



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

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Albany, GA 31707
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July - September 2025

<https://www.asurams.edu/ccrr>

Quarterly Bulletin and Training Calendar for Early Childhood Educators

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**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 2025

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

I hope you and the children in your care are enjoying some safe summer fun! You may associate my name with new licensing rules. I lead the Child Care Services division of DECAL, and my team has wide-ranging responsibilities. Our most important responsibility—which we share with you, our state's licensed child care programs and family providers—is keeping young children safe while they are in child care. Standards for best practices in child care are constantly evolving, and my team is committed to keeping you informed and providing technical assistance as these standards change.



This year my team has a special focus on preventing choking. Choking injuries and deaths are entirely preventable. Nevertheless, two toddlers choked to death on food last year while they were attending child care in Georgia.

Two of the new licensing rules that go into effect July 1 address first aid and CPR. The two children who died last year were eating in classrooms where no one present knew how to respond. We must work together to prevent incidents like these from happening again.

It is essential to have an adult in every early learning classroom who can respond immediately if a young child starts to choke, but it is just as important to prepare food that toddlers can safely eat, and closely supervise them while they are eating.

DECAL will be partnering with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) to conduct an educational campaign this fall about choking prevention. Together we will be hosting Super Saturday educational events around the state for child care providers. Stay tuned for details. My team is also developing posters and other printed materials for you that illustrate the types and sizes of foods that young children can eat safely; and Child Care Services along with DECAL's Infant Toddler and Nutrition divisions are working to create training and other resources for your programs and the families you serve.

We always want you to succeed in complying with licensing rules. From July 1 through September 30, 2025, our consultants will offer TA if they observe violations of the new first aid and CPR rules. Working together, I feel sure we can prevent future choking incidents.

Sincerely,

Pam Stevens

Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

Tips for Safe Summer Outdoor Play



Weather

The [DECAL](#) weather chart can help you understand weather forecasts and decide when it is safe for children to be outside. Along with local forecasts, this resource can help staff check the temperature, humidity, and air quality.

Follow these tips to stay up to date on weather conditions:

- Check the [Air Quality Index](#). Poor air quality can negatively affect children with asthma and other special health care needs.
- Check the forecast for the [UV Index Overview](#) to limit exposure to the sun when the index is high.
- Sign up to receive [hourly weather forecasts](#) from the National Weather Service.

Hydration

Toddlers and preschool children cannot regulate their body temperatures well and need more water when the weather is hot. Regularly scheduled water breaks encourage all children to drink during active play, even if they don't feel thirsty. Bring water outside to allow children to have water as needed while playing outside.

Playground Safety

Here are some playground safety tips to follow:

- Inspect materials and equipment. Make repairs when needed.
- Check the temperature of metal swings, slides, dark rubber, and plastic materials, and especially the surface under and around playground equipment. Ensure that these surfaces will not burn a child's skin.
- Make sure that impact-absorbing surfaces are the proper thickness to protect children from injury.
- Keep fall zones clear.

Helmets

All children older than 1 should wear properly fitted and approved helmets when they ride toys with wheels or use any wheeled equipment. Helmets should be removed as soon as children stop riding wheeled toys or using the equipment and should be sanitized.

Adapted from: [Summer Safety Tips | HeadStart.gov](#)

Sign up for a Summer Session! FREE ONLINE BUSINESS TRAINING For Child Care Owners & Administrators



Small Study Groups on 11 Business & Financial Topics
Individual Coaching for Your Unique Business Challenges

[Learn More & Register Now!](#)

CHILD CARE OWNERS & ADMINISTRATORS



It's Easy to Thrive!!

Use Our

GETTING STARTED GUIDE

to figure out
where to start your
Thriving Child Care Business Academy
journey based on your needs and
interests

<https://bit.ly/STARTTHRIVINGHERE>

Email

gacoaching@civstrat.com

For Help

GETTING STARTED GUIDE





Congratulations

to these new Quality Rated providers!

- ★ Truly Blessed Early Learning Academy
- ★ Stonewell Academy
- ★★ Melissa Carter - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Mrs. Jill's LLC
- ★★ Prep Elite After-School & Tutoring Program
- ★★ Thomasville Child Care Center
- ★★ Sanders Kiddie Lane Academy & Daycare Inc.
- ★★ South GA Child Care
- ★★ Candy Cane's Learning Center
- ★★ Sunbrook Academy at Luella Academy
- ★★ Montessori Preparatory Academy of Lee
- ★★ Kid's Corner Child Development Center
- ★★ Carolyn Miller - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Jacob's Ladder Educational Child Care Center
- ★★ Childcare Network #344
- ★★ Childcare Network #175
- ★★ Childcare Network #251
- ★★ Childcare Network #235
- ★★ Childcare Network #224
- ★★ Childcare Network #230
- ★★ God's Foundation Christian Academy
- ★★ Eagles Landing Daycare and Learning Center
- ★★ Yalinda Grant - Family Child Care Learning Home
- ★★ Lifesprings Child Care Center
- ★★ Spirit Filled Academy
- ★★★★ Houston Road Daycare & Learning Center
- ★★★★ Childcare Network #36

Quality Rated Provider Highlight

Kid's Kastle Daycare and Learning Center Americus, GA, 3-Stars!!!



