



**CHILD CARE
RESOURCE
& REFERRAL**
OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA AT ALBANY
ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY

2429 Gillionville Rd.
Albany, GA 31707
Phone: 229-500-2895
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<https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr>

Summer 2026

Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators



**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

July 2026

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

As you probably know, Child Care Services (CCS) is responsible for monitoring child care programs for compliance with licensing rules. That's the division I lead, and we're the people who make unannounced visits twice a year. What you may not know is that we offer technical assistance to help you understand the rules so that you can stay in compliance and be informed about best practices.

We want you to succeed as educators and as business owners. We share with you the responsibility for keeping children healthy and safe while they are in care. In monitoring compliance, we emphasize prevention. We want to provide resources that will help you prevent health and safety hazards that could lead to illness or injury. Georgia is an exemplar of this approach, and I am proud to say that members of my team are often invited to speak at national regulatory conferences.

I especially want to recommend the downloadable resource suite created by our Technical Assistance unit. This is a collection of 100+ tip sheets. Each one explains an important topic—such as safe sleep—with illustrations and easy-to-understand explanations. All of the resources focus on topics related to licensing rules and include the nationally recognized “best practices” associated with each rule. Best practices are those that research has shown to be most beneficial for children. Some resources are available in Spanish.

I encourage you to download these printable resources. I think you will be pleased with how much you learn from a one- or two-page document. You can scan the QR code or go to <https://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/TechnicalAssistance.aspx>

For child care programs in Support or Deficient status and those in their first year of operation, our TA team provides on-site assistance. If you have questions or need help with a specific issue, feel free to contact the TA unit at CCS.TA@decal.ga.gov.

I hope you are enjoying some safe and healthy summer fun. For us, summer is the season that we publish proposed rule changes. This year we are proposing several minor changes to language and definitions. I think you will be happy to hear that none of these will impact your business operations.

Thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of Georgia's young children and their families.

Sincerely,

Pam Stevens

Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services





**NEW DIRECTOR?
WE'RE HERE TO HELP**



Start Strong with CAPS Training and Support

Learn:

- The CAPS Program
- The Roles & Responsibilities of a CAPS Provider
- How to Navigate the GACAPS Provider Portal
- All about Scholarships & Payments
- How to Receive Support & Resources



How to Join the Training



- **Virtual Option:** You can register for virtual training on our [Provider Relations Website](#) or through the monthly Provider Email.



- **In-Person Option:** We offer live, on-site training too! Invite our team to your child care center for a personalized session.



Call Us

1-833-4GACAPS 1-833-442-2277)



Email Us

CAPSProviderSupport@dec.al.ga.gov

The Dangers of **ILLEGAL** Child Care Homes



Unlicensed Care. Unknown Risks.
Not Worth the Risk.

Hidden in neighborhoods across Georgia, unlicensed daycare homes may seem convenient or affordable—but they operate without state oversight and put children at **serious risk**.

THE REAL RISKS



NO OVERSIGHT

No background checks, no unannounced inspections, no training requirement—nothing to ensure safety.



NO SAFETY STANDARDS

These homes may not follow basic health, fire, or emergency safety rules.



UNKNOWN ENVIRONMENT

You don't know who is caring for your child or what kind of environment they are in.



NO ACCOUNTABILITY

If something goes wrong, there is no agency to hold them accountable.



TRAGEDIES CAN HAPPEN

Stronger oversight is needed to prevent tragedies in unregulated home settings.



Your child's safety is too important to leave to chance.

Always verify before you enroll.
It's your responsibility—and their future.

Safe care starts with informed choices.



If you see something,
say
something.



DECAL enforces the principle:

**"If you see something,
say something."**

Officials say this may be the only way they learn about unlicensed care in communities.



**REPORT.
PROTECT.
PREVENT TRAGEDY.**

Georgia's children deserve safe, trusted care.



VERIFY BEFORE YOU ENROLL. REPORT WHEN YOU KNOW.
Because every child deserves a safe, loving place to grow.



Thank you
for keeping our children safe.

DID YOU KNOW?

Georgia has roughly:

- 3,200 licensed centers
- 1,100 family child care homes
- 5,300 exempt programs

But some remain unaccounted for—operating with no inspections, training, or safety standards.

- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)

HOW TO VERIFY & REPORT

In Georgia, anyone caring for more than two children (who are not related to them) for pay is legally required to be licensed or explicitly exempt by the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). ✓



VERIFY A PROVIDER

Always check if a facility is legally compliant or view the state-evaluated quality scores using the Georgia DECAL Quality Rated Search.

