



Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning



Contact Us

Child Care Services December 2016 Newsletter

Greetings Child Care Providers,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2016. This year has brought some trying times to our state. Many of you were impacted by Hurricane Matthew and, more recently, North Georgia has suffered from widespread wildfires. I am always inspired that even during the difficult situations, you all continue to do your best, day in and day out, to provide safe and healthy learning environments for our children.

With the holiday season in full swing, please remain diligent in those efforts. Unfortunately, this time of year brings an increase in accidental fires and incidents. Be sure to take special care if you decorate your center or home for the holidays. The [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) has a resource regarding holiday safety that can be reviewed and shared with families.

The CCS staff and I extend our best wishes to you, your staff, and the children and families you serve for a safe, bright, and joyous holiday season! Warmest wishes for a wonderful new year as well!



Best Regards,

Kristie Lewis

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services



DECAL KOALA

Kids Online Administrative Licensing Application

Georgia law requires annual license fees for all licensed child care programs. Bright from the Start began collecting license fees on November 1st for the 2017 calendar year.

Paying online is quick and convenient!

A late fee and citation will be issued if your license fee is not paid by December 31, 2016.

[Pay Online](#)

[Need Help?](#)

On Demand Child Care Training

Featured module:

Georgia Health & Safety Orientation Training

All child care professionals are responsible to keep the children in their care healthy and safe. Individuals who care for and teach children need to know how to

- 1) create safe spaces,
- 2) use safe practices with children,
- 3) develop and implement daily illness prevention and management strategies, and
- 4) plan to keep children safe if an emergency occurs.



This six-hour module provides an overview of health and safety topics and additional required learning for Georgia child care professionals.

Eligible for CEUs
Accepted for CDA

This module is available at no cost to professionals who work in child care learning centers and family child care learning homes in Georgia.

Login in to On Demand at <http://bit.ly/ondemandbkc>

extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare



Supported by funds from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning, jointly overseen by the Departments of Human Services and Education.

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10001, 1/16/16, Child Care Extension, CCA




Tip of the Month

Tips explain and clarify health and safety rules.

Read [December's Tip of the Month](#) about Cots and Mats.

IT'S EASY TO CREATE A GaPDS ACCOUNT









Georgia Professional Development System for Early Childhood Educators

- Step #1 Go to gapds.decal.ga.gov.
- Step #2 Select login/register.
- Step #3 Complete and submit the form.
- Step #4 Check your email for a message with a link for creating a password.
- Step #5 Log in with your password.
- Step #6 Complete your profile and submit to be assigned a Career Level.

✔ **DONE!**

Have questions? Contact GaPDS Support for answers.
404-267-2750 ★ gapds@decal.ga.gov

Follow us:     



Mark Your Calendars



FREE Core Rules Training Near You Three (3) Hours of Beginner Level Approved BFTS Training

This FREE training provides an overview of the Core Rules, the licensing rules and regulations that directly affect children's health and safety and determine a program's compliance. All registrants must have a GaPDS account to register for training.

DATE	CITY	TIME
Saturday, January 14, 2017	Macon	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Saturday, January 21, 2017	Athens	9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Register Now](#)

Recall Alert for Stainless Steel Playground Slide

The Lightning Slide stainless steel playground slide manufactured by Playworld has been recalled because the weld between the slide bedway and sidewall can crack and separate. A child's fingers can get caught in the space, posing an amputation hazard.

For more information, view [Slide Recall Safety Information](#) on [Playworld's](#) website.



Director Leadership Institute: Cruising to Excellence 2016-2017

Spots are still available for Georgia State University's "Director Leadership Institute: Cruising to Excellence," sponsored by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. The Institute will benefit new and experienced Child Care Learning Center Directors and Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) Providers.

The Institute is **FREE**, and you will receive a **total of 18 state approved training hours** upon completing the entire sequence of modules. The Institute consists of a series of six modules offered in various locations throughout the state. You can choose the series with the location, dates, and times most convenient for you as long as space is available.

Participants must attend every session listed at each location to receive credit for the training. The series dates and locations are as follows:

Date	Location	Time
Thursday, January 5, 2017, Thursday, February 2, 2017, Thursday, March 2, 2017, & Thursday, March 30, 2017	Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta	8:30 AM – 11:30 AM OR 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Tuesday, January 10, 2017 & Tuesday, February 7, 2017	UGA – Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Wednesday, January 18, 2017 & Wednesday, February 15, 2017	Hilton Garden Inn, Stonecrest, Lithonia	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Thursday, January 26, 2017 & Thursday, February 23, 2017	Mansour Center, Marietta	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 & Wednesday, March 8, 2017	Anderson Conference Center, Macon	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Developed for Family Child Care Learning Homes (All are welcome!):

Date	Location	Time
Saturday, February 25, 2017	Hilton Garden Inn, Stonecrest, Lithonia	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 & Wednesday, March 22, 2017	Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Reservations are first come, first served. Sign up today!

[Register Now](#)

Bright from the Start: DECAL by the Numbers

80,805 - Four-year-old children currently enrolled in Georgia's Pre-K Program

55,000 - Children currently served each month by Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS)

24,038 - Children currently served by Georgia Head Start

4,936 - Licensed child care programs in Georgia

2,833 - Georgia child care programs currently participating in Quality Rated

1,192 - Georgia child care programs currently Quality Rated



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