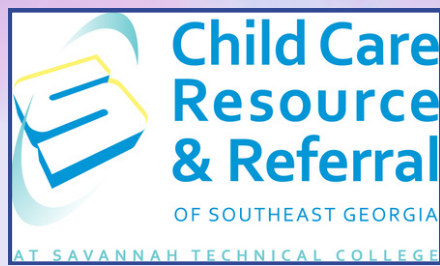


Winter 2024



Recruiting and Retaining Staff

Learn from a direct services provider with similar staff, schedule, and clients as you!

How did this organization reduce staff turnover and increase attendance?

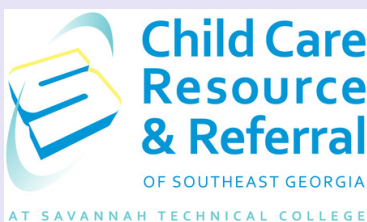
Thursday, February 15, 2024

10 AM - 12 PM

Live Zoom Webinar



Hosted by:



Presented by:



Space is limited to 15 participants!

A random drawing will take place at the end of the session for two present participants to receive a 2-hour personalized consultation with the presenter.

This is not a state-approved DECAL training. It is a virtual live information session specifically for child care center directors and owners.



**Congratulations,
Chantelle!
We are so proud of you!**

Winner



**Chantelle
Hester**

2023

**Georgia's Early Childhood
Educator of the Year**

*Smart Starters Academy
Savannah, GA*



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



2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, Suite 754, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 656-5957

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

January 2024

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

Happy New Year! I am writing to give you an update from DECAL’s Nutrition Services team. Nutrition and physical activity are such an important foundation for children’s growth, development, and learning; and we applaud everything you do for the children in your care to keep them active and well.



As you may know, Nutrition Services administers the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia’s Summer Food Service Program. Both programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the most vulnerable children and adults with improved nutrition. We work with local sponsors and other institutions that serve nutritious meals and snacks around the state. In the last federal fiscal year (ending September 30, 2023) 513 CACFP institutions served almost 65 million meals in 157 counties, and 69 Happy Helpings sponsors served almost 3 million meals in 101 counties. We are very grateful for their service.

This is the time of year when we begin recruiting sponsoring organizations to participate in Happy Helpings. This very important service provides meals and snacks for children in low-income areas during the summer months when they are not in school. Our goal is to have at least one meal site in each of Georgia’s 159 counties. During the past two years, we received state funds that allowed us to offer start-up grants to new or experienced sponsors that enabled them to expand their meal service into previously unserved counties. Thanks to this funding and the initiative of sponsors, children had access to meals in 101 Georgia counties last summer. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer more start-up grants in the near future.

We would love to have your help reaching potential sponsors in any of the 58 unserved counties listed below. If you are affiliated with an organization that may be able to sponsor or operate a feeding site in one of these counties, please call 404-657-1779 or visit the Happy Helpings website at <https://happyhelpingsga.com/>

- | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Appling | Cook | Jenkins | Pickens | Turner |
| Atkinson | Dade | Johnson | Pierce | Union |
| Bacon | Dawson | Laurens | Pulaski | Warren |
| Banks | Dodge | Lincoln | Quitman | Webster |
| Berrien | Emanuel | Long | Schley | Wheeler |
| Brantley | Evans | Lumpkin | Screven | White |
| Brooks | Gilmer | Marion | Stewart | Wilcox |
| Calhoun | Gordon | Miller | Sumter | Wilkes |
| Camden | Haralson | Montgomery | Talbot | Wilkinson |
| Charlton | Heard | Murray | Telfair | Worth |
| Chattahoochee | Jasper | Oconee | Towns | |
| Clay | Jeff Davis | Oglethorpe | Treutlen | |

Thanks for helping us expand our reach. I hope you have a healthy and prosperous year!

Sincerely,

Rian Ringsrud
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration

Free Professional Development Opportunities

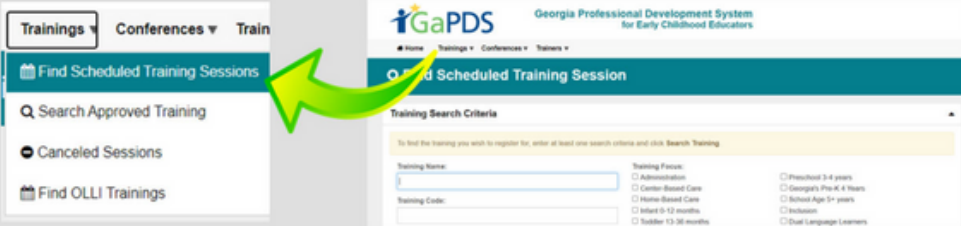
[DECAL's OLLI Trainings](#)

[COX Campus Trainings](#)

[CCR&R Training Sessions](#)

How to Find Strengthening Families Trainings

OVERVIEW OF FIVE PROTECTIVE FACTORS



QR also accepts courses that cover any of the protective factors. The trainer does not matter (as long as the training is approved and verified in GaPDS).

- Strengthening Families Through Parental Resilience
- Strengthening Families Through Social Connections
- Strengthening Families Through Knowledge of Child Development
- Strengthening Families Through Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Strengthening Families Through the Promotion of Social and Emotional Competence in Children

Quality Rated also accepts trainings that cover any of the additional protective factors. To access these trainings, please go to GaPDS → Training → Find Scheduled Training Sessions, and use the search option to locate your desired training.

New!!!

Online Business Training *and* Tools
for Child Care Providers

Free!!!



