

Fall 2023 Newsletter

FUN Themes

OUR STAFF SHARED SOME OF THEIR
FAVORITE THEMES FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR!

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pumpkins and Squash | Forest Animals |
| Winter Wear and Care | Friendship |
| Community Helpers | Hibernating Animals |
| Winter Wonderland | Winter Animals |
| Family | Camping |
| Food Brings Us Together | Christmas Around the World |
| Snow | Leaves |
| Red | Family Traditions |
| Fall | I Am Thankful For |
| Harvest | Hanukkah |
| Native Americans | Kwanza |
| Ginger Bread | Polar Express |
| Music | Colors |

Remember to enhance your theme using...

- Tier Vocabulary Words
- Songs
- Displays
- Books
- Learning Activity Centers





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Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

October 2023

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

I am very excited to tell you about the new Thriving Child Care Business Academy for child care business owners and administrators. The Academy offers free basic and in-depth training—all online—to help you strengthen your business.

We at DECAL understand that federal COVID-19 relief funding has been crucial to the survival of the child care business in Georgia. We are introducing the Academy as a means to help you sustain your business as the federal funding winds down.

All of the Academy's courses and resources are offered free of charge to all Georgia child care business owners and administrators. All of the courses have been tailored for the child care business. Topics include:

- Planning and Budgeting • Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Financial Accounting and Tax Preparation • Enrollment Management
- Organizational Leadership • Marketing

We have chosen partners with deep expertise in business subjects, small business operations, and child care. You may want to start with the large group one-and two-hour basic trainings offered by Civitas Strategies, a national management consultancy, and the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center at Valdosta State University (UGA SBDC). You may also enroll in training modules on strengthening child care business practices developed by the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (NCECQA). These are four three-hour modules that will be delivered by DECAL-approved trainers and the CCR&Rs. You will receive state-approved training hours for trainings you complete.

If you want a deeper understanding of a particular business topic, you can join a small study group led by Civitas trainers with up to nine other providers. Study groups will meet online for a series of four one-hour sessions over eight weeks. Participants who complete a study group will receive state-approved training hours and be eligible for a \$300 stipend.

Civitas coaches will also be available to provide one-on-one technical assistance, and the Academy will include a large resource library of print and video self-study guides on more than 50 business topics in English and Spanish.

It is my hope that the skills you gain from the Thriving Child Care Business Academy will allow you to sustain your business so that you can continue in the mission of getting Georgia's youngest learners ready to succeed in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bentley Ponder'.

Bentley Ponder

Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations & Partnerships



professional development opportunities

FREE OPTIONS:

DECAL's OLLI Trainings

COX Campus Trainings

CCR&R Training Sessions

new team member alert



Rachel Benjamin joined our team in August to serve our region in the coastal counties. She has a background in the school system and Head Start. Rachel has been a great addition to our team and we look forward to her continued contributions to our agency and community!

changes to how we provide our services

Going forward, our team will be providing onsite and virtual coaching specifically focused on the classroom environment(s). Portfolio coaching and feedback will be limited and you will be expected to use our thorough how-to videos that your coach will provide to assist you with your portfolio tasks. Below is an example calendar of how to stay on track with your portfolio for programs in 2024 Cohort 2. Each program will receive this information based on the cohort you selected.

October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Check that all current staff are listed in Standard 1 Staff Qualifications
- Complete Standard 1 Classroom Information and National Accreditations
- Share Strengthening Families training information and expected due date with staff
- Check CPR/First Aid dates in Standard 2 and schedule class if needed
- Share training opportunities and expectations with staff that will support classroom practices

November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Complete Standard 2 Assessment
- Complete Standard 2 Nutrition and Physical Activity Results
- Complete Standard 2 Written Health Information/Family Resources
- Complete Standard 3 Family Engagement Self Assessment

December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- Complete Standard 3 Family Engagement Improvement Plans
- Complete Standard 3 Family Engagement Written Evidence
- Complete Standard 4 Lesson Plans
- Complete Standard 4 Curriculum Questionnaire

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- Complete Standard 4 Description of Assessment Tools
- Complete Standard 1 Professional Learning Plan
- Ensure all training certificates are uploaded into GaPDS, including Strengthening Families, and GaPDS profiles are submitted for review
- Ensure CPR/First Aid dates are showing correctly in Standard 2

February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

- Complete Standard 1 Staff Qualifications
- Complete Standard 1 Teacher Class Assignment
- Complete Standard 5 Teacher: Student Ratio Count
- Collect information for Pre-Observation Information
- Submit portfolio and Pre-Observation Information (2/16-3/1)



