



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

CCS Exemption Newsletter ~ Fall 2020



DECAL KOALA Enhancements for License-Exempt Programs



As of July 5, 2020, exempt programs may submit an exemption application and exemption amendment application online. Program owners will have Owner ID activation for use. **[Click here for DECAL KOALA login instructions.](#)**

Exemption Application

An application for exemption from licensure submitted for review that includes supporting documentation based on the exemption category selection(s).

Exemption Amendment

An approved change to the initial exemption from licensure affecting any of the following:

- Ages served
- Months, days, and/or hours of operation
- Program's operating name
- Change of Street address – by the

DECAL KOALA FAQs

COVID-19 Updates

Governor Brian P. Kemp issued an Executive Order on August 15, 2020 that pertains to day camp programs. The Executive Order can be found at <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executiveorders/2020-executive-orders>

and must be implemented by all open and reopening day camp programs beginning August 17, 2020 until further notice. The Order expands the regulation definition of day camps and requires that day camps operating for the purpose of facilitating distance learning during a public health emergency must comply with health and safety standards.

Whether you have decided to close or operate, or facilitate distance learning during this time, you should report this information through your DECAL KOALA account.



Click for More Information



Visit our website

Supporting Onsite Learning for Virtual Education Program (SOLVE)

The Program is part of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding allocated to Georgia through the CARES Act and is in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. It is administered by the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program located within the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). SOLVE will provide financial assistance to qualifying families in the form of a “SOLVE Scholarship.” Please visit the DECAL website for family eligibility requirements.

Join the Youth Mental Health Awareness



Join the Campaign

Campaign!

Launched in 2020 by Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and Voices for Georgia's Children along with incredible partners, the Free Your Feels campaign helps Georgia's children, teens, and young adults stay mentally healthy by expressing their true feelings with peers, parents, teachers, and most importantly, themselves.



Learn from experts and fellow practitioners on the latest in afterschool, including program funding, research and analysis, practical guides, and how-to's.

Register to attend an upcoming webinar or watch a previous webinar.



The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is excited to announce the launch of our new Developmental Milestones website, a resource to help families and caregivers monitor children's development. Developmental Milestones are skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye-bye."

Monitoring milestones is an important part of overall child well-being because it helps families and providers understand what is age-appropriate for a child, and also lets them know if there are areas where a child may need a bit more support. This new website helps families, teachers and child care provider know what to expect at each age of child development, and how to use this information to track the children's developmental milestones.

Visit DECAL's new Developmental Milestones website development.dec.al.gov.

Read All About It...

Building Positive Relationships With Students: What Brain Science Says

By Trynia Kaufman, MS

Students' brains are hard at work every moment of the day, learning skills and connecting new information with old. Those same brains are also constantly processing information when it comes to their relationship with you, their teacher.

Positive student relationships are fundamental to success. When students feel supported, they're more likely to engage in learning and have better academic outcomes. Plus, when students have positive interactions with teachers, they have fewer behavioral problems. These relationships are more important—and more challenging—than ever in uncertain times, like during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Click for Full Article](#)



How to Use Children's Books to Talk About Race and Racism

Article by PBS Kids

Storytime opens up new worlds for our children. They can learn new words, meet new people, and discover new ideas — all while cuddling with you at home. Dr. Aisha White, Director of the P.R.I.D.E Program at University of Pittsburgh says that makes picture books a safe place to start when talking to children about race and racism.

For babies and toddlers, parents can simply focus on buying books that show children and adults of many ethnicities and races in everyday life. As children begin talking, parents can use storytime as an opportunity to ask questions and find out what children might already think about race.

[Click for Full Article](#)

Creativity Corner

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.

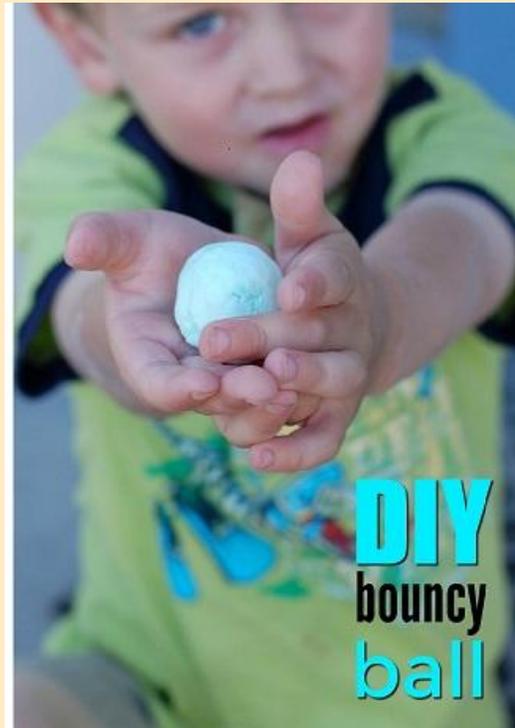


[Full Instructions](#)

DIY Bouncy Ball

What You'll Need:

- borax (found in the laundry section of the store)
- cornstarch (found in the baking section of the store)
- white glue (makes an opaque ball) or blue or clear school glue (makes a translucent ball)
- warm water
- food coloring (optional)
- measuring spoons
- spoon or craft stick to stir the mixture
- 2 small plastic cups or other containers for mixing
- marking pen
- watch with a second hand
- ruler
- ziploc bag



****Adult supervision is recommended.**

[Click for All Details](#)

Child Care Services Exemptions Unit

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