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https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr

Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators

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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

April 2022

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

As the calendar turns from winter to spring, isn't it nice that the pandemic's impact is gradually subsiding, along with the chilly temperatures, allowing us to enjoy some time outdoors? I realize, however, that we still have a long way to go before we are fully "back to normal," which is why we continue to seek ways to help you all recover from the effects of COVID on your businesses, your employees, and the children and families you serve.

In that regard, I want to give you an update about DECAL's process for planning the distribution of federal COVID-19 stimulus relief funds that have not yet been obligated. The purpose of the federal funds is to stabilize the child care industry and make child care more accessible for families. You'll recall that last year we announced the STABLE 4ward program which will distribute more than \$800 million directly to child care providers. We also expanded the CAPS Program to serve an additional 10,000 children, and we committed to two additional rounds of POWER payments to individuals in the early care and learning workforce.

We recently completed a very important stakeholder engagement process to hear from providers, teachers, families, and other partners about how to allocate the remaining federal stimulus funds. The Urban Institute conducted a survey on our behalf and received 6,597 responses. They also interviewed 83 parents in 21 focus groups and analyzed administrative data to understand the context of the feedback they received.

The Urban Institute consolidated their findings into nine recommendations that I will share with you below. Some of the recommendations reflect the financial struggles of the industry with which we are all very familiar. Providers struggle to recruit and retain teachers; teachers can often earn more in other industries; and families—both those who have CAPS scholarships and those who don't—struggle to pay for child care.

Some of the recommendations, especially those about health and safety information and supports for children's social-emotional care, indicate that DECAL needs to do a better job of communicating about existing services. One helpful way to do that is to spread the message that anyone, including providers, teachers, families, and members of the public, can call the SEEDS helpline at 1.833.354.HELP for assistance in supporting children's social emotional and behavioral health.

Now for the Urban Institute's recommendations for allocating federal stimulus funds:

- 1. Provide support to encourage more people to become and remain child care teachers
- 2. Focus attention on and provide information about basic health and safety
- 3. Reconsider group sizes and child-staff ratios
- 4. Provide more accessible information to families about available early care and education services
- 5. Consider how to support more providers in offering care, providing longer hours, and participating in CAPS

- 6. Support providers in taking care of the social-emotional and behavioral needs of children
- 7. Consider new benchmarks for affordability of care in Georgia, including limits for CAPS participation and parent contributions when receiving CAPS
- 8. Consider how to sufficiently support CAPS to increase responsiveness to parents
- 9. Offer child care providers additional grants and supports for financial sustainability and business planning

I am grateful to those of you who took the time to provide feedback to the Urban Institute. I am in the process of meeting with the DECAL leadership team now to determine how to act on each of the recommendations and how to allocate remaining federal funds. I hope to announce specific plans in the next few months.

I've enjoyed writing these quarterly letters, but I also think it's time for a change. I want you to hear from the Deputy Commissioners about their respective divisions. Next quarter you'll hear from Susan Adams, Deputy Commissioner for Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports. The other Deputy Commissioners will take turns writing to you after that.

We recognize that you continue to face enormous challenges. That's why we are focused on collecting feedback through projects like the Urban Institute Survey that will inform our efforts to develop effective initiatives and useful resources to support your success.

I wish you all a happy and productive spring and summer.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Jacobs Commissioner



Congratulations

to our Newest Quality Rated Providers!

Buckner, Emily - Family Child Care Learning Home
Deriso, Georgia - Family Child Care Learning Home
Jones, Clara - Family Child Care Learning Home
Libby, Christina - Family Child Care Learning Home
Kinder Care Learning Center - McDonough
Guardian Angels Learning Center
Our Little Hands Early Learning Center
Smith, Michelle - Family Child Care Learning Home
Seminole County Child Development Center
Community Ministries Learning Center
M&S Magical Stars Daycare II
H.E.R.O.'s Instillment Academy
Small World Child Care Center
Mother's Love Child Care Center

Brown's Child Care Learning Center



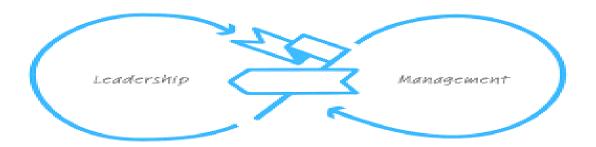
Ratings through 3/2022

From the Director's Chair: Ideas, Information & Resources

Management vs. Leadership

Directors need to be managers and they need to provide leadership to ensure high quality services delivery. Good managers should strive to be good leaders and good leaders, need management skills to be effective.