DECAL
Thriving Child Care
Business Academy

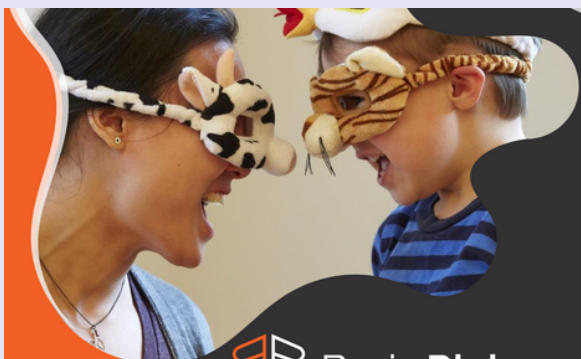
[Learn More](#)



The NEW #DECALThrivingBusinessAcademy has free online business training and resources for child care owners.

Training hours available!

Visit <https://www.dec.ga.gov/Thriving>



EARLY BIRD PRICING
\$65
 *ClassWallet accepted

Registration fee includes lunch and 6 hours of state-approved training!

BrainPickers CONSULTING
 presents


COASTAL GEORGIA EARLY EDUCATORS CONFERENCE
 Conference Theme:
The Heart of a Child

April 27, 2023 · 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. · Liberty County Performing Arts Center
 2140 E Oglethorpe Hwy · Hinesville, GA 31313

Training tracks include:
 · Infant/Toddler · Pre-School/Pre-K · After School · Administration ·

The training childcare providers need in an environment their inner child will love!

Scan to log in to GaPDS and register



Early Bird pricing ends March 15, registration is \$75 from March 16- April 26

Contact the trainer, Demmentrice Jefferson
 brainpickersconsulting.com
 (912)-713-8130 · brainpickers2017@yahoo.com

Professional Development Opportunities From Our Partners



"Do You Have Funds from the Health & Safety Grant?" "Are You or Your Staff in Need of BftS (Bright from the Start) Approved Training Hours?"

.....

Then allow, CC Educational Training Services, LLC to assist you in meeting those training requirements.

We are a vendor listed in  **CLASSWALLET**

So, let's focus on "Health & Safety Orientation Training- 10 Hour", or perhaps, "Are You the Bully? Yes, You the Teacher" or "Active Supervision: What Can Happen on Your Watch", "Positive Behavior Supports: Instilling Behaviors of Self Control" or could it be "Child Maltreatment, Infectious Disease Control, & Playground Safety, Including Sun Safety?"

.....

Schedule or More info Here

"Are You the Bully? Yes, You the Teacher" is an in person 3 hour course. All other courses are your choice of virtual or in person learning sessions.




Educational Training Services, LLC
 a relationship based, professional learning company



Want to keep up with the most current information?
 Check out our website: www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org
 or follow us on social media.



New Team Member Alert



Amanda Juarez joined our team in November to serve our region in the coastal counties. She has a background in Head Start. Amanda has been a great addition to our team and we look forward to her continued contributions to our agency and community!

Changes to Our Work

As of January 1st, all Technical Assistance and Professional Learning Coordinators will be known as ECE Coaches. All of our staff are pursuing a Coaching Designation Level through DECAL and are obtaining professional development that aligns with their Coaching Competencies.

This change allows ECE Coaches to focus more on classroom environment improvements while still providing portfolio resources for providers to use independently. We have updated our website to include easily accessible how-to videos and guides for each portfolio standard.

Congratulations to our staff for earning their Coaching Designation Level!

SHELLY LAWSON

JENEINE BARLOW

PAM SCALF

JESSICA BOSHUIZEN

ALLISON WALL

LETTY KINSLOW

Cohort 3 Portfolio Calendar

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			

- 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

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 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

March

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

April

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 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

May

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 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 (5/17-5/31)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENTLY RATED PROGRAMS!

Allegiance Learning Center

Angel Learning Center

Sandra D. Berrian

Wilma D Brown

Children's Delight Daycare & Learning Center Inc

CJ's Learning Academy I

Country Loving Child Development Center

Barbara J. Davis

Deloris A Dingle

EOA Head Start and Early Administration Building

Faith Learning Center LLC

Patricia P. Ford

Growing Minds Academy LLC

Janice M Halston

Happy 2 Tots

Happy Haven Day Care 2

Happy Tots Learning Center

Shandra N Harden

Cassandra E Harris

Jackson Heights Christian Academy

Letitia L Johnson

Quintella E Johnson

La Tange E Jones

Jones Hall Head Start/Early Head Start Center

KG Childcare Palace LLC

Kicklighter Academy

Kreative Kidz Academy

LIL Promise Keepers Learning Center Inc

Little L.A.M.B.S. Preschool

Little Red School House

Little Stingers

Lollipop Kids Inc

Carolyn M Marks



Shannon S Mitchell
Mosaic Preschool
New Beginnings Learning Center
New Kingdom Life Head Start Center
Ella M Parker
Playhouse Nursery Inc
Pookie Bear Learning Center LLC
Mary A Richardson
Bernice H. Roberson
Rochelle's Day Care Center
Shirley's Kiddie Kollege
Small Steps Childcare Academy
Shalinda A Smith
Successful Beginnings Childcare Center
Sweetie Bees Learning Center
Sylvia's Kiddieland Learning Center LLC
Tender Years Learning Center #8
Tiny Treasures Learning Academy
Toombs County Head Start
Tot's Learning Academy III
Tremont Temple Preschool Learning Center
Wee Tot's Academy LLC
Levarn Wiggins
Wright's Child Care
YBASE at Heard Elementary
YBASE at Henderson E. Formey
YBASE at Hesse K-8
YBASE at Juliette Low Elementary
YBASE at Liberty Elementary
YBASE at The STEM Academy
YBASE Joseph Martin Elementary
YBASE Button Gwinnett Elementary

ALL RATINGS OCCURRED

10/01/23-12/31/23

