Education’s statewide longitudinal data system.

DECAL appreciates the work that you and the child care resource and referral agencies are accomplishing to help move the state’s early care and education system from *good* to *great*. We continue to value your partnership and your commitment to serve children and families in your communities.

Sincerely,
Bobby D. Cagle
Commissioner

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National Accreditation Spotlight

Congratulations goes to Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Afterschool Program for achieving national accreditation at three after-school program sites. The programs began the accreditation journey with the Technical Assistance Project through Early Start CCR&R in July 2010 and went on to receive their accreditation through the Council on Accreditation in January 2012. The program sites include Sallie Zetterower Elementary School, Julia P. Bryant Elementary School, and Brooklet Elementary School. We commend Mrs. Joy Deal and her Afterschool Staff for their dedication in achieving this multi-site accreditation through COA.



Congratulations to Rashida's Day Care Center for achieving national accreditation through the National Association for Family Child Care. Rashida Taylor is the owner and director of this group child care home located in Candler County. Mrs. Taylor began receiving Technical Assistance services through Early Start CCR&R in August 2009. She stated that becoming an accredited center has been a professional goal for her for many years. We appreciate Mrs. Taylor's commitment to providing quality care and commend her on this great accomplishment.

Congratulations to Mrs. Lucille Bryant of Savannah on receiving National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation! Lucille has been a family child care provider since 2006. She has worked diligently and tirelessly with support from the CCR&R since 2008, starting with the Quality Improvement Project and moving forward to the accreditation process in 2009. She earned NAFCC accreditation on January 19, 2012. She continues to work towards high quality standard of care and education for the children and families she serves. She is currently enrolled at Savannah Technical College and plans to graduate at the end of the semester with a Diploma in Early Childhood Education. Congratulations, Lucille, on all of your accomplishments!



A.J. Ward Montessori Preschool in Savannah is celebrating their achievement of obtaining national accreditation through the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA). A. J. Ward Montessori Preschool is the first Montessori Preschool in the area to achieve this national recognition. Led by Marjorie Maronie, the faculty at A. J. Ward worked together to demonstrate teamwork and met NECPA's quality standards while keeping the Montessori program philosophy at the heart of their program. We congratulate A.J. Ward on achieving national accreditation.

National Accreditation Spotlight



Smiles, Giggles, and Hugs Child Development Center is recognized for achieving national accreditation through the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation. SGH Child Development Center began receiving Technical Assistance from Early Start CCR&R in August 2009. During the past 2 ½ years, SGH has dedicated themselves to improve the quality of the center. We congratulate Mrs. Andrea Hendley, Director/Owner, and her staff on this great accomplishment of achieving national accreditation and providing quality care for Georgia's children.

Using Classroom Activities and Routines as Opportunities to Support Peer Interaction

Plan or Design Activities that Support Peer Interaction.

Examine daily routines and activities to identify jobs or tasks that adults are doing that children could do, such as assisting with snack, gathering book bags with a peer, and distributing art materials. If needed, add steps to activities that would support peer interactions (e.g., pairing students to “dance with a partner” during a music activity, playing follow the leader through an obstacle course, inviting a friend to play during center time).

Support Peer Interactions During Naturally Occurring Routines.

Arrivals – Ask a child to greet friends and ask them a question.

Transition Time – Ask a child to invite another child to go to an activity.

Circle and Story Times – Ask a child to pass out and collect materials.

Snack Time – Ask a child to pass out plates, cups, napkins, and snacks/juice.

Provide Cues and Assistance to Support Positive Peer Interactions as Needed.

Some children will require more assistance than others. Adults should be present and ready to provide assistance as needed (e.g., help a child invite a peer to do an activity with him/her; prompt a child who is collecting props to “Tell Tricia to ‘Put it in.’”). Provide only enough assistance for the child to be successful; make sure you do not complete the task for them.

This material was developed by the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learning with federal funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. *What Works Briefs*. www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel. February 2011.

CCR&R of Southeast Georgia Inclusion Coordinators:

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Environment Rating Scales

Errrr.....What are the ERS?

