



Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators

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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 or 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,

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

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

Did you know that 90% of teachers reported participating in professional development, most of those teachers also reported that it was totally useless. This is why it is so important to use Intentional Professional Development (PD) planning with your staff to get the best transfer of learning into your classrooms!

What is Intentional PD planning?

- Simply put, is putting thought into what professional development opportunities your staff attend to make them meaningful to individual staff growth needs, goals, and child outcomes.

When using Intentional PD planning, some questions to ask your staff include:

- Where are you now, and where do you think you want to be?
- What are the skills and knowledge required for your future self?
- Knowing your current skill and knowledge level, where do you have areas of potential growth?
- What learning opportunities are available that will assist in reaching your goals?

We can help you with this process. Feel free to ask your TAC what PD opportunities are available.



Congratulations

to these new Quality Rated providers!

- ★ Small World Education Center
- ★★ Yolanda James - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Mother Goose Nursery
- ★★ Our Little Hands Early Learning Center
- ★★ Itza Benn - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Creative World Child Care Center

Tips & Tricks with the TACs

My TA Tips:

1. Consider investing in a large dog bed for the cozy area. Here's why:
 - It provides ample space for 1-2 friends to comfortably lounge.
 - Dog beds are cost-effective.
 - The covers are washable making it easy to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in the cozy area.
2. Toy Salesmanship: When you're presenting a toy, become the ultimate toy salesman. Dive into the details and really sell it. Make playing with it irresistible to your little customers.
3. Engage in Conversations: Aim to have at least two rounds of engaging conversations in each interest center daily. This fosters deeper interactions and involvement among the children and can increase your ERS scores.
4. Work to incorporate the current theme into the classroom. Make sure to change the items on display regularly to reflect current seasons, recent activities, and current interests. Add a variety of items related to your theme to display pictures, classroom decorations, books, your interest center items, photographs of the children in your display, and child-directed artwork in your display. **REMEMBER-** talk with the children about the displays throughout the day. Free play time is a great time to practice having these discussions!
5. When considering the storage solutions, utilize shelves, cubbies, and storage units to keep toys, materials, and art supplies organized. Make sure everything has a designated place, making it easier for children to clean up at the end of the day.
Also invest in a variety of age appropriate toys and manipulatives that promote learning through play. Blocks, puzzles, and art materials will help develop fine motor skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.



Quality Rated Provider Highlight

Cherished Children Too Centerville, GA, 3 - Stars!!!

Hello, my name is Latonya Blasingame, I am the Executive Director of two learning facilities in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Here at Cherished Children Too we offer quality and affordable child care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. Our program helps children learn at age-appropriate levels. My journey with the Quality Rated process was easy for me in my opinion because I am a firm believer in teaching and loving my children as well as my parents from the heart.



When you teach from the heart you don't have to prepare or work hard to succeed in life, it just flows naturally. I am proud to say Cherished Children Too has been a 3-star center since 2019, and we look forward to continuing to give quality care to our families in the years to come.

~ Latonya Blasingame/Executive Director

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.decals.gov/Thrive/SchedulesandRegistration.aspx), then register for training @ <https://www.decals.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)

Books Galore and So Much More!

An Early Childhood Educator's Book Club

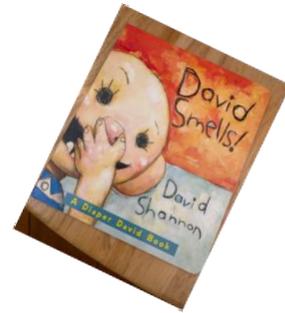
Come join the “*Book Club*” and learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom!

Upon request, we will now offer the sessions in the evening hours to accommodate everyone and sessions will be once each month for the following months
April, May, and June 2024.

The time will be 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
the cost is \$12 per session.

Davis Smells!

by David Shannon
April 16, 2024



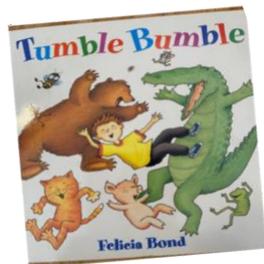
Bein' with You This Way

by W. Nikola-Lisa
May 7, 2024



Tumble Bumble

by Felicia Bond
June 11, 2024



Each session includes a copy of the featured book and 2 BFTS Approved Hrs.

The Family Gathering: Ideas, Information, & Resources for FCCLHs

Did you know that when you use Intentional Professional Development (PD) Planning it not only positively affects your knowledge and skills but it also positively affects children's outcomes?

What is Intentional PD planning?

- Simply put, is putting thought into what professional development opportunities you attend to make them meaningful to your professional growth needs, goals, and child outcomes.

When using Intentional PD planning, some **questions to ask yourself** include:

- Where are you now, and where do you think you want to be?
- What are the skills and knowledge required for your future self?
- Knowing your current skill and knowledge level, where do you have areas of potential growth?
- What learning opportunities are available that will assist in reaching your goals?

We can help you with this process.

Feel free to ask your technical assistance provider what PD opportunities are available.



#WOYC24

naeyc
**Week of the
Young Child™**

A Week of Fun! April 6-12, 2024

A fun-filled week celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. Click here for more information, resources and printable toolkit [WOYC](#)

Training Calendar – April, May, & June 2024

<p>Thursday, 4/4/2024 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Our Children-Our Future!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learn about identifying and preventing sexual assault, and child abuse and how to recognize, prevent, and report child abuse. Let's start with Safety First for our children by putting strategies in place to prevent abuse/neglect and sexual assault. Remember YOU are a Mandated Reporter!</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Tuesday, 4/9/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Understanding Challenging Behaviors in Young Children</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Join us in defining challenging behaviors and identifying strategies to reduce challenging behavior in young children.</i></p>	<p>Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 4/11/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Way to Teach ABCs for Early Reading Foundations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Using sounds to teach the alphabet jumpstarts earlier reading and lays the foundation for successful blending, two necessities of reading!</i></p>	<p>Lori Sugarman BFTS Approved Trainers</p>
<p>Saturday, 4/13/2024 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. \$25</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fire Safety</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This course meets the requirements mandated by the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's office.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Tuesday, 4/16/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$12</p> <p>Webinar</p> <p><i>Each session includes a copy of the featured book!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bringing Stories to Life! Storytelling and Enhancing Your Classroom Featuring the Book: <i>David Smells</i> by David Shannon</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom using the book David Smells.</i></p>	<p>Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 4/20/2023 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 style="text-align: center;">CPR/First Aid <i>American Heart Association</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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></p>	<p>Judy Gaines Certified Instructor</p>
<p>Thursday, 4/25/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Developmental Stages and Domains: Child Growth and Development – Infant/Toddler</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Enhance your knowledge of the Developmental Stages and Domains of Infants/Toddlers and become more innovative in your approach to implementing age and developmentally-appropriate all-inclusive activities using GELDS. Come and Grow with Us!</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 4/27/2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30</p> <p>Miss Daisy's Darlings Daycare 3004 US 41S Tifton, GA 31794</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I've Got A New Attitude Professionalism Starts With ME!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>By reviewing the NAEYC Ethical Code of Conduct, their Statement of Commitment, and research, you will have the opportunity to develop and/or amend your program's policies and procedures to include a section on Ethics and Professionalism that is "Center Specific" for your learning environments.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Building Partnerships to Support Families Experiencing Homelessness</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Learn how to identify families that are experiencing homelessness. Understand the causes of family homelessness. Learn the effects of homelessness on families. Learn how to work with families and their children who are experiencing homelessness.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>

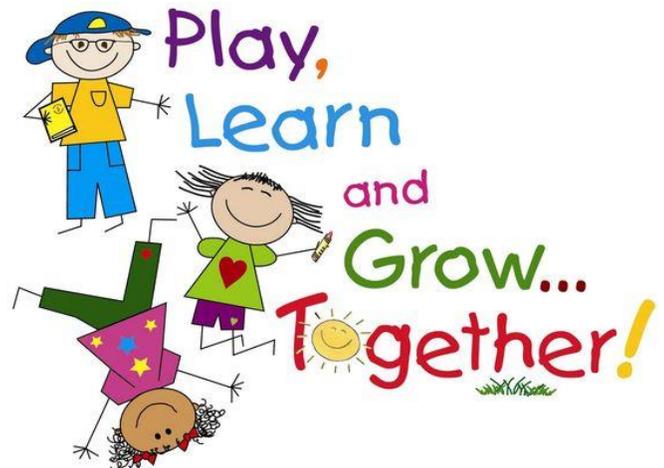
<p>Thursday, 5/2/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Can I Play? Looking at Children's Development through Play <i>Join us to learn how to develop children's social, emotional, and physical skills through play and why they are so important.</i></p>	<p>Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Tuesday, 5/7/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$12</p> <p>Webinar <i>Each session includes a copy of the featured book!</i></p>	<p>Bringing Stories to Life! Storytelling and Enhancing Your Classroom Featuring the Book: <i>Bein' with You This Way</i> by W. Nikola-Lisa <i>Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom using the book <i>Bein' with You This Way</i>.</i></p>	<p>Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 5/9/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>What?! Healthy Behavior Management Strategies <i>This course defines behavior management and helps the caregiver differentiate between challenging and difficult behaviors. It offers positive strategies that result from inappropriate classroom behavior.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 5/11/2023 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. FREE</p> <p>Albany State University-West Building J, Room 128 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707</p>	<p>Emergency Preparedness For Child Care Programs <i>Be aware of the necessary steps to take to ensure the safety and well-being of children during a medical, natural, or man-made emergency in a child care center setting.</i></p>	<p>Tina Yost & Estelle Rothwell BFTS Approved Trainers</p>
<p>Thursday, 5/16/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Child Development <i>Early child care educators need knowledge about child development and learning to support children in their progress. Acknowledging what children do at different stages of their lives helps educators provide developmentally appropriate achievable activities and develop appropriate learning goals for each child.</i></p>	<p>Linda Davis BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 5/18/2023 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30</p> <p>Super Saturday!!! New Vision Ministries 494 Unadilla Highway Hawkinsville, GA 31036</p>	<p>Creating Moods Through Music <i>Music is important! Learn how integrating it through teaching can create a calm happy environment. It also enhances the overall well-being, growth, development, and learning of the children including those with disabilities and dual language learners.</i></p> <p>Using Transitions Appropriately <i>This training is designed to give participants additional knowledge to be able to create/develop diverse, age and developmentally-appropriate transitional activities to include accommodations for children with special needs.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Tuesday, 5/21/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Sing into Reading and Sounds with the Delaware River <i>Developed around an illustrated song video starring the Delaware River, this song comes with slides, "d" sight words, a coloring page, a poem, a story, and beginning reader-writer activities.</i></p>	<p>Lori Sugarman BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Tuesday, 6/4/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Caring in Childcare <i>Recognizing and applying the importance of honesty to help children reach their full potential.</i></p>	<p>Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 6/8/2024 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$20</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Analyzing Behavior for Possible Adaptations <i>When educators observe a child they learn how each child behaves, learns, reacts to new situations, and interacts with others. Educators then must take that information and develop activities to enhance the children's skills in all child development areas thus reducing behavior situations. Learn how to analyze different situations and adapt them to increase positive behavior in the children.</i></p>	<p>Linda Davis BFTS Approved Trainer</p>

<p>Tuesday, 6/11/2024 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$12</p> <p>Webinar <i>Each session includes a copy of the featured book!</i></p>	<p>Bringing Stories to Life! Storytelling and Enhancing Your Classroom Featuring the Book: <i>Tumble Bumble</i> by Felicia Bond <i>Learn how to bring your story to life and incorporate it throughout the day within the classroom using the book Tumble Bumble.</i></p>	<p>Dianne Fitchlee BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 6/13/2024 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Using Transitions Appropriately <i>Learn to create and develop diverse and developmentally appropriate transitional activities.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 6/22/2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30</p> <p>Super Saturday!!!</p> <p>Chilli's Grill and Bar 5080 Riverside Drive #Suite 1600 Macon, GA 31210</p>	<p>Food Safety and Nutrition <i>Join us to gain additional knowledge in food preparation, storage, serving, nutrition planning, and proper dishwashing!</i></p> <p>Family Style Dining A Relaxing Dining Experience for Everyone <i>This training will give providers the tools needed to implement a successful Family Style Dining program. The training 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>

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.



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



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

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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

Marsharika Newbill Office & Accounting Coordinator 229.500.2893	Margo Sanders Training Administrator 229.500.2897	Sabrina Dawkins Data Manager 229.500.2894
Meribeth Bice Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.0978	Kerri Chalou Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.1225	Tina Yost Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.376.1552
Dee Hylick Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.809.4067	Shandry Johnson Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.319.3227	Maggie Girdler Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.1650
Alicia Mills Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.0064	Caroline Wood Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.319.3533	Kathi Roberts Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.449.7947
Beth Fenimore Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.319.4274	Jennifer Taylor Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.449.3314	Erica White Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.894.0070
Crystal Heard Lead Technical Assistance & Professional Learning Community Coordinator 229.894.0081	Zoe Thwaites Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.603.2995	Cassie Thompson Lead Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.9515
Angie Morey Lead Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.9515	Dianne Fitchlee Training Director 229.854.1250	Estelle Rothwell Lead Technical Assistance Coordinator 229.854.1049
Cindy Fick Operations Director 229.854.0930	Be the Leader You Would Follow	Cindy Spann Executive Director 229.854.9767