



FALL 2021 ISSUE



**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

September 2021

Dear Child Care Providers:

In this issue of your CCR&R newsletter, I'm writing to update you on our goal that all CAPS providers become Quality Rated by December 31, 2021 (the CAPS/QR Goal). This work has been one of DECAL's priorities for the past six years, and I'm happy to announce we are on track to meet the Goal!

Meeting this goal is the result of your willingness as child care providers to enhance the quality of care you're providing to children and families in your communities...and the result of the focused support services provided by your regional child care resource and referral agency. Through our CAPS/QR Goal, we're ensuring that ALL children, including the ones who need it the most, have access to high-quality early care and education.

The latest data support our projections that we will meet the CAPS/QR Goal by the December 31 deadline. As of August 31:

- 99% of children who have CAPS scholarships are cared for by providers who are star-rated or are on track to be rated by the end of the year.
- 97% of CAPS providers are already rated or will be by the deadline.

The QR team expects to rate more than 1,400 providers this year. Since June, an additional 174 CAPS providers have signed up for a Cohort Group, leaving just 99 who have not.

Although we're not throwing the confetti just yet, we wouldn't be so close to the goal line without everyone's commitment and partnership. I thank you for your contributions to the success of this effort and look forward to our continued partnership to benefit Georgia's youngest learners and their families.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

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USDA offers reimbursement to At Risk Afterschool Programs for providing healthy nutritious snacks and meals through CACFP

When school is out and parents are still at work, children benefit from afterschool programs that offer a safe place to be with their friends, with structured activities, supportive adults, and good nutrition. Afterschool programs that offer these services may be eligible to receive federal reimbursement for meals and snacks served to eligible participants through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, administered by DECAL's Nutrition Services.

Your program may qualify for reimbursement if you:

- Serve children and teenagers who are age 18 or under at the start of the school year.
- Are located at a site where at least half of the children in the school attendance area are eligible for free and reduced-priced school meals (May apply for a waiver through September 2022).
- Offer educational or enrichment activities, after the regular school day ends or on weekends and holidays, during times of the year when school is in session.
- Meet licensing, health or safety codes that are required by state or local law.
- Serve nutritionally balanced meals and snacks that meet USDA's nutrition standards, with foods like milk, meat, vegetables, fruit, and bread.
- Hold a child care license or exemption from licensure.

For more information about the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals and to register for training, contact Leslie Truman by email at Leslie.Truman@dec.al.ga.gov or by phone at 404.657.1779. [Click here](#) for a CACFP Fact Sheet.

October is Farm to School Month

October is National Farm to School Month, and schools and early care centers across Georgia will be celebrating all things OKRA leading up to and through October! *Livin' La Vida Okra* is a state-wide celebration to get kids eating, growing and participating in okra-themed activities. To participate in *Livin' La Vida Okra* at your school, home, early care center, or in your community, visit <https://bit.ly/livinlavidakokra> and sign up. You will receive free electronic resources to help you plan and implement your activities. Resources include standards-based lesson plans, activities, recipes, videos, school garden planting and harvesting information, and more!



Share your *Livin' La Vida Okra* pictures and activities on social media with #livinlavidakokra. Each week during October, anyone who uses this hashtag will be entered to win a gift card, and at the end of the month there will be a grand prize winner. Questions? Visit <https://farmtoschool.georgiaorganics.org/frequently-asked-questions> or email kimberlykoogler@georgiaorganics.org.



New CAPS/QR Probationary and Provisional Statuses

In an effort to support providers as they work towards earning a star rating, two new CAPS/QR statuses have been created. For providers to participate in CAPS, they need to be Quality Rated by the end of 2021. The Provisional Status allows providers that are newly licensed or new to CAPS to begin accepting CAPS scholarships as they work towards earning their rating. The Probationary Status will be offered to providers that do not earn enough points for a star rating but wish to continue accepting scholarships. Both statuses will involve additional support from Quality Rated, and providers will be expected to make adequate progress towards their rating by completing monitored benchmarks.

DECAL Scholars of the Year

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) and the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning have announced the recipients of the 2021-2022 DECAL Scholars of the Year. This year's program celebrates the 20th Anniversary of DECAL Scholars, which supports early care and educational professionals in Georgia in gaining more education and skills and earning financial awards. DECAL Scholars of the Year are limited to those who are actively pursuing a degree or credential in Early Childhood Education while also working in a child care program.

