



**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START

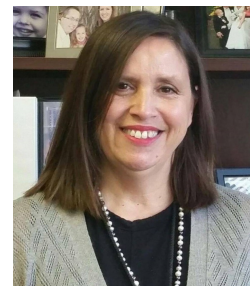


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Child Care Services Winter 2020 Newsletter

Dear Child Care Providers,

Happy new Year! It's 2020, so everyone at DECAL is working hard to meet the Quality Rated/CAPS deadline that requires all providers who receive CAPS funding be rated 1, 2 or 3 stars by December 31, 2020. We want all child care programs to be Quality Rated, but we especially want to ensure that subsidy dollars are invested in programs that are committed to providing high quality care. To learn more about how to make sure your program is rated before the end of this year, please read the message below from Quality Rated.



All the best,

Pam Stevens

New in 2020: Improved Planning for Programs in Quality Rated!

With the growth of Quality Rated, we have always anticipated the need to move to a more streamlined system that allows all users to plan strategically for each step in the quality improvement process. This new system will use program slots to schedule when child care programs will submit their portfolios and receive their observations. Under the new system, programs can plan ahead and select one of four cohorts, corresponding roughly to each quarter of the year, during which they would like their observation to occur. This system will be used by programs that are seeking an initial star rating in 2020 and will allow them, their technical assistance provider, and our QR assessor staff to plan effectively. After 2020, this system will apply to all programs in Quality Rated whether they are seeking an initial or re-rating.



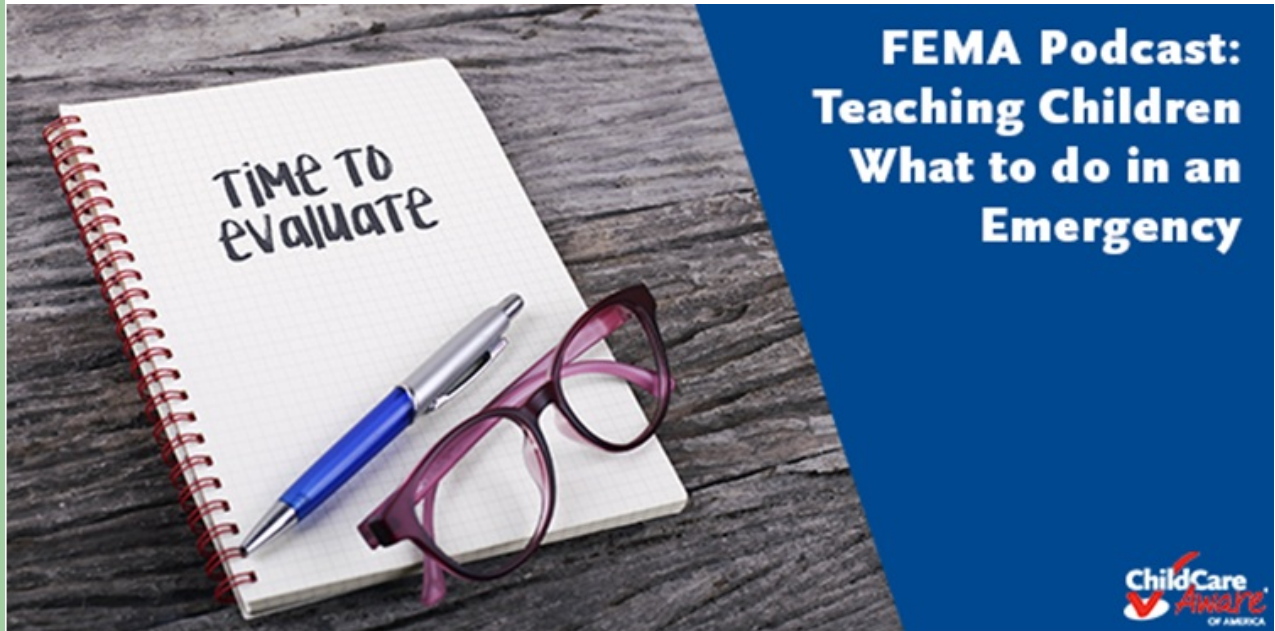
Each cohort group is linked to an assigned window of time during which programs will submit their portfolio. The window of time for submitting the portfolio is called the portfolio submission window. When selecting a cohort, the portfolio submission window for that cohort is listed so programs can make informed decisions about which cohort best meets their needs for submission. Once programs select their cohort group, programs then submit their portfolio during the assigned portfolio submission window. Once the portfolio is submitted and an assessor team is assigned, the program will receive an email letting them know the 30-day window when their unannounced observation will take place during their selected cohort.