Visit: [QualityRated.org](https://www.qualityrated.org)



REPORT AN ILLEGAL OPERATION

If you suspect an unlicensed, illegal daycare is operating in your community, you can submit an anonymous report directly to DECAL's Child Care Services division.

**CALL: 1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS
(1-877-255-4254)**



LEARN MORE

For more details on what to look for and the legal consequences operators face, review the Georgia Child Care Association.

Visit: [gccasource.org](https://www.gccasource.org)



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

Go Outside!

The Benefits of Outside Play



Outdoor play is essential for children's healthy growth and development. Time spent outside encourages physical activity such as running, climbing, and jumping, which supports large muscle development and overall fitness. Fresh air and open space also helps children release energy, improving focus, behavior, and attention when they return indoors.

Beyond physical benefits, outdoor play promotes social skills, problem-solving, creativity, and an appreciation for nature. These experiences support children's emotional well-being and contribute to a safe, balanced, and enriching learning environment.



Licensing Rules

All child care learning centers and family child care learning homes are required to provide outdoor play daily, weather permitting. Child care learning centers open 5 hours or more per day are required to provide at least 1 hour daily for infants and 1.5 hours daily for all other ages.



Best Practices

Outdoor gross motor free play should be provided daily, with at least one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon, weather permitting. When weather conditions do not permit outdoor play, a safe indoor space should be provided for gross motor play.



Weather Permitting

Children should be dressed appropriately and participate in outdoor play unless there is active precipitation, a public health advisory requiring indoor activity, or extremely hot or cold temperatures as indicated on the Weather Watch Chart.



Gross Motor Skills

Outdoor play promotes physical fitness and gives children an opportunity to use large muscle skills that are not possible to use safely in the classroom, such as running, jumping, skipping, and climbing.



Positive Behavior Outcomes

Engaging in outdoor play helps children release excess energy, remain more attentive during indoor learning, and reduce rough play that can lead to injuries in the classroom. These positive outcomes contribute to a calmer, more focused classroom environment.



Additional Resources





Connecting job seekers and employers to solutions that work.

For Job Seekers

Were you recently laid off or given notice of an impending layoff? We can help you **gain new skills and long-term employment.**

We Provide:

- **Paid, on-the-job work experience** to rebuild and enhance your career.
- **Skills training** in high-demand industries such as manufacturing, transportation, and more.
- **Supportive service assistance** with transportation, childcare, and other costs.

If you've been affected by a recent layoff or business closure, you may qualify for services.

For Local Employers

Are you looking to grow your team while also supporting your community?

Partner with us!

We Offer:

- **Wage reimbursement of up to 50%** when you hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- **Access to pre-screened talent** ready to work and gain new skills as they work.
- **Community impact** by helping local workers get back into stable, meaningful employment.

Hiring new workers helps your business to fill talent gaps and support regional economic growth.

It's a win-win!

**SCAN THE
QR CODE to
register for
FREE today!**



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network
powered by **UTC**

Georgia Department of Labor
Albany Career Center
1608 S Slappey Blvd, Albany, GA 31701

Georgia Department of Labor
Moultrie Career Center
220 N Main St, Moultrie, GA 31788

Georgia Department of Labor
Thomasville Career Center
403 North Broad Street Thomasville, GA 31799

www.WorkSourceSouthwestGeorgia.org | 10.2025

Funded by the Georgia-Pacific Employment Recovery
Dislocated Worker Grant

Training Calendar – July, August & September 2026

You can always find our scheduled training and events on our website at [CCR&R](#)

Saturday, 7/11/2026 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$20 Albany State University- West – C252 2400 Gillionville Rd Albany, GA 31707	Language and Literacy Rich Environments for Preschool Classrooms <i>Join us to learn how to create a language and literacy rich environment through fun activities and make and take ideas. Teachers will walk away with items they have created and can use in their classrooms!</i> ***This training meets the Language & Literacy requirement per BFTS	Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, 7/14/2026 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Creating an Effective Circle Time <i>This training will assist teachers in planning, developing and implementing an effective circle time that engages children socially to learn new concepts and practice language.</i>	Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 7/18/2026 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Super Saturday!!! The Lazy Frog 300 West Clinton St. Suite E Gray, GA 31032	Creative Arts and Crafts at Home and Around the Globe <i>This training will, through research and development from various countries bring an exciting adventure to the world of arts and crafts. Through the implementation of educational techniques, each participant will share their arts and crafts projects representing the cultural environment of their classroom.</i> Arts and Crafts for Children with Special Needs <i>Join us for an opportunity to explore, plan, and create arts and crafts projects that are inclusive and the "how to" in adapting arts and crafts projects for children with special needs.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 7/23/2026 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar ***This training meets the Language & Literacy requirement per BFTS	Creating A Literacy-Rich Environment for Infants and Toddlers <i>A literacy-rich environment in early childhood education lays a foundation that supports language development, emergent literacy, writing skills, and reading. This training helps providers and educators create an inclusive literacy-rich environment for infants and toddlers, including special needs and dual language learners. Participants will design and execute translanguaging activities to integrate into their literacy-rich environment.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 7/25/2026 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. \$25 Webinar	Fire Safety <i>This course meets the requirements mandated by the Georgia Insurance and Fire Safety Commissioner's office.</i>	Sandra Jackson Certified Instructor