The four-year college/university winner is Ms. Edelina Lane of Ellenwood, a Family Child Care Provider who is a student at Point University. The Technical College winner is Quinecia Styles Smith of Newnan, a lead teacher at Parker Chase Preschool North in Peachtree City and student at West Georgia Technical College. Lane hopes to obtain a master's degree and open three child care learning centers in metro Atlanta before the end of 2023. Smith would like to become an inclusion therapist or curriculum specialist.

"We are excited to recognize Edelina and Quinecia who represent thousands of Georgians who are balancing home, work and school to invest in their own education while continuing to serve children," said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "Similar to our Pre-K Teachers of the Year, this is a great opportunity for DECAL to recognize and reward early child care professionals who are committed to providing a high-quality early education experience here in Georgia."

As DECAL Scholars of the Year, Lane and Smith will each receive a \$1,500 award, \$500 for a classroom makeover, and a virtual classroom visit from Coy Bowles, lead guitarist for the Zac Brown Band. Bowles is also author of children's books, including "What's Behind the Little Red Door?" and a member of the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning Board of Directors.

"The Foundation is proud to support this important initiative by recognizing and rewarding our dedicated early childhood educators," added Carrie Ashbee, Executive Director of the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning. "When you are a teacher by day and scholar by night, it can be challenging to achieve the right balance. We hope these awards are a small way of recognizing the amazing commitment and dedication these early education professionals have to their students and families, both now and in the future."



Did you know over 20,000 people shop for child care and summer camps on DECAL's website every month? If you're a child care provider, update your profile on <https://decalkoala.com/> TODAY to make sure you're putting your best foot forward!

Stay Tuned for The Basics

A language and literacy grant was awarded to a group of community partners in Evans, Glynn, McIntosh and Camden counties to inform families, child care providers, pediatricians and a variety of other community partners about *The Basics*. Be on the look out for more information when the campaign launches this month! Learn more about it at [The Basics: Coastal Georgia and Beyond](#).

ACES: It's not just about learning letters, it's about learning your number.

Submitted by: Cherie L.B. Trice, M.A. CTFA, Greenbriar Children's Center

ACE scores measure Adverse Childhood Experiences. Many of us, growing up, have had some kind of Adverse Child Experience. While each of us has our own life story, each of us also has a unique ACE number based on the amount of times we may have experienced or witnessed abuse, neglect or other trauma during our childhood.

But, as with our own personal history, that number does not define us. It does not define who we have the potential to become. It is simply part of the beginning of our story. Importantly, it does not dictate the middle or the end of our story.

What exactly are ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are events which occur in childhood, typically ages 0-17, which are usually experienced in a home environment. ACEs events are any event which occur in childhood that have the potential to permanently cause harm, physically or mentally, to a young child.

As children, we do not have control over what we experience. Whether we experience a single event or multiple reoccurrences of the same or a different traumatic event, we can feel unsafe, unsure, and frightened. This feeling of loss of safety and stability can affect social development, compromise immune systems and lead to substance misuse or other unhealthy coping skills. Per the CDC, "The evidence confirms that these exposures increase the risk of injury, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; mental health problems, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and a wide range of chronic diseases." Examples of ACEs are below:

- Abuse, physical or emotional, and including the threat of abuse towards the child, another human or an animal;
- Neglect, including physical or emotional.

To explore more about ACEs and to find out your own score, visit: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/03/02/387007941/take-the-ace-quiz-and-learn-what-it-does-and-doesnt-mean>



Who you gonna call???