Cohort group slots are statewide; they are not limited by regional availability. Sign up is based on a first come first served basis. Non-CAPS providers can select their cohorts throughout the year as they decide the timeline that best fits their needs. **All programs receiving Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) funding must be Quality Rated, earning 1, 2, or 3 stars, by December 31, 2020 to continue to receive CAPS funding. These active CAPS providers MUST select a cohort group no later than January 31, 2020 so that we can ensure all CAPS providers are observed and ready to be rated by the end of 2020.** If these programs do not self-select a cohort by January 31, 2020, they will be contacted by DECAL staff to determine their intent to remain a CAPS provider. Any program that does not have an assigned cohort group slot by May 1, 2020 will no longer be able to accept new CAPS Scholarships. **To support and encourage programs serving children receiving CAPS to get Quality Rated, DECAL is also offering a \$200 sign up bonus for providers who self-select a cohort by January 31, 2020.** Programs with active CAPS scholarships that receive their initial star rating by the 2020 deadline as part of a 2020 self-selected cohort group and non-CAPS QR providers that are

part of a cohort group and complete a CAPS registration indicating their willingness to enroll CAPS children are eligible for the sign up bonus.

For a more in depth look at the cohort selection process, the rating incentive bonus, and to answer commonly asked questions, please refer to the Quality Rated website by clicking on the button below.

[Visit our website](#)



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) produces a [podcast](#) series for anyone interested in learning more about the agency, hearing about innovation in the field of emergency management and/or listening to stories about communities and individuals recovering after disasters. This [episode](#) of the FEMA Podcast features a roundtable discussion with members of the FEMA team, who discuss the important role children can play in building a culture of preparedness.

[Click Here to Listen](#)

Learning Lab: The Intersection of School Age Learning, Positive Youth Development and Quality

When: Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Where: Clayton State University – Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education Building, 2000 Clayton State Blvd, Morrow, GA 30260

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:45 PM

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

Description: Designed to provide an overview of the Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Quality Standards, the connections between School Age and Early Learning and best practices in positive youth development, this highly interactive workshop will engage participants from start to finish. The day will begin with overviews of the theories and practices that inform our work in the School Age Learning/Youth Development fields and move into engaging in multiple activities designed to demonstrate and practice the theories discussed. Participants will leave with flash drives containing four youth-friendly activities that can be executed with minimal supplies in program sites – and will fully understand how to lead them as they'll have participated in the activities during the workshop. Come prepared for a lot of laughter and fun as you experience learning through the eyes of school age youth! This Conference Approved by Georgia Training Approval for Bright for the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.

[Register Here](#)

Free Resources to Help Families Understand and Monitor Development



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign often adds new resources to support developmental monitoring. In addition to print materials, there are online resources, including the Milestone Tracker App which is available for multiple platforms in English and

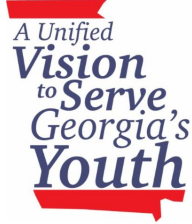
Spanish. The Milestones in Action Library provides videos and photos of each developmental milestone to assist families with identification. Don't miss the new board book for one-year old development, *Baby's Busy Day/Una dia ocupado del bebe: Tener un año es divertido!*

[Click to Learn More and Order Free Materials](#)

Afterschool Day at the Capitol 2020!

Join the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) for the

third annual Georgia Afterschool Day at the Capitol! At Afterschool Day at the Capitol, afterschool and summer providers will get a chance to share how your program fills a critical need in your community directly with legislators! The day will begin at the Georgia Freight Depot for advocacy training, resources, and networking. Participants will then go across the street to the State Capitol to share the value of afterschool directly with legislators, meet with partners, and reflect on the experience.



Georgia Afterschool
& Youth Development
Initiative
A collaboration between GSAN & GUIDE, Inc.

Please note you will need a **valid ID** to enter the State Capitol.

This is a **FREE** event, but registration is required. After you register, be on the lookout for emails from GSAN on how to prepare for this exciting event!