Hello, my name is Lesia Solomon. I'm the owner and director of Kids's Kastle Daycare & Learning Center in Americus, Ga. I've been married for 40 years to my wonderful husband, Ulysses David Solomon, who is my biggest supporter. I have 17 siblings. Growing up, I always took care of all of my nieces and nephews when school was out for the summer. That really inspired me to open up my own daycare center. I graduated from high school, completed some college classes, then went to work for Cooper Lighting for 10 years. After that, God blessed us to open up our own daycare Center, established in April 1997.

This year makes 28 years of providing quality care in our community. I love doing what I do for the kids and their parents every day. Someday can be harder than others, but at the end of the day, it's all worth it. The first time we went through Quality Rated was great. We learned a lot during that time which was very good. We were honored when we learned we were awarded a 3-star rating. When we went through the second time, we learned even more and were awarded another 3-star rating. It was so amazing to be recognized for our great work.

We are very blessed to have the opportunity to go through it again. We are going to keep pushing even harder this time to achieve that same 3-star accomplishment because, with God, all things are possible!!

KNOWING BETTER MEANS DOING BETTER: LET'S BE BETTER TOGETHER!!

**August 2nd, 2025
9a-2p**

**5 Hours BFTS
approved Training
Credit**

**Houston Road
Day Care&Learning
Center
6045 Houston Rd.
Macon, GA. 31216**

For Questions:
margo.sanders@asurams.edu
229 500-2897



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

**Scan Here to
Register:**



**2 Amazing Trainings to start your year off being the
best teacher you can be!**

ARE YOU THE BULLY? YES, YOU THE TEACHER!

**CONNECTING YOUR PAST AND PRESENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE:
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EARLY CARE AND
EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.**



Get your ticket today for a

Dinner and a Training

Thursday, August 14, 2025

6:00 - 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!


Unlocking Your Potential!

Manifesting Your Goals & Dreams

Join us for an exciting and engaging evening of self-assessment
and goal-setting that supports professional growth on all levels.
We will provide all the fun materials you will need to create an
inspiring vision board that will capture all your desired goals
and can be used for daily motivation.

We can't wait to see you there!

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@asurats.edu

Fun Summer Activities

Paint with Ice

Make ice using food coloring and water. Once frozen, let children paint on paper with them. This can be done indoors or out.

Make Homemade Ice Cream in a Bag

Ingredients per bag: ¼ cup milk, ¼ cup half-and-half, 1 tablespoon white sugar, ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract, 1 cup ice cubes, or as needed, 3 tablespoons ice cream, rock salt

Directions: Combine milk, half-and-half, sugar, and vanilla extract in a pint-size resealable plastic bag; seal tightly. Place a pint-sized bag of milk mixture, a scoop of ice, and 3 tablespoons of rock salt into a gallon-size resealable plastic bag; seal tightly. Rock gallon-size bag back and forth (do not shake) until thickens into ice cream, about 10 minutes. Wipe salt from the top of the pint-size bag before opening to prevent salt from getting into the ice cream.

Rediscover the Water Table

Bring the water table outside. Add new and interesting items. Change children into their bathing suits so they can get wet and really enjoy the play.

Start a Container Garden

Find small, inexpensive containers and choose some hearty plants (strawberries are fun and easy) to plant. Let the children plant these in the container and water them as needed (possibly daily). Observe the growth (have the children journal this through pictures or words).

Rediscover the Sand Table

Fill a sand table with plenty of tools and toys to encourage the kids to be creative as they dig, pour, and create designs. Just make sure to get one with a cover, so you can keep out rainwater and critters when the kids aren't playing in it.

Have an Indoor Picnic

So, for those rainy days (or total scorchers), it's a good idea to have indoor activities on tap. For instance, an indoor picnic can be a lovely way to simulate outside play. If you see a rainy day in the forecast, invite the kids to bring their favorite stuffed animal as their guest.

There are so many other activities you can put together for summer play, both outdoors and in. Keeping kids engaged is what matters. Boredom shouldn't be a factor when there's fun to be had.

Training Calendar – July, August, and September 2025

<p>Tuesday, 7/15/2025 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Dramatic Play is More than Just Make Believe <i>Dramatic Play should be an everyday thing in a preschool classroom, but many times Child care teachers do not have it for fear of not knowing what Dramatic Play consists of. This training helps teachers gain ideas for Dramatic Play in the Early Childhood Classroom.</i></p>	<p>Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 7/17/2025 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</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>
<p>Saturday, 7/19//2025 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>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>Lesson Plans Made Simple Using GELDS <i>Come learn a fun and exciting way of incorporating GELDS into your lesson plans and how to transform their learning environment into a more inclusive and welcoming classroom that is responsive to the needs of each child. Enhancing their ability to grow and learn!</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 7/24/2025 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Early Literacy in the Preschool Classroom <i>This training will inform participants of the importance of literacy development in the preschool classroom and prepare them to incorporate early literacy activities in their program.</i></p> <p>***This training meets the Language & Literacy requirement per BFTS</p>	<p>Crystal Heard BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 7/26/2025 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. \$25</p> <p>Webinar</p>	<p>Fire Safety <i>This course meets the requirements mandated by the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's office.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson Certified Instructor</p>
<p>Saturday, 8/2//2025 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. \$25</p> <p>Houston Rd Daycare 6045 Houston Rd Macon, Ga 31216</p>	<p>Knowing Better Means Doing Better!</p> <p>Are You the Bully? Yes, You, the Teacher <i>Autism, ADHD, and ODD are prevalent in the early childhood community. You may have preconceived notions of these disorders, and these notions can cause bullying behaviors. Learn the exceptionalities, practitioners' responses, and evidence-based strategies for responding effectively during this class.</i></p> <p>Connecting Your Past and Present Together for a Better Future: Social and Emotional Development for Early Care and Education Professionals <i>Did you know there has been an increase in teachers and administration abusing students, whether verbally or physically, while also displaying the same behaviors with team members? Experience or education does not seem to be a deciding factor in the behavior. Could it be that there is a lack of social and emotional development in adults? Join us for discussions and self-reflections to understand how our childhood experiences into adulthood can affect behaviors and decision-making processes.</i></p>	<p>Consuella Carter BFTS Approved Trainer</p>

<p>Tuesday, 8/12/2025 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar</p>	<p>Listen Mouse! Steps to the Happiest Place on Earth! <i>Safety, Courtesy, Show, and Efficiency will make your center one of the happiest places on earth. Recognizing and applying the importance of Disney's Keys of the Kingdom.</i></p>	<p>Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 8/14/2025 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$15 Albany State University-West 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707 Event Center</p>	<p>Dinner and a Training Unlocking Your Potential: Manifesting Your Goals/Dreams <i>Come join us for an exciting and engaging day of self-assessment and goal-setting for professional growth. We will provide all the fun materials you will need to create an inspiring vision board that will capture all your desired goals and can be used for daily motivation.</i> Dinner will be provided!</p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 8/21/2025 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar</p>	<p>Using Transitions Appropriately <i>Learn to create and develop diverse and developmentally appropriate transitional activities for your classroom.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 8/23/2025 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Super Saturday!!! Miss Daisy's Darlings Development Center 3004 US Hwy 41 S Tifton, GA 31793</p>	<p>Embracing Diversity <i>Learn how to incorporate multiculturalism/diversity in the classroom and design assessment tools to measure the success of the program.</i> Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder <i>This training is designed to bring awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder to providers.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Tuesday, 9/9/2025 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. \$10 Webinar</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Polly Raike BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Thursday, 9/18/2025 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. \$10 Webinar</p>	<p>Abusers Beware! Abuse and Neglect <i>This training is about protecting our children. You will learn skills for identifying physical and behavioral indicators of abuse, reporting, and more.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 9/20/2025 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. \$30 Super Saturday!!! Brown's Child Care Learning Center 3895 Napier Ave Macon, GA 31204</p>	<p>Make Every Move Count <i>Learn techniques to develop and implement ORIGINAL activities to enhance children's physical and cognitive growth and development. These activities will be focused on children from infancy to 5+.</i> The Transition Express Train - Switching Tracks <i>All aboard! This training provides meaningful, educational, and fun activities for transitioning.</i></p>	<p>Sandra Jackson BFTS Approved Trainer</p>
<p>Saturday, 9/27/2025 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. \$60 Albany State University-West 2400 Gillionville Road Albany, GA 31707</p>	<p>CPR/First Aid <i>American Heart Association</i> <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>

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 future 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 Professional Development & Social Media Coordinator, 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



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OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA AT ALBANY
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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

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