It takes a Balance!



Management

- Scheduling work
- Delegating tasks
- Use analytical data to support recommendations
 - Ensuring predictability
 - Co-ordinate effort
 - Co-ordinate resources
- Give orders and instructions
 - Guide progress
 - Evaluate progress
 - Check task completion
- Follow systems and procedures
 - Monitor budgets, tasks etc.
- Use analytical data to forecast trends
 - Monitoring progress
 - Appeal to rational thinking
 - Plan and prioritize steps to task achievement

Leadership

- Build teams
- Provide feedback on performance
 - Motivating staff
- Act as interface between team and outside
 - Explain goals, plan and roles
 - Inspiring people
 - Appeal to peoples' emotions
 - Sharing a vision
 - Provide focus
 - Monitor feelings and morale
 - Create a 'culture'
 - Create a positive team feeling
 - Ensure effective induction
 - Provide development opportunities
 - Unleashing potential
 - Look 'over the horizon'
 - Take risks
 - Be a good role model

Leaders become great not because of their power but, because of their ability to empower others.

-John Maxwell

The BIG 3-Relationship Building, Interactions, and Schedules

ITERS-3

- Make homemade books of children in your classroom. Take pictures of currently enrolled children doing things throughout the day, laminate them and bind them together, then place in your book area. ~Estelle Rothwell
- Make sure to TALK to each child while diapering. If you have a hard time starting conversation you can hang a 3-D object or picture above the changing table and begin to talk to the child about that item. *Estelle Rothwell*
- Since displays need to be protected from being torn, you can use sheet protectors as an added barrier if your program doesn't have plexiglass. ~ Crystal Heard

ECERS-3

• Set up an area in the wall display that has two areas. Title one area HOME and the other area SCHOOL. As children arrive each morning have them move their ICON or picture from HOME to SCHOOL as part of the morning transition, then in the afternoon/evening upon departure, have each child move the ICON or picture back to HOME as the last transition of the day. "DJ Fitchlee.

FCCERS-3

- Take pictures of the children during each major time of your schedule and create a daily schedule chart that is personal to your current program. ~Estelle Rothwell
- "Mobile centers" are a great way to allow access to a variety of materials within smaller spaces. Place items related to different learning centers in big plastic bins and bring a few of the bins out, rotating them throughout the day. ~Crystal Heard
- Be the "sportscaster" of your classroom, going "play by play" of what you are doing as the teacher and what the children are experiencing. This allows for language to be pushed in and conversations to take place. "Crystal Heard"

ALL Scales

- Using picture schedules allow children to see what is next in the day. This builds security, comfort, and routine for children in the classroom. ~ Cassie Thompson
- Place a list of open-ended questions in each learning center that could assist teachers to lead/start conversations with children. Use it something like a cheat sheet for conversation starters. These questions would be unique to each learning area based on the learning center materials and intended play. ~Cassie Thompson
- Make a family collage for each child. Laminate each collage, and display at children's eye level. This can help on difficult drop off days, or just when an child needs to see familiar faces. ~Estelle Rothwell
- Incorporate your theme throughout the classroom. Example: Trains
 - 1. Add photographs & pictures of trains to your classroom display & books about trains to the reading center.
 - 2. Add train tracks the children can build to the fine motor center. Add train puzzles.
 - 3. Encourage children to create drawings, paintings, collages, clay objects, etc. of trains in the art center.
 - 4. Add CDs with songs about trains to the music center & trains to the vehicles in the block center.
 - 5. Add a train conductor costume to dress up clothes in the dramatic play center. Add a train station play building with props to the dramatic play center.
 - 6. Add pictures of trains traveling through various climates to the display in the science center. Hide toy trains in the sand table for the children to discover.
 - 7. Replace counting bears with counting trains to the math center. Add math file folder games with trains to the math center.
 - 8. To promote diversity, add pictures that show female train conductors, train conductors with disabilities, train conductors of various ethnicities and races.
 - 9. During large group times sing songs, read books, play games about trains. ~ Kerri Chalon

Quality Rated Provider Highlights

Family Child Care Learning Home, Nashville, GA 3-STARS!!!

