



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

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July - September 2024

Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators

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

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Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Amy M. Jacobs
Commissioner

July 2024

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

You've probably heard by now that DECAL is revising the Quality Rated program. This is the first major revision since the program was established in 2012, and it presents an opportunity for us to reaffirm the core child care practices that help children grow, thrive, and succeed. Our hope is that the redesign of the rating process will also make the system more supportive and easier for providers to navigate.

When we at DECAL talk about high-quality child care, we're talking about the quality of child care environments that foster strong, positive relationships between young children and their classroom teachers, the other adults they interact with, and their peers. This understanding is shared across all DECAL programs—CAPS, CCS, Instructional Supports, Professional Development, Georgia's Pre-K, and Quality Rated.

Children's interactions with caregivers who are nurturing, supportive, and responsive to their needs and interests are the foundation of high-quality early care and learning, and this won't change with the new system.

The changes we will make with the new Quality Rated program are based in large measure on your feedback. Last year we collected extensive data from providers and other stakeholders about what it's like for you to complete the rating process. One of the things we heard from many providers is that the formal ERS observations can be stressful for classroom teachers and students. And therefore the ratings may not fully capture the quality of your work with children.

It is our goal for the new system to put you, the provider, in charge of a cycle of continuous quality improvement. You will have more options in the rating process, and we hope to include resources for a program improvement planning team. It is our plan to create a new structure that will make the formal observations more predictable and less stressful.

We will be soliciting feedback from providers and other stakeholders throughout the design and implementation of the new system. We held a webinar in May and fielded a stakeholder survey afterward. We are in the process of analyzing that feedback now, and we plan to hold another webinar later this year to update you on our progress.

We're all excited about creating a new system that works better for everyone, and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Sincerely,

Bentley Ponder
Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations & Partnerships



Qualities to Look for When Hiring a New Teacher

We all know how hard it is today to find quality staff. We tend to hire solely based on education or experience, or even just availability. But maybe we need to stop and take the time to read the people we are interviewing. When setting out to interview for new teachers for your program, try to look for the following qualities:

Empathy – Teachers and educators understand the moods and emotional highs and lows of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. They know when a hug or high-five is needed.

Encouragement – They don't rely on Jedi mind tricks but rather words of encouragement to get children to try something new.

Patience – Early childhood educators know young children may need to be reminded multiple times to do something, how to do it, or not to do it at all. They can repeat themselves with a smile on their face every time.

Mastery of Time – On the flip side, early childhood educators are masters of time. They know how to handle toddlers and preschoolers running in different directions and how to stick to a schedule. They're masters at getting children to transition or move on to the next activity quickly and with ease.

Creativity – Teachers can make anything out of everyday items. There's nothing they can't do with glue, scissors, and some [Pinterest inspiration](#). Want to see some of the fun things kids get to do at our YMCA child care programs? Get a glimpse of your child's day on our [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) feeds.

Fearlessness - Young children often find bugs, insects, and other creepy crawlies fascinating and teachers aren't afraid to get up close and personal with them even though inside, they're saying something completely opposite.

Transformation – Dramatic play is a big part of many early childhood education curriculums. Early childhood educators have no hang ups about getting into character and can transform into another person, animal, or object in a matter of seconds.

Adaptability – Every day is different with a classroom of infants, toddlers, or preschoolers; early childhood educators can adapt to children's interests easily with their plans B, C, D, E, F, and sometimes G.

[8 Qualities Every Early Childhood Educator Should Have – YMCA of Greater Toronto Blog \(ymcagta.org\)](http://ymcagta.org)





Congratulations

to these new Quality Rated providers!

- ★ Hope Learning Academy
- ★ Hands on Learning Academy III
- ★ Fourth Street Daycare Center
- ★ New Oak Academy
- ★ Kids World 3
- ★★ Lander Harper - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Christine Lewis - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Detra Maynard - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Cherished Memories Child Care Center
- ★★ Gwendolyn Miller - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Buttons & Bows
- ★★ Emily Buckner - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Cinderella Richardson - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Precious One's Child Care
- ★★ Kandice Crowder - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Buffie Dunn - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Land of the Little People Daycare
- ★★ Mildred Clemons - Whittington - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Davis Child Care
- ★★ Family Literacy Connection
- ★★ Lora's Child Care
- ★★ New Beginnings Early Learning Academy
- ★★★★ Sharekka Moore - Family Child Care Learning Home

Ratings through 6/2024



Dinner and a Training

Thursday, August 1, 2024

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

\$15

Albany State University-West
2400 Gillionville Road
Albany, GA 31707


Event Center (located left of the Student Center/Building C)

Come join us for a 2-hour BFTS approved training and
dinner is on us!

