



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



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(404) 656-5957

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

First, I just want to say how much I appreciate all that you do for Georgia’s children and families. I know that the last few years have not been easy, and it seems that, as an industry, we are thrown curveball after curveball. It is my hope that many of the programs and initiatives that we are undertaking in both the Quality Innovations and Partnerships Division, as well as DECAL, are providing you with much needed support. Second, as we move into the final quarter of the year, I know that all our calendars are filling up with activities. It is certainly a busy time at DECAL. I’d like to use this opportunity to update you on two high-priority projects.

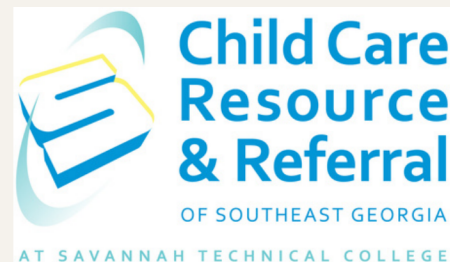
The first project is the Quality Rated Restoration Grant (QRG) Program, which is funded through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. As the child care industry works to rebound from the effects of the pandemic, we are committed to developing resources and supports to assist programs in raising quality and becoming or remaining Quality Rated. The QRGs are specifically designed to support programs with on-site Quality Rated assessments occurring between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023 and include awards of \$5,000 per eligible classroom (up to \$50,000 per program). The classroom funds can be used to purchase materials, equipment, and online Environment Rating Scale (ERS) training to support providers in raising and maintaining quality. I know that there are many questions about these grants. Rest assured that we are working as fast as we can to get the grants up and running. This is a massive undertaking, and it just takes some time to get contracts and systems in place. We expect to begin distributing funds in early November. I promise that more information is forthcoming. In addition to the classroom funds, the QRGs also include a \$500 bonus for eligible staff. These will be distributed after a program’s rating is awarded. Again, more information will be coming about the bonuses.

The second project is really a group of activities, and I hope you have heard about some of them, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Quality Rated. While it’s fun to plan a celebration, we think the Anniversary will help us achieve the important goals of publicizing Quality Rated’s many achievements since its inception, spotlighting providers that have attained star-rated status over the years, and engaging with the program’s longstanding stakeholders and partners. We kicked off the celebration during Labor Day weekend with Quality Rated Day at the Atlanta Braves–Miami Marlins game where we hosted a tent outside the Truist Park 3rd Base Gate and visitors met DECAL mascot CALi, collected prizes, and learned about the benefits of high-quality child care and ways to find star-rated providers. Inside, fans watched Quality Rated promotional videos and saw Commissioner Jacobs throw out the ceremonial first pitch during a pregame ceremony. Over the next three months, DECAL will host three Anniversary events to recognize providers that were among the first to become Quality Rated. We will also send books to Quality Rated providers and provide them with new Quality Rated sidewalk signs. These events are designed to take place over the current school year. Be on the lookout for more information.

Again, I know that the last few years have been hard and I just want to let you know how much we appreciate all you do. If you have questions about anything here, feel free to contact the Help Desk at QualityRated@decals.ga.gov or call 1-855-800-7747 for information and guidance. Also feel free to contact me directly. Hope you all are doing well.

Sincerely,

Bentley Ponder
Deputy Commissioner for
Quality Innovations and Partnerships





Quality Rated 10th Anniversary

As part of Quality Rated's "Decade of Stars" 10th Anniversary celebration, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has named 126 child care providers to the Quality Rated Class of 2012 in recognition of their unique status as early adopters that have consistently delivered high-quality, star-rated care and education to Georgia's youngest learners.

-Copied from QR Facebook Page

SE Region's Anniversary Event

Quality Rated has scheduled an anniversary event for our region in Valdosta on December 9th. Be on the lookout for more information on Facebook at [Child Care Resource and Referral of Southeast Georgia](#).

*Happy Anniversary to SE Region's
Decade of Stars!*



Gennatt P Williams, FCC
Valdosta

Washington County NB & PW Club
Sandersville

Washington County Head Start Davisboro Center
Davisboro

Keisha I Mathis
Valdosta

Alberta J Watson
Valdosta

Kid's World Learning Center
Statesboro

Karyn L Raulerson, FCC
Hahira

Hinesville Child Care Learning Center
Hinesville

Intelli-Kids
Dublin





Congratulations to the recently rated programs!



Big Apple Learning Center
Big Apple Learning Center #2
Bright Horizons Little One Center
Kimberly L Bynum
Circle of Life Academy
Tolanda C. Ford
K.I.D.S. Kingdom Academy
Little People's Paradise Day Care Center
Patterson Head Start Center
Darlene W Turner
Victoria's Academy & Learning Center
Young Learners Day Care
Isle Of Hope Baptist Child Development Center
Cynthia E. Mcfadden
Gloria A Chambers
Ava's Place Child Care Learning Center
Cynthia M Pace
Kathy Watts
Buzy Bbb'z Childcare & Learning Center
Little Folks Farm & Childcare
Play Datez Child Development Center
Tequilla K Davis
Davia R Williams
Kuntry Kids Daycare and Learning Center LLC
Shantat D Reese
Jumpstart Learning Center





Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

Get your trainings into GaPDS in time!