Hello!! I'm Erin Skinner, Family Child Care Learning Home, in Berrien County. It was 14 years ago, when my oldest child was 2, I was approached about opening my own Family Child Care. I decided to take the leap, and I can now say it was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

In 2012, I learned about Quality Rated. In 2013, I received my 3-star rating. Since then, every 3 years I have continued to renew my 3-Star rating. Although this last year was a little "different", being virtual, let's face it, we have a new "normal" nowadays. Providing a High-Quality learning environment is very important to me. I prepare the children to be more successful in school. The children benefit socially, cognitively, intellectually, and developmentally with their language. These children are our future leaders!!! In my spare time, you can find me at the ballpark with my husband, watching our kids play either baseball or softball. We also enjoy family trips to the beach or an Atlanta Braves game!



~Erin Skinner, Owner

CCR&R Staff Highlight

Hello, my name is Beth Fenimore. I am very excited to start my career as a Technical Assistance Coordinator with Child Care Resource & Referral of Southwest GA! I am currently shadowing my coworkers to learn all there is to know about offering technical assistance to providers. I can't wait to step out on my own and develop relationships with providers, working side by side mentoring and coaching them and their staff to offer quality child care to their children and families!

I have a bachelor's and a master's degree in education and over 10 years of experience in the world of education. I have taught in public school, church preschool and child care settings. My passion is an odd mix of literacy and science. I absolutely adore children's literature. As a matter of fact, I am guilty of saying "This is one of my favorite books!" almost every time I pick up a children's book. In addition to my passion for reading stories (using all the voices), I believe it is very important to use sophisticated vocabulary with children. After all, if they can learn vocabulary like diplodocus, herbivore and cretaceous, then they can learn enormous, abundance, and immense When asked "Where are you from?" my response is "The Navy".

I have lived most of my life in the southeast, but did have the privilege of spending 2 years in Guantanamo Bay (mid 70's) and 3 years in southern Texas. Today, my family calls Warner Robins home. My little family consists of my husband of 22 years, 2 teenagers, my Granny, and 2 dogs. We have lived here in Middle GA for 16 years and love the small community feel while still living in a military town. I spend a lot of my spare time volunteering with my children's extracurricular activities, as well as at our church. I also enjoy cooking, gardening, and reading.



Quality Rated Training Calendar- April, May & June 2022

~ ,		
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 5:30 p.m 7:30 p.m.	Using the ITERS-3 Scale to Improve Quality in an Infant/Toddler Program – 4 hrs.	Kerri Chalon, BFTS Approved Trainer
& Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:30 p.m 7:30 p.m.	Calling all teachers of Infants, Toddlers, and Twos! This training will assist you in gaining a better understanding of how to use the ITERS-3 scales to create or improve quality in your infant/toddler programs.	Trumer
Webinar	*Must attend both sessions to receive a certificate*	
Thursday, April 28, 2022	Focusing on Quality for School-Age Care:	Cassie Thompson
9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.	SACERS-U-4 hrs.	BFTS Approved Trainer
Webinar	Join us for an introduction to the School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS-U). Come learn how to use this assessment tool for quality improvement in a school-age program.	
Saturday, April 30, 2022	Using the ECERS-3 Scale to Improve Quality in a	Erica White,
9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.	Preschool Program – 4 hrs.	BFTS Approved Trainer
Central Ga Technical College	Calling all preschool and Pre-K teachers! This training will assist you in	
80 Cohen Walker Drive	gaining, a better understanding of how to use the ECERS-3 Scales to create or	
Building W, "Sonny Watson" Rm 113-A	improve quality in your preschool programs.	
Warner Robins, GA 31088		
Saturday, April 30, 2022	Using the ITERS-3 Scale to Improve Quality in an Infant/Toddler – 4 hrs.	Shandry Johnson
9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m.		BFTS Approved
-	Calling all teachers of Infants, Toddlers, and Twos! This training will assist	Trainer
Central Ga Technical College 80 Cohen Walker Drive	you in gaining a better understanding of how to use the ITERS-3 scales to create or improve quality in your infant/toddler programs.	
Building W, "Sonny Watson"	create or improve quality in your injunt/todater programs.	
Rm 113-B		
Warner Robins, GA 31088		
Thursday, June 2, 2022	Standards 101: How to Use the GELDS – 2 hrs.	Crystal Heard,
6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.		BFTS Approved
•	Get introduced to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and learn how to use the standards to improve learning outcomes.	Trainer
Webinar	This class provides an overview of the organizational structure of language	
	and explains how the GELDS can be used to support developmentally	
	appropriate practices.	
Wednesday, June 8, 2022	Standards 102: Child Development – 2 hrs.	Alicia Mills,
6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.		BFTS Approved
•	Learn basic milestones of physical, cognitive, and social-emotional	Trainer
Webinar	development from birth to preschool. Learn how these milestones connect with GELDS indicators, with a special focus	
	on social-emotional development.	
Wednesday, June 15, 2022	Standards 103: Developmentally Appropriate Practices – 2 hrs.	Kathi Roberts,
6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m.		BFTS Approved
•	This training examines developmentally appropriate practice (DAP) from birth to preschool. It helps teachers connect DAP to GELDS indicators and	Trainer
Webinar	understand what DAP looks like in action.	
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To register for Quality Rated training, you must have a GaPDS account.

