



Georgia Department of
Early Care and Learning

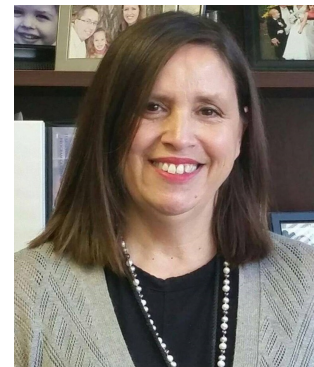


Contact Us

Child Care Services December 2018 Newsletter

Hello Child Care Providers,

As I write this, it is 43 degrees in Atlanta, and it reminds me that we're entering the time of year when we have to make decisions about when it's appropriate for children to go outside. As early childhood professionals, we all know how important it is for children to have time outside every day. Families don't always agree, and teachers and directors have to explain the rules and benefits around outdoor play. We recommend using the weather chart (<http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/Weatherwatchchart.pdf>), but that isn't always easy to understand. I decided to go to the experts and ask the Child Care Services (CCS) directors how they explain the weather permitting rule. Their responses are below. I hope you find this helpful.



All the best,

Pam Stevens

Pam Stevens

Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services



Rhonda Parker states, "When I explain the chart to a parent or a provider, I share with them that they need to know what the wind-chill factor or heat index and the air temperature are that day. Based on the wind-chill factor/air temperature and wind speed and where it intersects in the chart, the parent/provider will know if they need to exercise caution or should not go outside based on weather conditions. For example, right now it's 43 degrees and the wind speed is 6. This intersects in the green (48/40) – comfortable for outdoor play."



April Rogers states, "When I explain the chart, I explain it in a similar way as Rhonda has stated. I also add that humans don't get sick because of cold weather but because of germs. Going outside allows children to breathe fresh air instead of the recirculated air they breathe when they are in a heated or air conditioned building. Depending on the season, when I'm explaining the chart, I will state that, in the winter, it rarely gets too cold to go outside in Georgia. In the summer, children are able to spend more time outside in the mornings, especially when the temperatures climb to 90-100 and we have possible ozone warnings in the Metro area. Accuweather.com is a good website to get the information Rhonda mentioned. We use this when we have an investigation and need to know temperatures at a specific time in the past."



Melissa Davis states, "I agree with Rhonda and April on the importance of using the chart and on the reasons that outdoor play is so important for children's development. The weather chart is a great resource to reference when deciding if the weather might be safe for children's play. Children around the world go outside daily in weather that we in Georgia might not find comfortable.

Except for special weather warnings, it's been said that there's no bad weather, just inappropriate clothing! There was a Tip of Month back in June 2016 that provided excellent guidance on outdoor play.

<http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/tipofmonthOutdoorActivities.pdf>. This guidance was updated and is also included in the Child Care Learning Center Rules and Regulations Indicator Manual, on page 19.

<http://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/IndicatorManual.pdf>"

If you have additional questions about outdoor play in the winter, please contact your consultant.

DECAL KOALA

Kids Online Administrative Licensing Application

The license fee payment due date was December 1, 2018. If not paid by December 31, 2018, a late fee of one-half of the license renewal fee will be added to the fee due.

The late fee will be added and a rule violation citation will be issued on January 1, 2019 for all unpaid license fees. If these fees are not paid by January 31, 2019, license revocation will begin February 1, 2019.

Sign in to [DECAL KOALA](#) and pay your license fee now – it only takes a few minutes online.



Tip of the Month

Tips explain and clarify health and safety rules.

Read [December's Tip of the Month](#) about requirements surrounding rough play.

A green-bordered graphic with a white background. At the top, it says "IT'S EASY TO CREATE A GaPDS ACCOUNT" in blue. Below that is the GaPDS logo, which features a stylized person icon with a star above its head, followed by the text "GaPDS" in blue. Underneath the logo is the text "Georgia Professional Development System for Early Childhood Educators". The main body of the graphic is a dark blue rectangle containing a list of six steps in white text, each preceded by a right-pointing arrow. Step #6 is followed by a checkmark icon and the word "DONE!". At the bottom of the blue rectangle, it says "Have questions? Contact GaPDS Support for answers. 404-267-2750 ★ gapds@decals.ga.gov". At the very bottom of the green border, it says "Follow us:" followed by icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn, and the "BRIGHT START" logo with the text "Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning" below it.

Responding to Toddlers' Behavior

Alex hurls a bowl of his favorite cereal off the table and screams, “I said the red bowl, not the blue bowl!” Seen through the eyes of the child, and through the lens of development, these behaviors, while maddening, are utterly normal, and signal important milestones are being achieved. Further, these incidents don’t have to be dreaded, as they are opportunities to teach children to manage their emotions, learn to cope with frustration and disappointment, and find ways to feel in control of their ever-expanding worlds in acceptable ways.

Information taken from www.pbs.org

GEORGIA CHILD CARE SAFETY SUMMIT

Free Training Opportunity

This training provides an overview of the new Safety and Injury Prevention Curriculum for Early Care and Education Settings. The curriculum is designed by the American Academy of Pediatrics as an educational tool for child care providers with all levels of understanding about safety and injury prevention. Participants will learn how to prevent injuries, recognize potential safety hazards, and understand how to create a safe environment in early care and education settings. Topics include: introduction to safety and injury prevention in early care and education settings, fire and burn prevention, transportation safety, playground safety, medication safety, poison prevention, and helmet safety. The Georgia Child Care Safety Summit is a partnership between Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Georgia Head Start Association.

5 hours of BFTS approved credit will be awarded.

Please note that this training is a special event and doesn't meet the Health and Safety Orientation training requirements.



**March 12, 2019
Marietta, Georgia**

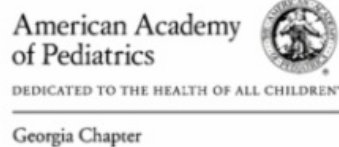
Event Schedule:

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

This Training is Green

We've gone green by providing only electronic versions of handouts. Feel free to bring electronic device to the session.

To register go to the Georgia Professional Development System website:
<https://gapds.decal.ga.gov/Shared/TrainingSchedule.aspx?T=1189>



What Do Babies Learn by Pointing?

In the first 18 months of life, children are going through a period of rapid growth. As their bodies and

brains continue to develop, they are giving out not-so-subtle communication clues that caregivers may dismiss if they aren't paying close attention. New research suggests that caregivers can learn a lot just from an infant's single index finger point.



[View Informational Video](#)

Information from www.childtrends.org

Afterschool Community Conversations

Join Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) for an upcoming Afterschool Community Conversations to network with afterschool programs and community partners. Afterschool Community Conversations provide an opportunity to strategize on how to best support young people after school and during the summer. The next Afterschool Community Conversations will be held:

January 16, 2019
Lyndon House Arts Center
Athens, GA
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

[Click to Learn More](#)

Youth Voice

Scholars agree that young people benefit when teachers, families, and youth workers support their autonomy and allow them to exercise voice.

Youth Voice:

- Builds motivation
- Promotes learning and self-direction
- Improves programs and communities

Here are some things you can say to encourage youth voice:

What do you think? Encourage young people to form their own opinions and share them with you. This improves critical thinking skills and reassures them that it's *right* to have their own opinion, and that it's even okay that it's different from yours. *When adults do young peoples' thinking for them, children and youth stop taking responsibility for themselves and can't handle greater responsibility as they grow.*

I disagree with you. Instead of simply saying no, validate what young people think, believe, or say in an open and honest manner. Don't make it into a battle of

wills or otherwise compete. Instead, open up an honest dialogue and be willing to go where the conversation takes you.

Turn it up! Without hamming it up or trying too hard, let children and youth know they can create the environment you co-occupy with them. Ask them to share their music, shows, or other media and creations in the spaces you are with them.

How does it feel to get that done? When children and youth get things done, it should be about making themselves happy instead of making adults happy. Self-esteem needs a boost? Reaffirm they can make themselves feel better.

For additional information on youth voice please visit:

[Seven Ways to Effectively Engage Youth](#)

[Youth Voice Tip Sheet](#)

[Creating Youth Voice Environments](#)

Children's Product Recalls



[View Children's Products Recalls](#)

Interested?

Interested in reading past issues of the CCS Newsletter? Click [here!](#)