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR RECENTLY RATED
PROGRAMS!**

ABC Child Care Center #1

Sifawu C Aigbogun

Jeannette A Anderson

Patty A Armstrong

Bright Beginnings Day Care

Lucille M Bryant

Childcare Network #12

Childcare Network #220

Cindy's Playhouse Daycare

Coffee County Head Start

Linda M Davis

Jami Dupervil

Forsyth United Methodist Church-Caring for Kids

Rosa M Green

Guiding Light Child Care Center

Hahira Head Start

Happy Hearts Learning Academy

Happy Hollow Christian Academy

Chantelle R Hester

In His Arms Educational Center

Jolly Juggles Day Care Center

Abigail Jones

Linda S Jones

Maria L Jones

K.I.D.S. Kingdom

Kiddie Kampus Learning Center

King's Childcare & Learning Academy

Yasmine D Kittles





The Learning Tree Child Care And Learning Center

Learning You and Me Childcare

Let's Talk Learning Center

Lighthouse Early Start Academy One

Little Angels at Smarr

Little Angels Learning and Daycare Center

Little Angel's Learning Center

Little Angels Pre-School & Child Care Center

Little Miracles Daycare

Little Wonders Learning Center

Lollipop Childrens Center

Rebecca P Mac Pherson

Jeniker N McBride

Mt. Zion Learning Center

My Little Darlings Child Care

MyNana's Clubhouse

Oma's Learning Center and Daycare

Pamper Me Day Care

Maria D Pichardo Batista

Pierce County Head Start/Early Head Start

Raising Stars Learning Center #2

Red Trolleys Daycare Center

ChaRhonda T Robinson

Saint Simons United Methodist Preschool

Sherry L Satterfield

Scholastic Minds Academy

Sonshine Learning Center


Statesboro Head Start Center

Stepping Stones Child Learning Center

Pamela R Stokes

Sweet & Tenderhearted Childcare





**Teach Love & Care Learning Center
Tee Tee's Learning Center
The Learning Treehouse Too
Trilogy Achievement Academy
True Freedom Ministries Daycare and Learning Center
Tumbling Toddlers Learning Center
W.W. Law
Ware County Head Start Center
Gennatt P Williams
Windy's Preschool
YBASE at Marshpoint Elementary
YBASE at Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School
YBASE at Gadsden Elementary
YBASE at Haven Elementary School
YBASE at May Howard Elementary
YMCA - Pryme Tyme Frank Long Elementary
YMCA Childcare Plus
YMCA Pryme Tyme Lyman Hall Elementary
YMCA Pryme Tyme Taylor's Creek Elementary**

ALL RATINGS OCCURED 07/01/23-09/30/23.



**Be
Proud**

CAPS: The new system (GACAPS-Georgia Child Care Administrative Payments System) will go live November 15. The CAPS Provider Relations new website is <https://caps.dec.state.ga.us/en/providerrelations>.



Health & Safety Grants:

From October 2, 2023 to March 31, 2024, grants will be awarded to CCLCs with capacity 101+ and school age programs operating in public school buildings. Click the link below for more information:

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/HealthSafetyGrant.aspx>

Workforce Support Updates:

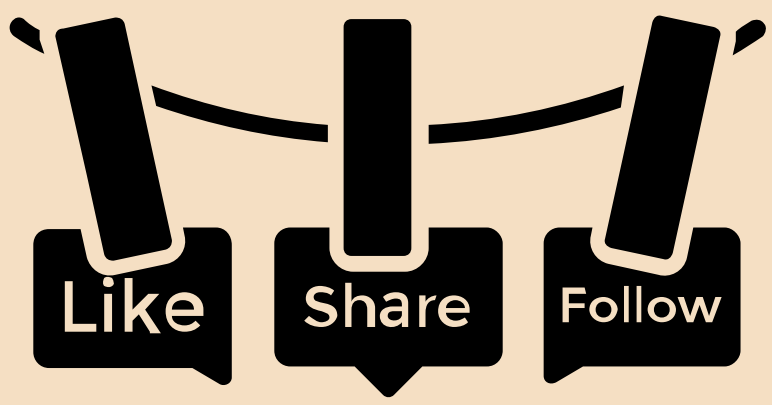
To find the most current workforce support programs available to you and your staff, go to

<https://www.dec.state.ga.us/InstructionalSupports/WorkforceSupportUpdates.aspx> or text the number listed here -->

For updates on DECAL's workforce initiatives

Text: *Workforce23*
To: 470.671.3444

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning



Want to keep up with the most current information?

Check our website:

www.ccrfosoutheastga.org

Or follow us on social media:

