



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

October 10, 2023

Dear Child Care Provider,

As you are aware, all newly hired child care program staff are required to successfully complete 10 hours of state-approved Health & Safety Orientation training within 90 days of employment as stated in rules 591-1-1-.33(3) and FCCLH 290-2-3-.07(7).

Child Care Services (CCS) within the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) was tasked with the opportunity of developing free versions of the Health & Safety Orientation training as part of participating in a federal funding program known as the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

We are proud to announce the free CCS versions are live on the Georgia Professional Development System for Early Childhood Educators ([GaPDS](#))! The trainings are listed as:

[Health and Safety: Child Development](#)
[Health and Safety: Health and Nutrition](#)
[Health and Safety: Safety and Emergency Preparedness](#)

Program staff will receive 15 hours of training credit for taking all three training courses, which will exceed the 10-hour Health and Safety Requirement for licensing. All three trainings must be taken to meet the Health and Safety Orientation requirement.

The current Health & Safety Orientation training offered free by Better Kid Care (through Penn State) will be available through December 31, 2023. Starting January 1, 2024, Better Kid Care will no longer offer their version of the training at no charge.

Program staff are encouraged to choose a state-approved Health and Safety training course that works best for them; whether it be free, has an enrollment fee, is face-to-face, virtual, etc. Attached you will find a Required Training Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) explaining all training requirements.

As always, thank you for the work you do each day to support Georgia's youngest learners and their families.

Sincerely,

Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services