If you are in a 2023 Quality Rated Cohort, please make sure you are allowing enough time for your trainings to be processed well before your portfolio is due!

The following dates are provided as a best practice.

- QR Cohort 1 - submit GaPDS documentation no later than 10/31/2022
- QR Cohort 2 - submit GaPDS documentation no later than 1/31/2023
- QR Cohort 3 - submit GaPDS documentation no later than 4/28/2023
- QR Cohort 4 - submit GaPDS documentation no later than 7/31/2023

Register for trainings today!

You have two ways to locate our scheduled trainings.

You can visit our website and check out our training calendar by viewing the training calendar on our [website](#).

Or you can go to GaPDS [website](#) and search for scheduled trainings.

Best Practices

Skill BUILDING through Block Play

11/3/2022

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Webinar (Live)

Math Made Easy

11/17/2022

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Webinar (Live)

Intentional and Consistent Care

11/20/2022

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Jewish Educational Alliance Preschool Savannah
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405

Intentional and Consistent Care

11/30/2022

6:30 PM

8:30 PM

Webinar (Live)

Staff Retention & Motivation

1/21/2023

11:30 AM

1:00 PM

Webinar (Live)

Play: Why Is It Important?

2/15/2023

6:30 PM

8:30 PM

Webinar (Live)



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities (continued)

Strengthening Families

All live (virtual and onsite) Strengthening Families trainings across the state are almost full for November and December. Register for the one you need today because they will fill up fast as well! Search for trainings by clicking [here](#).



Strengthening Families Through Parental Resilience
Nov 12, 2022
9:00AM - 11:00AM
Webinar (Live)

Strengthening Families Through Knowledge of Child Development
Dec 06, 2022
12:00PM - 2:00PM
Webinar (Live)

Leadership

Staff Retention & Motivation
1/21/2023
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Webinar (Live)

Trauma Informed

Introduction to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
11/10/2022 or 12/8/2022
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Webinar (Live)

To register for the following trainings, please email ctrice@greenbriarchildrencenter.org.

ConnectionsMatterGA Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
11/1/2022 AND 11/3/2022
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Webinar (Live)
OR
11/15/2022 AND 11/17/2022
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Webinar (Live)

*Attendance is required on both days to receive CEUs.



SAVE THE DATE!



Building a Community Response to Early Childhood Trauma

3RD ANNUAL SUMMIT ON TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

November 19th or December 3rd • 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM



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

The summit brings Georgia's early care and learning community together to increase understanding and strengthen capacity related to trauma-responsive care for young children and their families.

SUMMIT KICKOFF • NOVEMBER 15th, 10am - 12pm*

Top TIPS to Support Children in Times of Uncertainty and Stress

Learn concrete strategies to support young children who face BIG and SMALL life events. Learn ten trauma-informed practices that can help children feel safe and regulate their emotions and behavior.

Julie Kurtz is the Founder and CEO of the Center for Optimal Brain Integration. She is an author, national speaker, and expert who consults and trains on trauma and resilience.

*BFTS credit, CEUs, and stipends are not available for the kickoff event.



**THIS KICKOFF AND THE SUMMIT ARE FREE VIRTUAL EVENTS.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON.**

BFTS credit hours and CEUs (social work, LPC, and MFT) are available for the summit. Stipends for the summit are available for Directors, Assistant Directors, Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and Family Child Care Providers who meet attendance requirements. Note: Stipends may be limited to a maximum number of participants.



The website also has information about when and how to request an assessment if a child has a missed milestone, as well as resources to support families!

Go to:
development.decal.ga.gov!



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**

Family Engagement Webinar Series

Register for each webinar by logging into gapds.decal.ga.gov. Attending the webinar and taking the quiz will result in one hour of professional development per session.

November 16, 2022

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Family Engagement Series: Starting Conversations with Families

As an early education professional, you know the importance of collaborative partnerships with families. In this workshop, we discuss reasons why family engagement is important and how to create a welcoming environment. In addition, we will explore ideas and resources you can use to build trusting relationships.

December 14, 2022

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Family Engagement Series: Strategies to Improve Communication with Families

When families and teachers communicate more frequently, it helps to minimize misunderstandings, and provides opportunities for family engagement. Increased communication with families also helps early education professionals get a better sense of families' expectations, goals and values. This webinar discusses strategies to help communication become more frequent, varied and meaningful.

January 11, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Family Engagement Series: How to Communicate a Concern with Families

One of the most important components of high-quality care is positive communication between an early education professional and a family member. Communication is not easy, especially when addressing a concern. This webinar will explore strategies that you can use to communicate concerns with families.