We are All a Piece of the Puzzle: Everyone's Role is Important!

As an early childhood professional come join us to begin to
understand how everyone's role in a program plays an important
part of creating a team to meet the goals of the
program and children.

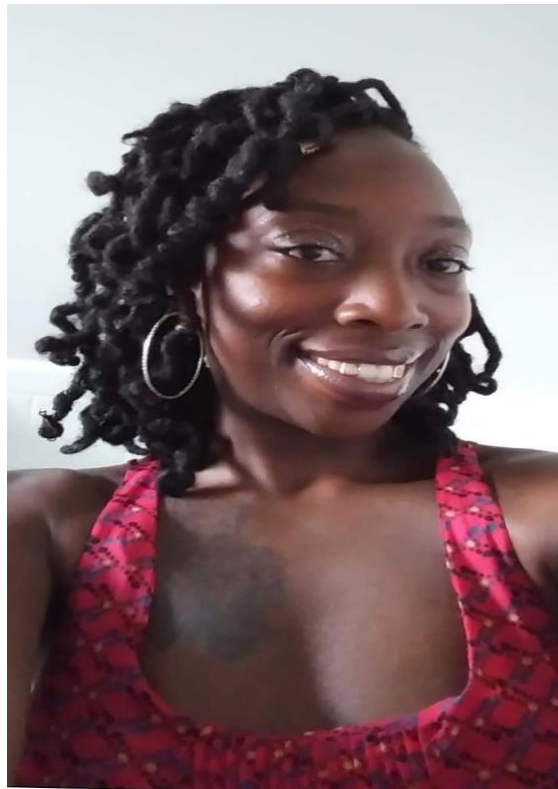
Training begins at 6:30 p.m.



For questions or assistance, please call or email Margo Sanders,
CCR&R Training Administrator:
(229) 500-2897 / margo.sanders@asuraflms.edu.

Quality Rated Provider Highlight

Moore Love Kidz Hampton, GA, 3 - Stars!!!



Good day everyone, my name is Sharekka Moore, owner of Moore Love Kidz in Hampton, GA. Since becoming a licensed family child care learning home in 2022, our program has focused on helping each child learn and develop at their own pace.

When I was first introduced to the idea of becoming Quality Rated, I was nervous, but during the evaluation process in April 2024, our love and dedication shone through naturally, just like any other day. I was overjoyed to receive three stars on my first attempt and couldn't help but jump and cry for joy!

With this achievement, I believe the sky's the limit, and I'm proud to say that when you love what you do, it never feels like work.

~ Sharekka Moore /Owner

Invest in Your Child Care Program's Financial Future at the DECAL Thriving Child Care Business Academy

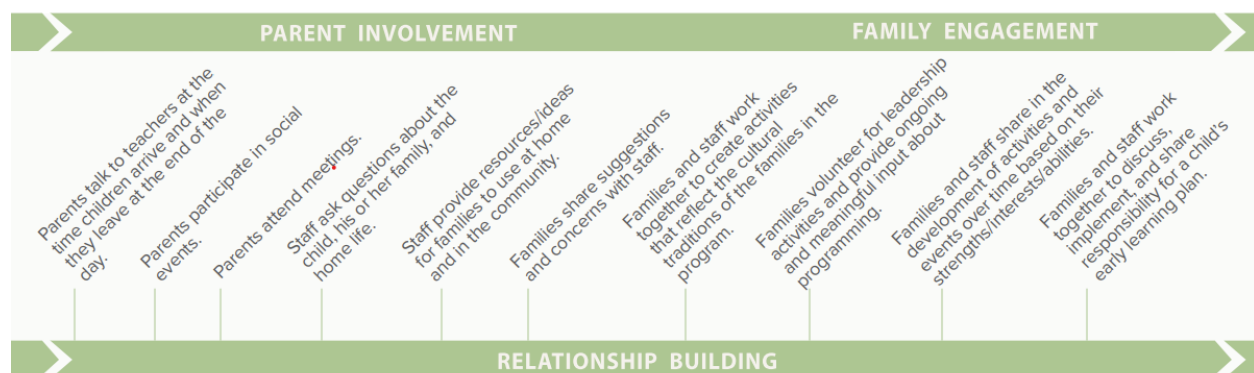
The DECAL Thriving Child Care Business Academy is back in session for 2024 with dynamic online training and resources to help Georgia child care businesses grow and prosper. The Academy houses a comprehensive range of large-group webinars, small study groups, individual coaching, and self-study guides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

There are 1-hour training 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.gov/Thrive/SchedulesandRegistration.aspx), then register for training @ <https://www.dec.al.gov/Thrive/SchedulesandRegistration.aspx> or sign up for the small study groups or 1-on-1 coaching @ [wkf.ms/3SjtUPN](https://www.wkf.ms/3SjtUPN)

What does Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Look Like?

Where do you fall on the spectrum? Where can you make improvements? What are you willing to try?



[Parent Involvement and Family Engagement For Early Childhood Professionals \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov/parent-involvement-and-family-engagement/)



Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales-3 Series Training

This beginning-level training series will introduce Family Child Care Providers to the Environment Rating Scale (ERS) by taking a closer look at each area of the scale independently. Providers will gain insight into the different parts of the scale, what makes them developmentally appropriate, and the reason (the **WHY**) behind the requirements. Working in large groups, small groups, and individually, providers will have time to ask questions and gain confidence in their understanding of what is expected of them during the QR process.

These sessions will begin on Tuesday, August 1, and will run each Tuesday night through September 5.

Start time will be 6:30 pm each night and end times will vary.

Refer to the training calendar to check times and register for sessions, the cost is \$5 per credit hour.

Training Calendar – July, August, & September 2024

Tuesday, 7/2/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Creative Activities <i>But I am not Creative! How Do I become more creative? How do I promote creativity in the classroom?</i>	Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 7/18/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Developmental Stages and Domains- Child Growth and Development Preschool <i>You will have the opportunity to become more innovative in your approach to implementing age and developmentally appropriate all-inclusive activities by using GELDS. This training will enhance your knowledge of the Developmental Stages and Domains of Preschool Children. Come and Grow with Us!</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 7/20/2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Grace Learning Center 1569 Edna Place Macon, GA 31204	Sip and Paint-Developing Social, Emotional, and Creative Skills <i>As Philip Pullman once said, "Children need art and stories and poems and music as much as they need love and food and fresh air and play." This training will give them just that!!! Come be introduced to "Intentional ART", giving children the opportunity to Inspire creative thinking! Thus, they can freely express their feelings/emotions through Art (painting), while enhancing their socialization skills in a more relaxed classroom environment to stimulate social interaction with their peers and adults.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 7/27/2024 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. \$25 Webinar	Fire Safety <i>This course meets the requirements mandated by the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's office.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 7/11/2024 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. \$15 Albany State University-West 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707 "Event Center"	We are all a Piece of the Puzzle: Everyone's Role is Important <i>This training will assist Early Childhood Professionals to understand how everyone's role in a program is an important part of creating a team to meet the goals of the program.</i> <i>Dinner will be provided! Training begins at 6:30</i>	Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 8/1/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. \$7.50 Webinar	Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales - Program Structure <i>Learn all about the Program Structure section of the Environmental Rating Scale by taking a closer look at each area of the scale: schedules/transitions, free play, and group time.</i>	Kathi Roberts BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 8/8/2024 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. \$5 Webinar	Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales – Space & Furnishings <i>Learn all about the Space and Furnishings section of the Environmental Rating Scale by taking a closer look at each area of the scale: indoor space, furnishings, room arrangement, and display.</i>	Kathi Roberts BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 8/15/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder <i>This is beginners training. It is designed to bring awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder to providers.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer

Thursday, 8/15/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. \$7.50 Webinar	Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales – Personal Care Routines <i>Learn all about the personal care routines section of the Environmental Rating Scale by taking a closer look at each area of the scale: meals/snacks, diapering/toileting, health and safety practices.</i>	Kathi Roberts BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 8/22/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales – Language and Books <i>Learn about the Listening /Talking section of the Environmental Rating Scale by taking a closer look at each area of the scale: talking with children, encouraging vocabulary development, responding to children's communications, and encouraging children to communicate. Also, explore the provider's use of books with children and encourage children's use of books.</i>	Kathi Roberts BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 8/24/2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Super Saturday!!! Chilli's Grill and Bar 5080 Riverside Drive #Suite 1600 Macon, GA 31210	Classroom Imaginarium Western Style <i>This training is designed to enhance the children's knowledge in Cognitive Development and General Knowledge: Math, Social Studies, Science, Creative Development, and Cognitive Processes. Incorporating inclusion and GELDS are reflected in this training.</i> Down Syndrome-Chromosome 21 <i>Join us for a unique opportunity to get a glimpse of what the parents go through before birth and how Down Syndrome affects the developmental domains of the children. Your questions will be answered on how you can provide inclusive activities using GELDS and appropriately support parents and children while learning more about Down Syndrome.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 8/29/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales - Activities <i>Join us in exploring the activities section of the Environmental Rating Scale by taking a closer look at each area of the scale: fine motor, art, music/movement, blocks, dramatic play, nature/science, math/number, appropriate use of screen time, promoting acceptance of diversity, and gross motor.</i>	Kathi Roberts BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 9/5/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. \$7.50 Webinar	Family Child Care Environment Rating Scales - Interactions <i>Come join us in exploring the interactions section of the Environmental Rating Scale by taking a closer look at each area of the scale. We will explore supervision of gross motor play, supervision of play and learning, provider-child interaction, providing physical warmth/touch, guiding children's behavior, and interactions among children.</i>	Kathi Roberts BFTS Approved Trainer
Saturday, 9/7/2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$35 Potter's House Child Care Center 1800 N. Central Ave Tifton, GA 31794	The Book Club: Bringing Stories to Life! <i>Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom.</i> <i>Free books to all participants</i>	Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer
Tuesday, 9/10/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar	The Three Pigs-Professionalism in Child Care <i>Come join in on the discussion: What is professionalism? What if my co-workers don't get along? Do I have rules or guidelines to follow? Come learn what professionalism is and what guidelines to follow.</i>	Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer
Thursday, 9/12/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar	Indoor and Outdoor Hazards <i>Come learn proper procedures to follow for a safe environment both indoors and outdoors which includes information from BFTS Rules and Regulations, Physical Plant, Playground Safety, and Building and Grounds.</i>	Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer

<p>Saturday, 9/21/2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30</p> <p>Super Saturday!!!</p> <p>Maggie Campbell's Gingerbread House Learning Center 719 South Ridge Ave Tifton, GA 31794</p>	<p>Creative Carnival <i>Learn how to guide children toward unlocking their creative and explorative nature and opening the doors over the developmental domains. Thus, creating opportunities that stimulate creativity, through activities in areas such as music, drawing, fine arts, drama, language, etc. including children with Special Needs.</i></p> <p>Family Style Dining A Relaxing Dining Experience for Everyone <i>Learn the tools needed to implement a successful Family Style Dining program that is age and developmentally appropriate to meet the needs of all children, including those with special needs. It will provide the children with an opportunity to make healthy nutritional choices, become more independent, and increase their socialization skills.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 9/28/2024 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. \$60</p> <p>Albany State University-West Building J, Room 128 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707</p>	<p>CPR/First Aid <i>American Heart Association</i></p> <p><i>Learn how to recognize and alleviate airway obstructions, and the signs, symptoms, and corrective action for a stroke or heart attack.</i></p> <p><i>Also, learn to recognize and treat minor medical emergencies.</i></p>	<p>Judy Gaines Certified Instructor</p>

Did you know that our Technical Assistance Coordinators (TACs) can offer you and your staff private trainings for a very low cost? Our staff that provide your TA for Quality Rated, can also assist your program in its continuing efforts for early education and training.

We can provide professional development on a wide variety of topics or areas of direct need for your staff and/or program virtually or onsite at your program. Our TACs can help assess your needs for professional development and offer trainings specifically to meet those needs.

If you are interested in having a Technical Assistance Coordinator speak with you about scheduling a training, let your TAC know today, or call our Training Administrator, Margo Sanders: 229.500.2897 or margo.sanders@asurams.edu.



Save the Date!

New October Training Events!!!!
Don't Miss the Boat on our "Trip Around the World"
We aim to Spark your excitement with "Igniting the Power of Storytelling"

These are two trainings you will want to be on the look out for!!!!

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 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 any 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.

How to Attend the Webinar Training Session

1. Register for the training through the www.asurams.edu/ccrr/training.php website by purchasing a ticket through Eventbrite.
2. 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. You may need to download an application to your computer or phone in order to join so please be sure to log in early. Once the application is downloaded, you will be able to join the session.

IMPORTANT:

YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED UNTIL FEES FOR TRAINING ARE RECEIVED.

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

<https://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/update-your-info-for-referrals>




Update Your Info for Referrals — Quality Care for Children

Update your child care program's information to ensure parents get accurate information when receiving referrals from Quality Care for Children.

www.qualitycareforchildren.org



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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Cindy Fick Operations Director 229.854.0930	Be the Leader You Would Follow	Cindy Spann Executive Director 229.854.9767

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