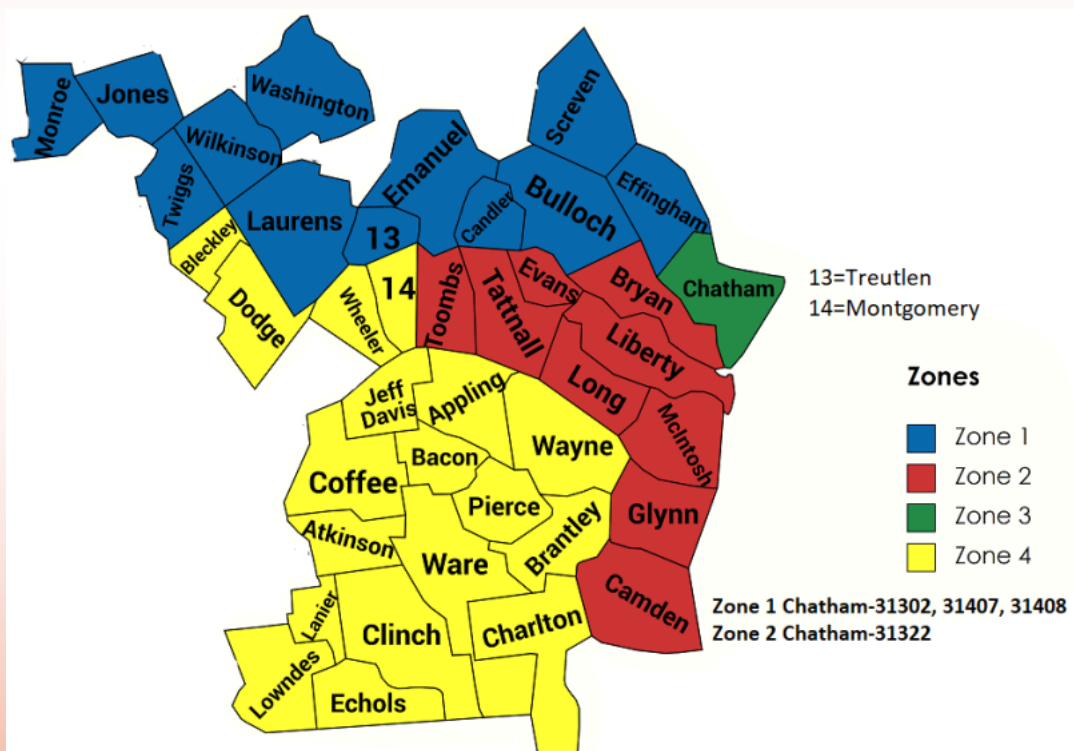
To better serve you, our Professional Development Department is now embedded in each zone of our region rather than as a stand-alone division. You can contact your assigned Coordinator or the Zone Manager to find out about professional development opportunities in your local area or throughout the region.

Programs in Zone 1 are served by Zone Manager Cynthia Akins along with Coordinators Monica Natoli, Shelly Lawson and Stephanie Rozier. Cynthia Akins can be reached at cakins@savannahtech.edu or 912.655.6682.

Programs in Zone 2 are served by Zone Manager Allison Wall along with Coordinators Cindy Beecher, Jessica Boshuizen and Mandy Roe. Allison Wall can be reached at anwall@savannahtech.edu or 912.433.9577.

Programs in Zone 3 are served by Zone Manager Jennifer McMichael along with Coordinators Linda Taylor, Letty Kinslow and Linda Reed. Jennifer McMichael can be reached at jmcmichael@savannahtech.edu or 912.659.7454.

Programs in Zone 4 are served by Zone Manager Jeneine Barlow along with Coordinators Pam Scalf, Cantina Gandy, Shelia Booker and Maureen Harris. Jeneine Barlow can be reached at jbarlow@savannahtech.edu or 912.704.8192.



*We're always looking for ways to improve how we serve our programs.
If you have any suggestions, please reach out to the Zone Manager in your area.*

Southeast Region: Quality Rated Program Recognition

Congratulations to the following programs for earning new ratings or maintaining their Quality Rated status since July 1, 2021!

Childtime Childcare #1122
Cindy's Playhouse Daycare
Patricia Ford
Happy 2 Tots
Cassandra Harris
Higher Learning Christian Daycare
LLC
Linda Jones
Lollipop Kids Inc
Maria Pichardo Batista
Myra Rozier
Dilsia Torres
Tumbling Toddlers Learning Center
Victoria's Academy & Learning
Center
Shameka White
Patty Armstrong
Leslie Brown
Chapel Christian Academy
Childcare Network #220
Shalin Curtis
Faith Learning Center LLC
Forsyth United Methodist Church-
Caring for Kids
LIL Promise Keepers Learning
Center Inc
Little Hands Day Care LLC
Little Red School House
Shannon Mitchell
Molding From The Start Childcare
Center

Playhouse Nursery Inc
Rudette Sands
Successful Beginnings Childcare
Center
Super Kids Child Care Center LLC
Tiny Treasures Learning Academy
Urban Christian Academy & Day
Care
Levarn Wiggins
Wright's Child Care
Bright Start Preschool #1
Cornerstone Children's Center
Guiding Light Child Care Center
Little Angels Pre-School & Child
Care Center
Rebecca Mac Pherson
Pride & Joy Child Development
Renee's Kid's World 2 LLC
Small Steps Childcare Academy



Pumpkin Math

Counting Skills –Count the number of pumpkins that fit in a wagon or box.

Number Recognition –Talk about the numbers while reading the prices of pumpkins.

Geometry–What shape is a pumpkin?

Spatial Concepts/Positional Concepts –Where do pumpkins grow? (on the ground)

Patterns–Use small gourd pumpkins in different colors (orange & white) to make patterns.