To create your account, go to https://gapds.decal.ga.gov/Home



Training Calendar – April, May & June 2022

Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Pop! Infant and Tot Lesson Plans – 2 hrs.	Lori Sugarman BFTS Approved	
\$10 Webinar	Learn to "pop" the activity and language growth during this period of infancy and toddlerhood amidst the chaos, meals, and diapering.	Trainer	
Saturday, April 9, 2022	Managing Stress Effectively: Love Thyself – 4 hrs.	Sandra Jackson	
9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. \$20 Webinar	Learn steps in identifying/classifying various stressors as well as, strategies for relieving stress. By using appropriate stress relieving strategies, one can maintain a healthier and happier life; which leads to positive avenues in one's professional and personal life.	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Tuesday, April 12, 2022	Classroom Management – 2 hrs.	Polly Raike,	
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Classroom management is much more than the preservation of order through teacher control! Think of classroom management as the process of organizing and conducting the business of the classroom and come learn how to Handle Your Business!	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Thursday, April 21, 2022	The Art of Reading – 2 hrs.	Sandra Jackson	
7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar	GET READY - The Art of Reading is designed to assist teachers in creating reading stations. The opportunities provided are innovative, interactive, and a positive guide for children as they experience The Art of Reading.	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Saturday, April 30, 2022 9:00 a.m 2:30 p.m. \$50	CPR/First Aid American Heart Association	Judy Gaines, Certified Instructor	
Albany State University-West 2429 Gillionville Rd. Albany, GA 31707 Building J, Room 128	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.		
Tuesday, May 3, 2022	30 Million Words- Talking Matters! – 2 hrs.	Lori Sugarman,	
7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10	Learn how all the ways we "talk" affect our interactions with children and the 30 Million Word research outcomes.	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	I do No. II. III. do Call. II. V		
Thursday, May 5, 2022 6:00 p.m 8:00 p.m.	Let's Play House: How to Set Up or Improve Your Dramatic Play Area – 2 hrs.	Shandry Johnso BFTS Approved Trainer	
\$10 Webinar	Do you need ideas on how to set up and improve your dramatic play center and use dramatic play to foster learning through play? If so, this training is for you!	Hanner	
Saturday, May 7, 2022 9:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Essentials of Disciplining Young Children With Challenging Behavior – 3 hrs.	Melvina Crawl BFTS Approved Trainer	
\$15 Webinar	Are the challenges of disciplining getting the best of you? Do you feel like everything you try doesn't work? Learn ways to improve implementation, parent involvement, and strategies for effective discipline for multiple age groups.	1	
Tuesday, May 10, 2022	Leadership in Early Childhood Settings – 2 hrs.	Polly Raike,	
6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m. \$10	Be the leader you want to be. Learn to recognize and apply the leadership qualities: clear vision, courage, integrity, honesty, humility, and clear	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	focus. Great leaders help people reach their goals, are not afraid to hire people that might be better than them, and take pride in the accomplishments of those they help along the way.		
Thursday, May 12, 2022	What?! Healthy Behavior Management Strategies – 2 hrs.	Sandra Jackson	
7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10	This course defines behavior management and helps the caregiver differentiate between challenging and difficult behaviors. It offers positive	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	strategies that result from inappropriate classroom behavior.		

Monday, May 16, 2022 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Daily Transition-From Beginning 2 End – 2 hrs.	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved	
\$10 Webinar	Come learn how verbal cues are an absolute necessity when encouraging young children to transition from one activity to the next. Practicing and making it fun for the children will support a smooth transition.	Trainer	
Monday, May 16, 2022 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Individualized & Teacher-Directed Artwork: What's the Difference? – 2 hrs.	ng	
\$10 Webinar	Learn the difference between individualized artwork and teacher-directed artwork as well as why individualized artwork is important. This training will utilize the Environment Rating Scale books to help understand the art expectations for Quality Rated.		
Saturday, May 21, 2022	Classroom Imaginarium Western Style – 4 hrs.	Sandra Jackson, BFTS Approved Trainer	
9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. \$20	This training is designed to enhance the children's knowledge of math, social studies, science, creative development, and cognitive processes.		
Webinar	Incorporating inclusion and the GELDS are reflected in this training.		
Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:30 p.m 8:30 p.m. \$10	Open-ended Questions are Important! Who, What, When, Where, & Why? – 2 hr.	Estelle Rothwell, BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	Learn how to incorporate open-ended questions in the classroom to encourage positive language development.		
Saturday, June 4, 2022	Cheerios!!! Food Service and Nutrition – 4 hrs.	Sandra Jackson	
9:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. \$20	Time for Knowledge and a Meal. This training covers healthy foods, preparations, and food allergies. Healthy eating and exercise provide	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	positive child development. LET'S EAT!		
Monday, June 6, 2022 7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10	Transitioning-Moving Right Along (Infants & Toddlers) – 2 hrs. Come learn how verbal cues are an absolute necessity when encouraging young children to transition from one activity to the next. Practicing and	Linda Davis, BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	making it fun for the children will support a smooth transition.		
Tuesday, June 7, 2022 12:00 p.m 1:00 p.m.	Creating an Inclusive Environment for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – 1 hr.	Deanna Sovern, BFTS Approved Trainer	
\$5 Webinar	Be introduced to inclusion and how to create an inclusive environment in early childhood classrooms.		
Thursday, June 9, 2022	Communicating with Families – 2 hrs.	Sandra Jackson	
7:00 p.m 9:00 p.m. \$10	Let's talk about how having available resources and getting families involved maps an effective way toward establishing productive family	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	communications/relationships and ensuring the safety of the children in our care.		
Saturday, June 11, 2022	Understanding Grant Guidelines and Eligibility – 3 hrs.	Melvina Craw	
9:00 a.m 11:00 p.m. \$10	Confused about why grant applications get denied? Do you need a clearer understanding of grant guidelines and eligibility requirements to avoid	BFTS Approved Trainer	
Webinar	wasting hours of unnecessary writing? This webinar provides information to help you know how to determine which grants are right for you.		
Saturday, June 25, 2022	Math: Hands on Learning – 2 hrs.	Meribeth Bice, BFTS Approved Trainer	
10:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. \$10	Math can be fun! Learn how play and hands-on activities can be used for learning math.		
Albany State University-West 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707			

MONTHLY SELF CARE CHECKLIST

for teachers

- TANUARY
 Read a book.
- FEBRUARY

 Make a gratitude list.
- MARCH
 Try meditation.
- Organize something.
- MAY
 Take a walk.
- Suy yourself flowers.

- ♥ JULY
 Relax outdoors.
- AUGUST
 Listen to music.
- Stretch.
- OCTOBER

 Try a new recipe.
- NOVEMBER Watch a movie.
- © DECEMBER
 Watch the sunset.

-Literacy IN FOCUS

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, or for Quality Rated training register through the GaPDS.
- 2. Email blasts are sent twice a week as a reminder of upcoming sessions. Please check your email often.
- 3. **Webinars**-You must attend virtually and participate in all activities, polls, chats, and breakout sessions during the training to receive a certificate.
- 4. No one is admitted to the training without prior registration and payment if required.
- 5. Registrations must be received at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled training date.
- 6. Credit and refunds for cancellations are not allowed. Canceling your registration requires at least a 24-hour notice. When calling to cancel, you may apply your payment toward another scheduled training.
- 7. If you register for free training and do not attend, your registration for free training in the future may not be accepted.
- 8. Enjoy and thanks for attending our training!

How to Attend the Webinar Training Session

- 1. Register for the training through the <u>www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php</u> website by purchasing a ticket, if required, through Eventbrite for the training of your choice.
- 2. Once registration and payment have been received, 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.
- 3. When it is time to join the session, you will need to click the link in the email.
- 4. You may need to download an application to your computer or phone in order to join so please be sure to log in early.
- 5. Once the application is downloaded, you will be able to join the session.
- 6. Upon entering the session, please type your name and county you work in the chat box.
- 7. Please participate in all activities, polls, chats, and breakout sessions throughout the training.
- 8. Be sure to complete the Survey Monkey after the training to let us know your thoughts so we can better serve your needs.

IMPORTANT:

YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL FEES FOR TRAINING ARE RECEIVED.

For training information and questions, contact Training Administrator, Margo Sanders: 229.500.2897/866.833.3552 margo.sanders@asurams.edu



Like us on Facebook <u>@ccrrofswga</u> 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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