Have you seen this acronym? The ERS (Environment Rating Scales) are fast becoming well-known in the early childhood field in Georgia ... and for good reason. They are tools used to determine quality levels of care and are valuable resources in improving quality in our programs. They were used in the past by Bright from the Start in the Standards of Care program to determine Centers/Homes of Distinction/Recognition and are currently being used by BFTS for Quality Rated and by CCR&R agencies to aid in technical assistance for quality improvement projects. If your program is currently using these tools, consider yourself well-equipped to tackle program improvement. Help us spread the word! If you are unfamiliar with the ERS, check them out, and ask your program manager to purchase the tools and resources for your program.

Four Environment Rating Scales are used in Georgia. We will take an in-depth look at three of these scales in the next few newsletters. Each of these three has been revised in the last six years. They are written for different environments and age groups.

ITERS-R: Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale Revised Edition

-Used for ages birth through 2 ½ years in center-based child care settings

ECERS-R: Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale Revised Edition

-Used for ages 2 ½ through 5 years in center-based child care settings

FCCERS-R: Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale Revised Edition

-Used for ages Birth through elementary school in family child care programs



The scales contain items that are grouped into subscales. Each of the items is expressed as a 7-point scale. The scale shows indicators of 1 (inadequate), 3 (minimal), 5 (good), and 7 (excellent).

Five of the same subscales are found in each of the scales, including *Space and Furnishings*, *Personal Care Routines*, *Activities*, *Interaction*, and *Program Structure*.*

*In addition, the ITERS-R contains the subscales *Listening and Talking* and *Parents and Staff*

*In addition the ECERS-R contains the subscales *Language-Reasoning* and *Parents and Staff*

*In addition, the FCCERS-R contains the subscales *Listening and Talking* and *Parents and Provider*

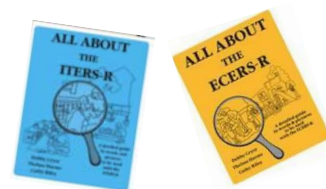
**The SACERS (School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale) is the fourth scale available. Information on this scale can be found on the website mentioned below.

Two other resources complement the scales. [All About the ITERS-R](#) and [All About the ECERS-R](#) are user-friendly resources that walk through each of the subscales in detail and include pictures from real program settings. They are two of the most valuable resources many technical assistance coordinators suggest for all programs to become familiar with and use at the center of their program improvement goals.

Future CCR&R newsletters will highlight information from specific subscales of the ERS and relay valuable tips for implementing improvements based on their standards.

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

See Quality Rated upcoming trainings on page 5.





What is Quality Rated?

Quality Rated is a tiered quality rating and improvement system used to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for other service-related industries like hotels and restaurants, Quality Rated assigns a quality rating to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Licensed or registered for a minimum of 12 months.
2. Compliant with state licensing rules and regulations.
3. Compliant with Georgia's Pre-K Program (if applicable).
4. Compliant with the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) (if applicable).
5. Registration of all staff members in the Georgia Professional Development Registry.

For questions about Quality Rated or to register for an orientation:

Quality Rated Help Desk
1.855.800.7747
qualityrated@dec.al.ga.gov

OR

Early Start CCR&R – Gerri White
912.443.5080
gwhite@savannahtech.edu



March 22, 2012 Introduction to ERS	Wallace Branch Library 1237 Laney-Walker Blvd. Augusta, GA 30901 706.722.6275	Training: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Registration: 6 p.m.
March 23, 2012 Introduction to ERS	Wallace Branch Library 1237 Laney-Walker Blvd. Augusta, GA 30901 706.722.6275	Training: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Registration: 11:30 a.m.
March 29, 2012 QR Orientation	Waycross YMCA 1634 Plant Avenue	Training: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Registration: 6 p.m.
March 31, 2012 QR Orientation	Savannah Technical College Liberty Campus 100 Technical Drive	Training: 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration: 9:30 a.m.
April 21, 2012 Introduction to ERS	Citizens Bank of Bulloch 425 Commerce Drive Statesboro, GA 30458 912.871.2971	Training: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration: 9:20 a.m.
April 26, 2012 QR Orientation	Savannah Technical College Crossroads Campus 190 Crossroads Parkway Savannah, GA 31407 912.443.3011	Training: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Registration: 6 p.m.
May 15, 2012 Introduction to ERS	Savannah Technical College Crossroads Campus 190 Crossroads Parkway Savannah, GA 31407 912.443.3011	Training: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Registration: 6 p.m.

