

CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

As we reflect over the past four years, we can easily see the importance of child care in the big picture. Without quality child care, the workforce faces major deficits. Without quality child care, the education system struggles to prepare Georgia's next generation for the workforce.



NEED QUALIFIED STAFF?

- Have you asked your local technical college's ECCE Department Head if they can share your information with their students or who the point of contact is for their college-wide job posting board?
- Have you provided your staff with information about how to earn their CDA (search Child Development Associate) or credentials from your local technical college?
- Have you told your staff about DECAL Scholars, financial aid options for college and other supports?



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Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

Spring 2024

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

Among the very most important activities that happen in early education classrooms every day are the countless interactions you have with young children. Whether you are reading stories to preschoolers, teaching rhymes to your Pre-K class, or taking conversational turns with a cooing infant, you are building the foundational skills for literacy as well as cognitive and social-emotional development.



I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made in Georgia in preparing young children to become readers, and I want to thank you for your hard work. Last year we concluded a [six-year study](#) that followed a group of children from Pre-K through fourth grade. It showed that a key strength of Georgia's Pre-K program is building foundational skills for reading. We know, of course, that this work begins earlier, in infant-toddler and preschool classes.

This achievement is the result of collaboration among teachers, early learning programs, the CCR&Rs and DECAL. Soon after I came to DECAL almost 20 years ago, another study of early learning programs in Georgia revealed that we were not doing enough to prepare young children for school. I had just come from a career in teaching, and I was disheartened that all our hard work was not enough.

At that time at DECAL we began to look closely at how we supported classroom teachers. We worked with our specialists to help teachers reflect on their interactions with children and focus on foundational skills like sound awareness and phonological awareness. Today we all share in the success reflected in the recent study of Pre-K.

There is still work to do in Georgia; and we at DECAL are continually looking for new ways to support early educators. DECAL has a wide variety of supports already in place, and I encourage you to take advantage of the coaching, training, salary supplements, and scholarships that we offer.

Thank you, again, for your daily labors of love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan B. Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan B. Adams
Deputy Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports

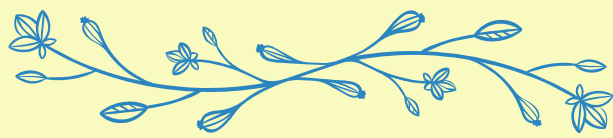


DECAL
Thriving Child Care
Business Academy

Invest in Your Child Care Program's Financial Future





The DECAL Thriving Child Care Business Academy is back in session for 2024 with dynamic online trainings and resources to help Georgia child care businesses grow and prosper. The Academy houses a comprehensive range of large-group webinars, small study groups, individual coaching and self-study guides covering topics in financial management, marketing, staff recruitment and retention, and leadership.

There are 1-hour trainings from Civitas Strategies, 2-hour sessions from the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center, and 3-hour modules from the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance, all offering state-approved training hours. Providers can also take deeper dives into topics during four, 1-hour sessions with a small study group, after which they'll earn state-approved credit hours and a \$300 stipend! To start your Academy journey visit the [website](https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Thrive/SchedulesandRegistration.aspx), then register for trainings @ <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Thrive/SchedulesandRegistration.aspx> or sign up for the small study groups or 1-on-1 coaching @ w.kf.ms/3SjtUPN.



Follow Us On Socials!

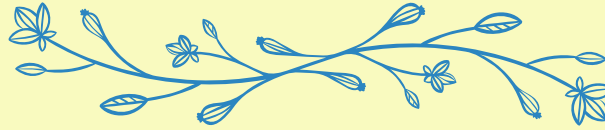
We have ramped up our social media presence to ensure that YOU are the spotlight!
We have the following social media campaigns coming up this quarter:

<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week of the Young Child NAEYC (April 6-12, 2024)• Prevent Child Abuse Awareness Month• World Health Day (April 7, 2024)• Earth Day (April 22, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's Mental Health Week (May 6-10, 2024)• Provider Appreciation Day (May 10, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Play Outside Day (June 1, 2024)• National Donut Day (June 7, 2024)• Juneteenth (June 19, 2024)• Summer Solstice (June 20, 2024)	   

If you have announcements you would like us to share on our socials, please invite us to like your page!


Free Professional Learning Opportunities

DECAL's OLLI Trainings
COX Campus Trainings
CCR&R Training Sessions



How to Find Strengthening Families Trainings

OVERVIEW OF FIVE PROTECTIVE FACTORS



The screenshot shows the GaPDS website interface. A green arrow points to the 'Find Scheduled Training Sessions' option in the 'Trainings' dropdown menu. The main content area shows the 'Find Scheduled Training Session' page with search criteria fields for Training Name and Training Code, and a list of Training Factors with checkboxes.

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.

Congratulations to our staff for earning their Coaching Designation!

SHELLY LAWSON

JENEINE BARLOW

PAM SCALF

SHELIA BOOKER

JESSICA BOSHUIZEN

ALLISON WALL

LETTY KINSLOW

Cohort 3 Portfolio Calendar

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR PORTFOLIO, PLEASE VISIT OUR [PORTFOLIO RESOURCE PAGE](#) FOR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES AND HOW-TO VIDEOS.

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

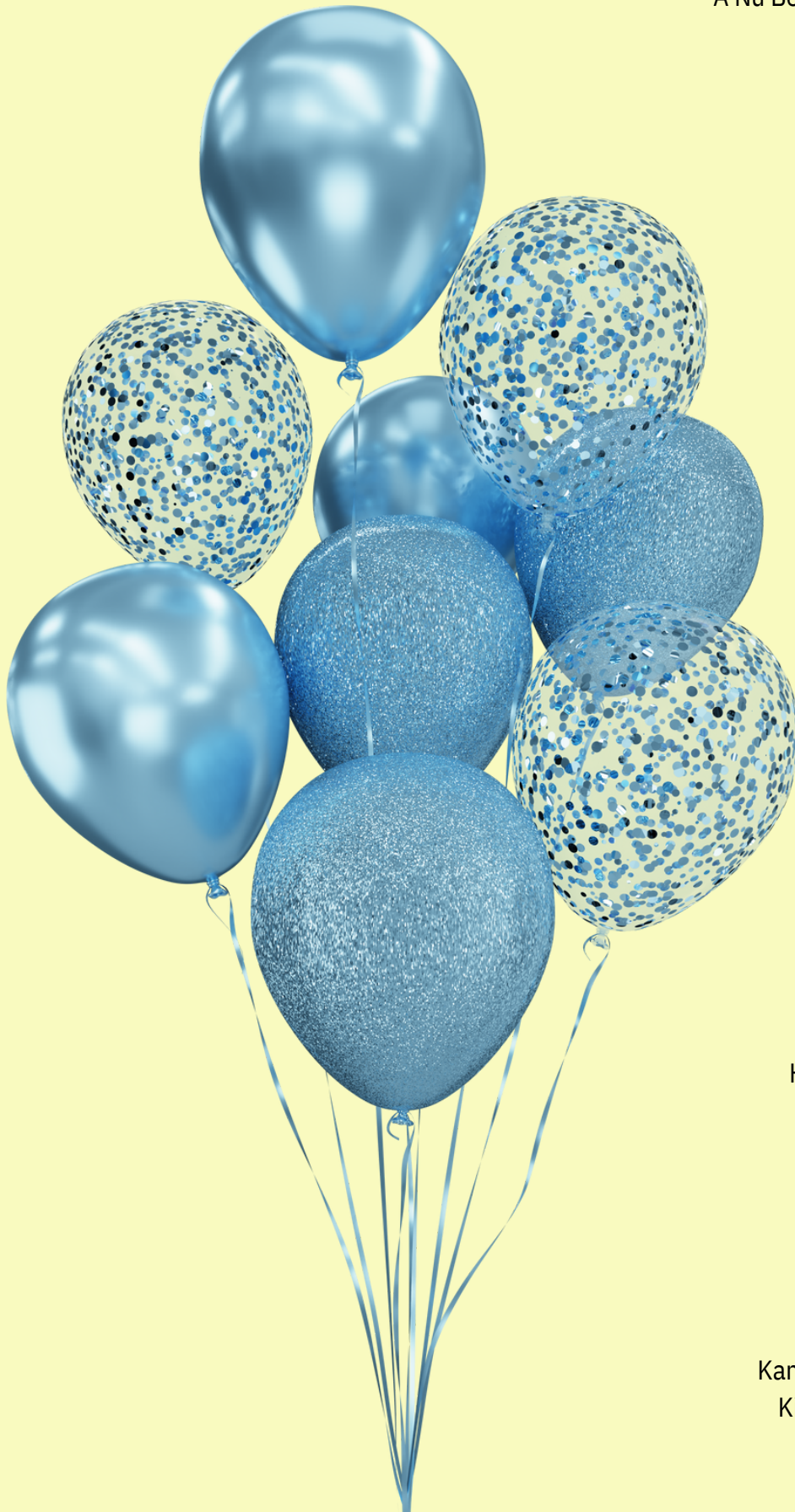
May

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 the programs that earned a rating this quarter!

All ratings occurred 1/1/24-3/31/24



1 Love Childcare & Learning Center
A Nu Beginning Childcare Center and Learning Academy
ABC Child Development Center
AJW Montessori Learning Center 2.0
Anitren E Barrett
Charlsie S Bennett
Bright Start Preschool #1
Brunswick Christian Academy
Building Blocks Learning Center
Camden Head Start/Day Care Facility
Chapel Christian Academy
Childcare Network #22
Children First
Childtime Childcare #1121
Childtime Childcare #1122
Desiree S Chisolm
Creative Kids
Kenyatta N Daughtry
Tamika R Davis
Delightful Kids Learning Center
Discovery Academy
Discovery Montessori School
Doodlebugs Learning Center LLC
Betty E Dye
Natasha J. Fleming
Tabatha R Gascot
Grannies' Playcare Center
Charlene D Green
Barbara J Hamilton
Donna A Head
Heavenly Place Childcare Learning Center
Home Away From Home Preschool
Eula V Howell
In His Arms Pooler
Kim I Jackson
Gwendolyn M Jacobs
Jeff Davis County Head Start
JoLees Creative Academy
Kangaroo Pouch Child Development Center Inc.
Kiddie World Child Development Center LLC
Kidovations Childcare Services
Kidz Kountry Daycare

Little Branches Learning Center
Little Country Day Care Preschool #1
Little Feet Learning Academy
Little Miracles Learning Center
Edwina F Lovett
Keisha I Mathis
Patricia A McBride

Meghan's Learning Academy
Lynett M Mike
Brittany J Milton
Miss Mothers Kiddie Care & Preschool
Julianna C Moran Green
Brenda G. Murdaugh
Nip & Tuck Nursery and Kindergarten
Wonda M Nobles-Williams
LaSandra R Peoples
Maria D Portugal

Precious Jewels Early Learning Center
Pride & Joy Child Development
Roz's Christian Daycare
Ruskin Elementary School Y-Time
Diane P Seabrooks

Second Baptist Church Childcare
Smart Start Learning Center LLC
Erica Stephens

Super Kids Child Care Center LLC
Tender Years Learning Center #12
Tender Years Learning Center #6
The Ark

The Kids Nest Learning Center
The YMCA A.V. Kennedy Learning Center
Lacora Y Thomas
Lashay E. Thomas
Sharon S Thomas

Tiny Tots of Homerville
Urban Christian Academy & Day Care
Francina Ware
Gloria M. Weathers

West Broad Street YMCA Early Learning Center
Shameka N White
Shaquitha L Whitfield
Gloria J Williams

YBASE at Andrea B. Williams Elementary School
YBASE at Butler Elementary
YBASE at Godley Station K-8
YBASE at Pre-K

You're Good Enough for Jesus Outreach Ministries Daycare

CONGRATULATIONS