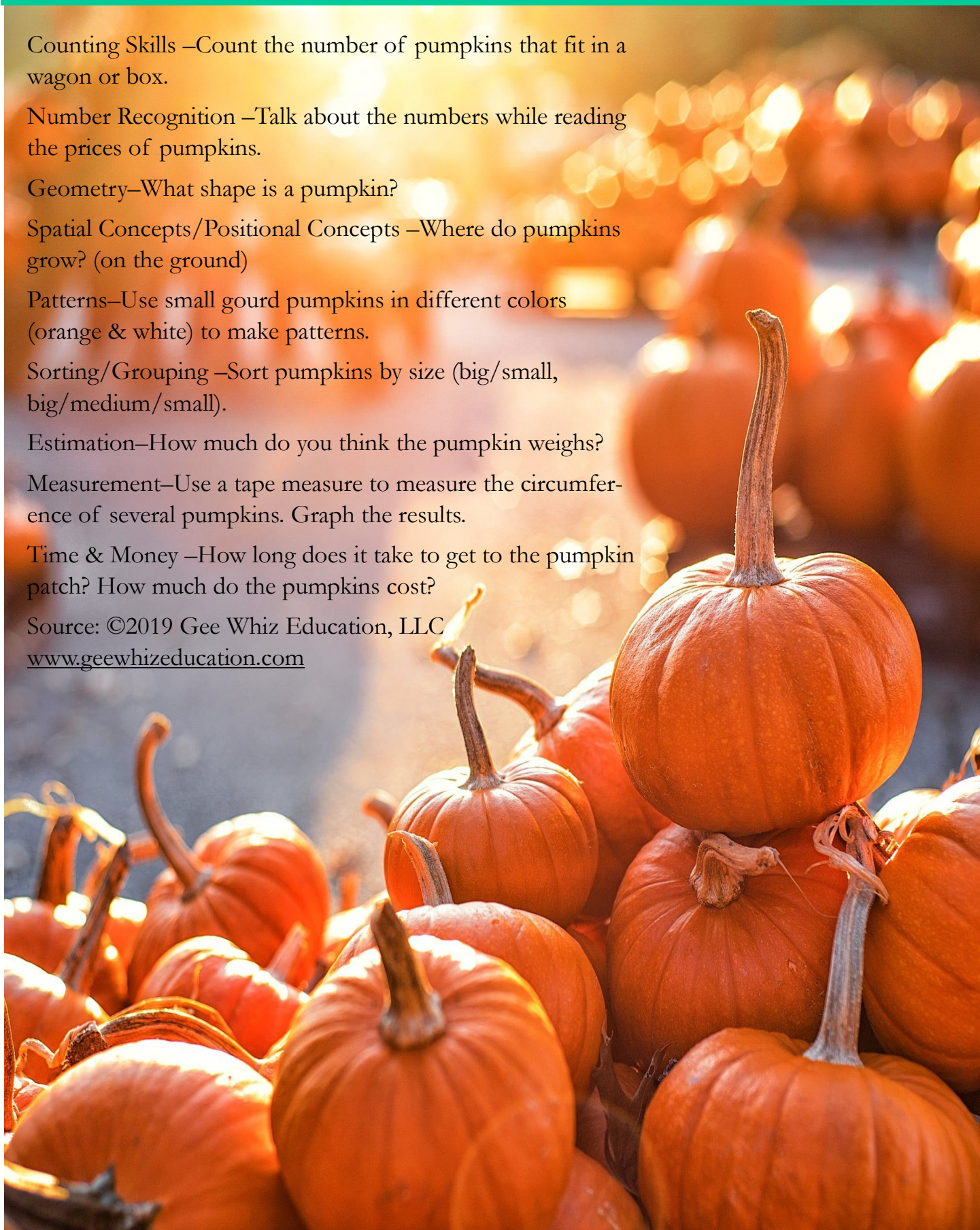
Sorting/Grouping –Sort pumpkins by size (big/small, big/medium/small).

Estimation–How much do you think the pumpkin weighs?

Measurement–Use a tape measure to measure the circumference of several pumpkins. Graph the results.

Time & Money –How long does it take to get to the pumpkin patch? How much do the pumpkins cost?