Tuesday, 7/28/2026 6:00 p.m. – 800 p.m. Free Webinar	GELDS Foundations: Cognitive Development and General Knowledge Domain/Preschool <i>This training introduces early learning workforce professionals who work with preschoolers to the cognitive processes and general knowledge domain of the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS). It provides an overview of the organizational structure and standards in the domain, along with an opportunity for collaborative discussion about how these standards align with developmentally appropriate practice. This training will help professionals link many common behaviors to opportunities for cognitive development.</i>	Estelle Rothwell BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, 8/4/2026 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Indoor Large Motor Play for the Classroom <i>Good gross motor skills are essential because the body develops from large moments such as control of the arms and the legs to small, isolated movements that include the hands and fingers.</i>	Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 8/13/2026 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$15 Albany State University- West - Event Center 2400 Gillionville Rd Albany, GA 31707 <i>Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.</i>	Dinner & a Training Driving the Energy Bus: Creating a positive culture in your ECE program <i>Get on the Bus! This training, inspired by the book The Energy Bus, by Jon Gordon, will explore how attitudes, mindsets, and daily interactions directly impact staff morale, team cohesion, and ultimately, outcomes for children and families. Attendees will leave equipped to "drive their own bus" with purpose, creating an environment where educators feel inspired, supported, and committed to excellence in early childhood education.</i>	Dianne Fitchlee & Alicia Mills BFTS Approved Trainers
Saturday, 8/15/2026 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. \$60 Albany State University- West 2400 Gillionville Rd Albany, GA 31707	CPR/First Aid American Heart Association <i>Learn how to recognize and alleviate airway obstructions and the signs, symptoms, and corrective action for a stroke or heart attack. Also, learn to recognize and treat minor medical emergencies.</i>	Judy Gaines, Certified Instructor
Thursday, 8/20/2026 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Speaking Out for Those Who Can't <i>This training is about identifying and preventing child abuse. It teaches the participants how to recognize, prevent, and report child abuse. Remember YOU are a mandated reporter.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 8/22/2026 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$20 Bright Futures of Columbus 1342 17th St Columbus, GA 31901	Language and Literacy Rich Environments for Preschool Classrooms <i>Join us to learn how to create a language and literacy rich environment through fun activities and make and take ideas. Teachers will walk away with items they have created and can use in their classrooms right away!</i> ***This training meets the Language & Literacy requirement per BFTS	Dianne Fitchlee & Alicia Mills BFTS Approved Trainers

Saturday, 8/22/2026 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Super Saturday!!! Brantley's Busy Bee Learning Center 4628 Bloomfield Road Macon, GA 31206	Teamwork with A Purpose <i>The purpose of this training on Teamwork with A Purpose, is to facilitate better communication; and to emphasize the importance of working together. The participants will offer ideas, concerns, and share various kinds of input. They will utilize the shared data to form the activities. They will be working together as a team to reach a common goal to create a successful outcome.</i> Creating A Literacy-Rich Environment for Preschool/Pre-K <i>A literacy-rich environment in early childhood education lays a foundation that supports language development, emergent literacy, writing skills, and reading. This training helps providers and educators create an inclusive literacy-rich environment for preschool and Pre-K, including special needs and dual language learners. Participants will design and execute translanguaging activities to integrate into their literacy-rich environment.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, 9/8/2026 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Can I Play? Looking at Children's Development through Play <i>Join us to learn how to develop children's social, emotional, and physical skills through play and why they are so important.</i>	Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 9/17/2026 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Impact of Home Language on English Development <i>This training demonstrates the importance of supporting and understanding the Dual Language Learner (DLL) and the impact of home language within ECE programs. It provides an awareness of cultural affairs, customs, and home, trust, and strengthening for the families and the ECE programs.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 9/19/2026 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Super Saturday!!! Maggie Campbell's Gingerbread House Learning Center 719 South Ridge Ave Tifton, GA 31794	Self-Created Activities <i>This training will provide providers with a self-created book of diverse, age and developmentally appropriate activities. These activities will be suitable for implementation in their classroom and outdoors at any time, especially during a crisis such as outbreaks of diseases like Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease, Measles, RSV, etc. By having this book available, providers will have activities ready and accessible at any time, including if a crisis occurs.</i> Ethical Behavior in Early Childhood Education <i>This course provides a foundation for ethics and gives an overview of the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct. This course will prompt providers to take a closer look at both their work and professional behavior.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 9/19/2026 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Bright Futures of Columbus 1342 17th St Columbus, GA 31901	F.L.I.P. IT! <i>Tired of power struggles, meltdowns, and challenging moments that leave everyone frustrated? Don't FLIP OUT! It's time to FLIP It! and discover a positive, relationship-based strategy to help you guide children toward positive solutions and self-regulation.</i>	Dianne Fitchlee & Alicia Mills BFTS Approved Trainers

