



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

Exemptions Newsletter - Fall 2019



Educator's Survival Guide

The go-to source for safely surviving common classroom conundrums

By: Cindy Long



tests to worry about.

Life is unpredictable. Fortunately, *The Complete Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* can prepare you for the unexpected. You never know when you might have to escape from quicksand, wrestle an alligator, or maybe even land a plane. But what about the potential pitfalls of your own classroom? While there may not be quicksand or alligators to wrestle, there are unruly students, hovering administrators, and all those treacherous

Fear not. Our survival guide outlines common and complicated classroom scenarios with strategies to navigate them with ease. We've teamed up with the authors of *The Complete Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* (see sidebar excerpts) and a panel of your most adventurous and intrepid colleagues to provide tips and tricks for handling harrowing situations in life and in school. To

get you started, we offer this strategy for safely surviving all situations, including this article: Keep a sense of humor at all times!

[Click here to read the full article](#)



GEORGIA'S SOCIAL EMOTIONAL EARLY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (SEEDS) FOR SUCCESS

Social, emotional, and behavioral competence has been shown to be as important as cognitive skills in ensuring a young child's success in school. Additionally, early childhood educators report that a lack of social competence and the presence of challenging behaviors in their classroom is their biggest concern. In order to enhance and encourage children's social, emotional, and behavioral development, DECAL has launched the Georgia SEEDS for Success initiative.

Georgia's SEEDS for Success is a collaborative lead by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to support and align the state's initiatives related to increased social emotional development and decreased challenging behaviors in early childhood settings. This initiative is led by a State Leadership Team of state level partners.

[Click for more details](#)

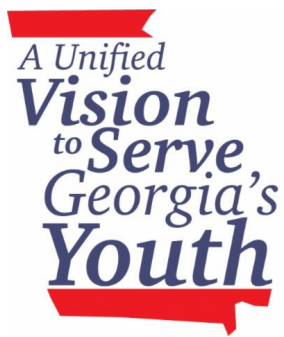
Exemption Category Reminder



Exemption Category 5 - Parent's Morning Out, Parent's Night Out, or similar programs which operate for no more than one session of up to four (4) consecutive hours per day and which limit attendance to no more than eight (8) hours a week per child.

Click here for more details on exemption categories and clarifications.

Professional Development Opportunities



Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Initiative

A collaboration between GSAN & GUIDE, Inc.

The Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Awards honor outstanding professionals, programs, and youth and recognize honorees for their efforts and excellence in the afterschool and youth development field.

The 2019 Georgia ASYD Award Finalists will be selected by an independent panel of judges. The top finalists from each award category will be notified of their status by September 23, 2019, and all honorees and award recipients will be announced at the Georgia ASYD Awards Ceremony (details below).

When: October 19, 2019

Time: 9 am – 1 pm

**Where: John H. Harland Boys & Girls Club
(434 Peoples Street, Atlanta, GA 30310)**

The celebration of the 2019 Georgia ASYD Awards will kick off with free social-emotional development workshops for youth and adults from 9 am – 12 pm and will be followed by the 2019 ASYD Awards lunch from 12 pm – 1 pm. Registration is required.

[Register to Attend](#)



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

Dates & Locations:

~October 25~

Clayton State University
(2000 Clayton State Blvd, Morrow, GA 30260)

~November 19~

Clarence Brown Conference Center
(5450 GA-20, Cartersville, GA 30121)

~December 4~

Anderson Conference Center
(5171 Eisenhower Pkwy Suite D, Macon, GA 31206)

Time: 9 am – 2:45 pm

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

[Click Here for Registration](#)

Transportation Safety & Training



Each year, thousands of children are injured in transportation-related accidents, many with fatal outcomes. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the leading cause of death for children 0 to 19 is due to injuries resulting from transportation accidents. Many of these accidents occur while children are being transported in child care settings.

Centers are responsible for the child's care and safety from pick-up to drop off. Programs should consider the

following when transporting children.

- **Develop and follow a transportation plan**
 - Maintain center and passenger information on the vehicle
 - Maintain emergency medical information and emergency contact
 - Utilize passenger transportation checklists
- **Inspect the vehicle for potential hazards before each trip**
- **Be an active listener (no talking or texting on phone)**
- **Follow state and federal laws and manufacturer's guidelines**
- **Physically inspect the vehicle at the end of each trip to ensure no children are left behind**

Transportation Safety: Keeping Kids Safe in Georgia is sponsored by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and has been reviewed and approved by Bright from the Start's Child Care Licensing division. The free, two-hour online course provides two (2) Bright from the Start training hours. [Click here](#) to complete the transportation training.

[Click here for training!](#)



Lights on Afterschool

Join Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and afterschool programs across the state in celebrating the importance of afterschool. This will be the 20th annual Lights On Afterschool Day on October 24th, 2019. Launched in 2000 by the Afterschool Alliance, Lights On Afterschool calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs and the need to keep the lights on and the doors open after the school day ends.

GSAN has created a toolkit for you to use for your celebration and to raise awareness of the wide variety of programming offered by afterschool programs using the hashtag #ThisIsAfterschool.

If you are hosting a Lights On Afterschool event, please register [here](#) and mark your calendars for Lights on Afterschool 2019 on October 24th!

[Learn More](#)

Fall Activities



Congratulations!!!!

Join us in congratulating Kenyatta Wade on 5-years of faithful service to the State of Georgia. In Kenyatta's time with DECAL, she has worked as a Licensing Consultant and currently an Exemptions Specialist.

(Pictured: Left: Nikiesha Neil; Right: Kenyatta Wade)

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