Source: ©2019 Gee Whiz Education, LLC
www.geewhizeducation.com



Professional Learning Opportunities

Date	Training Title	Time	Trainer
October 26	Attention Attention	6:00-7:00 PM	Cantina Gandy
October 27	Guided Language for Infants and Toddlers	12:00-1:00 PM	Linda Taylor
November 6	Intentional Teaching for Learning	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Cindy Beecher
November 11	Exploring Themes of Dramatic Play	6:30-7:30 PM	Stephanie Rozier
November 13	Science Play and Exploration	9:00-10:00 AM	Letty Kinslow
November 18	Let's Get Organized	6:30-7:30 PM	Shelia Booker
December 1	Strengthening Families Through Social Connections	12:30-1:30 PM	Jeneine Barlow
December 9	Supporting the Stages of Play	6:00-7:00 PM	Jennifer McMichael



How to Register for Trainings

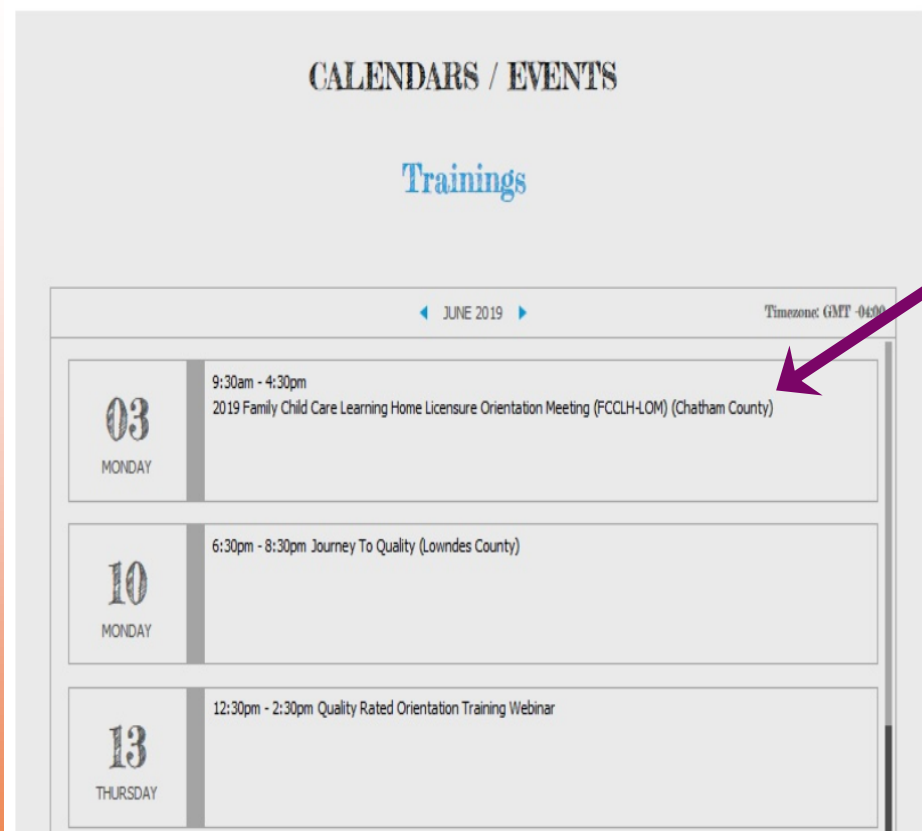
Go to: www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org

On the home page, scroll down until you see the quick menu.



Click on the *Training Calendar* link.

From there, you will be redirected to the Calendars/ Events page.



To register for all other trainings, please click on the time and title of the training you are interested in. The details screen will pop up with the link to GaPDS to register for the training.

Childcare Resource & Referral of Southeast Georgia
at Savannah Technical College
190 Crossroads Parkway
Savannah, GA 31407
www.ccrrofsoutheastga.org
Telephone: 912.443.3011

Melissa Cole Executive Director 912.443.3016	Dana Driggers Assistant Director of Operations 912.667.4563	Terenia Moody Assistant Director of Operations 912.433.9482
Jenna Tucker Fiscal Coordinator 912.443.5080	Johnnye Rogers Community Engagement Specialist 912.443.3384	Cynthia Akins Zone Manager 912.655.6682
Allison Wall Zone Manager 912.433.9577	Jennifer McMichael Zone Manager 912.659.7454	Jeneine Barlow Zone Manager 912.704.8192
Stephanie Rozier Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.433.0462	Shelly Lawson Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.650.1777	Monica Natoli Professional Learning Coordinator 912.677.3517
Cindy Beecher Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.663.0218	Mandy Roe Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.663.0137	Jessica Boshuizen Professional Learning Coordinator 912.650.3937
Linda Reed Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.659.5263	Linda Taylor Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.433.1116	Letty Kinslow Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.659.6663
Maureen Harris Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.433.0461	Cantina Gandy Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.655.8143	Sheila Booker Technical Assistance Coordinator 912.433.3307
	Pam Scalf Professional Learning Coordinator 912.663.0100	



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