TRAINING REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

1. To locate the training calendar and register for the training of your choice, go to www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php, where you can register and submit payment through Eventbrite.
2. Email blasts are sent twice a week as a reminder of upcoming sessions. Please check your email often.
3. Webinars- You must participate in all activities, polls, chats, and breakout sessions during the training to receive a certificate.
4. You will receive an email with an invitation to join the session along with handouts as attachments on the day of the weekday training or the day before for a weekend training.
5. When it is time to join the session, you will need to click the link in the email. You may need to download an application to your computer or phone to join, so please be sure to log in early. Once the application is downloaded, you will be able to join the session.
6. Upon entering the session, please type your name and the county you work in the chat box.
7. No one is admitted to any training without prior registration and payment if required.
8. Registrations must be received at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled training date.
9. Credit and refunds for cancellations are not allowed. **Canceling your registration requires at least a 24-hour notice.**
10. If you register for free training and do not attend, your registration for future free training in the future may not be accepted.
11. Be sure to complete the Survey Monkey after each training to let us know your thoughts so we can better serve your needs.
12. Enjoy, and thanks for attending our training!

For training information and questions, contact Professional Development & Social Media Coordinator, Margo Sanders at 229.500.2897/866.833.3552 or margo.sanders@asurams.edu

The advertisement has a green border. At the top is the DECAL logo and the text "DECAL Thriving Child Care Business Academy". Below this is a yellow banner that reads "ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS COACHING BY CIVITAS STRATEGIES". The main content area has a dark blue background with the text "FROM CONFUSION TO CLARITY" in green. Below this is a quote: "This coaching helped me slow down, see the full picture. I walked away with clarity, confidence, and a clear plan forward." - Georgia Provider. Below the quote is the text "Each Coach Session is a Step Toward Smarter Decisions and Greater Confidence". To the right of the text is a photo of a woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, sitting at a desk and working on a laptop. Below the text and photo are four icons representing different business coaching areas: Pricing Strategies, Financial Planning, Marketing Moves, and Tech Upgrades. At the bottom is a green banner that reads "One-on-One Business Coaching is Free & Virtual" and "To Learn More & Enroll go to: <https://wkl.ms/3Univ4i>" and "Email: GACOACHING@CIVSTRAT.COM".

What is a PLC?

A PLC is a group of individuals who are collaboratively engaged in concept-driven learning by raising questions that are relevant to their context and working together to answer those questions. To better understand what a PLC is, it's often useful to start with what a PLC is not. A PLC is not a workshop. PLCs honor the expertise within the group and brings groups of people together to learn.

Secondly, a PLC is not a replacement name for a committee meeting, staff meeting, team meeting, etc. These types of meetings serve a purpose and have a place in the workplace, but they are not focused on learning as a primary goal.

What Does this mean for you?

Our Technical Assistance Coordinators offer PLCs as an additional way to provide Professional Development. In some cases, the PLC session can earn training credit for participants. If you are interested in learning more about how a PLC can support your growth in quality; please reach out to either your Technical Assistance Coordinator (TAC) or call our CCR&R office at: 229.500.2895 to relate to someone who can answer your questions.



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Like us on Facebook [@ccrrofswga](https://www.facebook.com/ccrrofswga) & on  [@ccrrofswga](https://www.instagram.com/ccrrofswga)
then follow us for the latest highlights, fun activities, updates and scheduled
trainings! And visit: <https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr/index.php>

Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest Georgia at Albany Albany State University

Serving Early Care Professionals Toward Excellence in Quality Child Care



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"Focus and win."

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