For more information on QR Training classes, contact:
BFTS website www.cnp2000.dec.al.ga.gov/qualityratedtraining/Splash.asp
or
Gerri White
912.443.5080
gwhite@savannahtech.edu

Upcoming Training Opportunities Region 5

March 24, 2012 Savannah Super Saturday	Savannah Technical College Crossroads Campus 190 Crossroads Pkwy Savannah, GA	Lauren Dumas – 912.443.3383 Check-In: 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Conference: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
March 31, 2012 Hinesville Super Saturday	Savannah Technical College Hinesville Campus 100 Technology Drive Hinesville, GA	Lauren Dumas – 912.443.3383 Check-In: 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Conference: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 14, 2012 Brooklet Super Saturday	Brooklet United Methodist Church 207 Parker Ave Brooklet, GA	Lauren Dumas – 912.443.3383 Check-In: 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Conference: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 21, 2012 Brunswick Super Saturday	Brunswick HeadStart 1 Community Action Drive Brunswick, GA	Lauren Dumas – 912.443.3383 Check-In: 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Conference: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 28, 2012 Swainsboro Super Saturday	Southeastern Technical College 346 Kite Rd Swainsboro, GA	Lauren Dumas – 912.443.3383 Check-In: 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Conference: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 12, 2012 Early Childhood Institute – ECI	Savannah Technical College Main Campus 5717 White Bluff Rd Savannah, GA	Lisa Jordan – 912.652.7981 Check-In: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference: 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FREE Infant/Toddler Conferences- Contact Bright from the Start for more information at 770.359.5224

April 28, 2012 Series 2 - Intentional Teaching Practices for Infants and Toddlers	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401	Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 14, 2012 Series 3 -Language and Literacy for our Youngest Learners	Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites Two Tenth Street Augusta, GA 30901	Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 19, 2012 Series 3 - Language and Literacy for our Youngest Learners	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401	Registration: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Conference: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
April 27, 2012 Director Conference – Leadership that Supports High Quality Infant and Toddler Care	Coastal Georgia Center 105 Fahm Street Savannah, GA 31401	Registration: 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Conference: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit the Caregivers page on our website for more Infant/Toddler Conference dates and locations:

www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org/caregivers.asp

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

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

For information about starting a child care program, visit the websites below:

For Family Day Care Homes and Registration Orientation Meetings (ROMs):
<http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/FamilyDayCare.aspx>

For Child Care Centers/Group Day Care Homes and Licensing Orientation Meetings (LOMs):
<http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/ChildCareCenterGroupDayCare.aspx>

Save The Date

The Professional Family Child Care Alliance of Georgia First Annual Conference

“Great Expectations for Family Child Care”

Saturday, May 19, 2012

9:30 a.m.– 5:30 p.m.

Eston Altman Scout Center

401 Highway 18 East - Gray , Georgia

For more information or to join the Alliance, visit: www.pfccafgeorgia.org

Letter From Dr. Bentley Ponder

Ponder This...

I am excited about upcoming DECAL research projects conducted in conjunction with the Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (GSAC). GSAC, whose purpose is to develop a plan for a comprehensive system of early childhood education and care to serve Georgia’s children and families in a more coordinated, efficient manner, is composed of representatives from state agencies, public, and private partners that serve children birth to age five. GSAC funding has been allotted to projects that will advance the state’s early care and learning agenda. DECAL is the lead/fiscal agency for GSAC.

One of the projects GSAC is funding is a compliance review research study. The study, led by nationally renowned licensing expert Dr. Richard Fiene, will review the process that determines if an early learning program is compliant or non-compliant with licensing rules and regulations. DECAL’s licensing division has worked for years on identifying the best ways to analyze licensing data to determine a program’s compliance status. Creating a simple formula that takes into account the type of child care rule cited, the severity of the citation, and the number of visits a program receives is not easy. GSAC and DECAL have asked Dr. Fiene to carefully scrutinize the process and formula to determine if they are valid, reliable, and fair and to make recommendations for modifying the process and formula if necessary.

Determining a program’s compliance status is vitally important to measuring the health and safety of the state’s early learning programs. We look forward to the study’s findings and recommendations and will update you on the study as appropriate.

This is just one research project being funded by GSAC. Throughout the next year I will introduce you to our other research projects. Please contact me at Bentley.ponder@dec.al.ga.gov if you have any questions.

Dr. Bentley Ponder

Director of Research and Evaluation, Bright from the Start

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