When: February 25, 2020 from 7:30 AM to Noon

Breakfast Served: 7:30 am - 8:00 am

Training Begins: 8:00 am

Where: Georgia Freight Depot

65 M.L.K. Jr Dr SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

Georgia State Capitol

206 Washington St SW

Atlanta, GA 30334

[Click Here to Register](#)

Sesame Street Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week Meal Pattern Reference Cards

The National CACFP Sponsors
Association is teaming up with Sesame
Street in Communities to celebrate

CACFP Meal
Patterns

Celebrate CACFP Week!



www.cacfpweek.org



CACFP Week March 15-21, 2020! Their website has lots of resources, materials, and fun ways to spread the word about the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Click the picture to the left to order meal pattern reference cards to distribute or download online.

What Happened to Fine Motor Skills?

Ever wonder what the implications of more young children using electronic devices might be? “A new and disturbing phenomenon is rising on the educational horizon,” warns Dr. Marcy Guddemi. *“Many children are arriving at kindergarten lacking the basic fine motor skills needed to hold a pencil and write.”*

Although this troubling trend is surfacing in Kindergarten, it has its roots—and remedy—in early childhood. This article is a call to action for educators and parents to return to the time-tested play materials of childhood to best prepare our children for school.



[Click to Learn More](#)

Pinecone Painting

Using tools other than paintbrushes sparks creativity and the ability to think outside of the box. It's fun to ask children how they think this object will work in place of a paintbrush. Pinecone painting is a wonderful way of bringing some nature into your classroom during the winter.

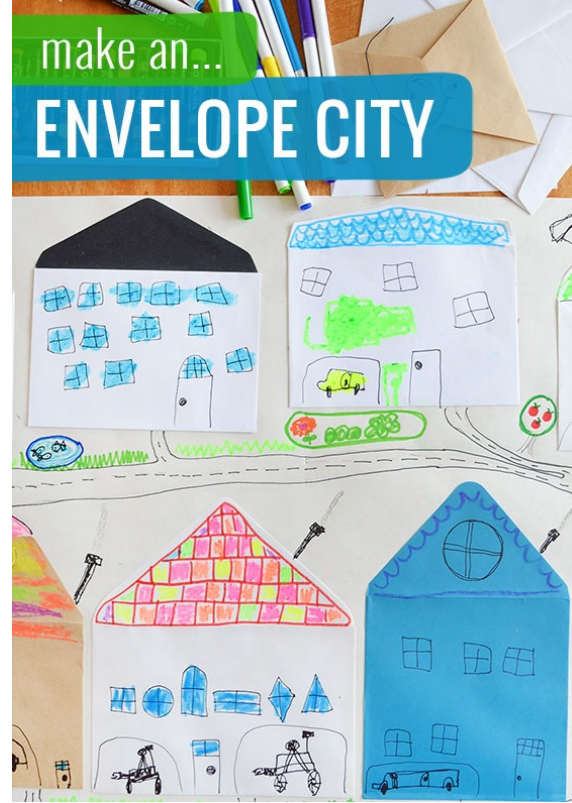


[Click for Full Instructions](#)

Use envelopes, markers, glue sticks and paper to create an envelope city! This is a great project for school-age children. Add roads, bikes, cars, animals, street signs, people, etc. Allow children to draw their city or create a new one!



[Click for More Information](#)



Finger Knitting

Finger knitting is a really good way of getting children interested in wool crafts, and it is very easy to learn. It also helps to improve a child's dexterity and ability to concentrate. No extra implements are required, just fingers, the best tools in the world!



[Click For Full Instructions](#)



Lead Exposure is 100% Preventable

Exposure to invisible sources of lead can permanently damage the developing brains of children and contribute to heart disease, kidney failure and other health problems later in life.

Prevent lead hazards in your family child care home with tips from the [FREE Lead-Safe Toolkit for Home-Based Child Care](#).

[The FREE Toolkit](#) offers a range of resources including a poster and worksheets that provide easy-to-follow steps for finding out if lead hazards exist in your home and what to do to reduce any exposures.

[The Toolkit](#) was developed with input from child care professionals and lead prevention experts under the guidance of the Children's Environmental Health Network, National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Association of Family Child Care.

Start protecting your own family, as well as the children of the families you care for from brain-damaging lead-check out the [Lead-Safe Toolkit for Home-Based Child Care](#) today!

Interested?

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



