

Exemptions Newsletter Winter 2019



DECAL KOALA

Kids Online Administrative Licensing Application

DECAL to Cover Cost of Comprehensive Records Checks

On and after October 1, 2018, individuals working in license-exempt programs that receive CAPS subsidy, and those working in licensed child care programs or residing (aged 17 or older) at a program must undergo a comprehensive background check and obtain a satisfactory determination from DECAL. The changes will affect exemption category #1-Government-owned and operated Programs and exemption category #7-Day Camps receiving CAPS Scholarships. The purpose of the CBC rules change is to align with federal requirements and related state legislation.

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has announced that, beginning October 1, 2018 and for the next two years, DECAL will pay the cost of the initial national fingerprint scan for eligible early care and education workers. New employees of the Georgia child care industry and employees whose current records check determination is about to expire will

benefit from this initiative. You may visit <http://dec.al.ga.gov/CCS/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx> for more information regarding Criminal Records Check.

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Health and Safety Orientation Training

New staff members working in license-exempt programs that receive CAPS subsidy, must obtain the Health & Safety Orientation and CPR/First aid training within 90 days of employment.

DECAL is providing a free online module for the Health & Safety Orientation through Pennsylvania State University that is available now at <http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/on-demand>. First, sign in to the On Demand option, and then choose the module called “Georgia Health and Safety Orientation Training (for Georgia child care providers only)”. You can also find additional training options at: <https://www.training.dec.al.ga.gov/> (search “Health & Safety Orientation”).

PennState Extension BETTER • KID • CARE

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

PA pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Afterschool Community Conversations

Join Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) for 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.

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

January 16, 2019

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

In efforts to support child care providers that serve school-age children, The **Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development (ASYD) Quality Standards** are research-based best practice guidelines that delineate the critical components of high-quality youth development programs. The quality standards can be found at this website: <http://georgiaasyd.org/quality-standards/>.

Here's a closer look at ASYD Quality Element 4: Relationships Guiding Principle: A quality program fosters and nurtures positive relationships and interactions among staff, youth, families and communities; provides a tolerant and respectful environment that is safe from teasing, bullying and violence; and promotes diversity.

4.3 Incorporates relationship-building opportunities among peers and ensures that youth interact with one another in positive ways. One way to demonstrate this Quality Element is by providing opportunities and activities to demonstrate kindness.

Kindness: the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

Being kind helps build better relationships, creates a positive environment, and makes us happier within. Once kindness is shown, it can be expected to grow from one person to another. To be kind, we have to pay attention to what is happening around us. As we practice empathy, it opens our heart to others. When we are kind to people, it makes them happy. When those around us are happier, our world (classroom) becomes a brighter, lighter, better place to be. Recognizing someone's need for help and acting on it in a compassionate manner makes the recipient feel valued. It also makes the giver feel better about themselves and more connected. One of the most common responses to kindness is gratitude. When you are kind to others, the impact of your action doesn't stop there. Many times, the recipient of kindness and others who see or hear about kindness are inspired to be kinder. The ripples of kindness are truly endless. Explicitly teaching and practicing kindness is critical in our afterschool classrooms.

Here's an activity plan that focuses on building kindness among the youth in your program.

Activity - 8 Ways to Practice Kindness



Two-thirds of Georgia's third-graders are not reading on grade level, bringing long-term negative consequences to these children, their families, their communities, and our state. Unwilling to yield any longer to the unspeakable rate of illiteracy in Georgia, hundreds of public and private leaders from across the state and across sectors have come together to take on third-grade reading as an urgent priority for all who care about children's health and well-being.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Selecting Appropriate Toys for Young Children in the Digital Era

December 2018, From the American Academy of Pediatrics Clinical Report

By: Aleeya Healey, MD, FAAP, Alan Mendelsohn, MD, FAAP, Council of Early Childhood

Play is essential to optimal child development because it contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth. It also offers an ideal and significant opportunity for parents and other caregivers to engage fully with children using toys as an instrument of play and interaction. The evolution of societal perceptions of toys from children's playthings to critical facilitators of early brain and child development has challenged caregivers in deciding which toys are most appropriate for their children. This clinical report strives to provide pediatric health care providers with evidence-based information that can be used to support caregivers as they choose toys for their children. The report highlights the broad definition of a toy; consideration of potential benefits and possible harmful effects of toy choices on child development; and the promotion of positive caregiving and development when toys are used to engage caregivers in play-based interactions with their children that are rich in language, pretending, problem-solving, and creativity.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)

[Winter Crafts & Activities for Kids](#)

Egg Carton Snowmen

Craft for Kids



Welcome!!!



Introducing the newest members of the Exemptions Unit, Mrs. Jennifer "Nikki" Roeder (left) and Ms. Melissa McFarlin (right).

Nikki is new to DECAL, joining us from the public school system where she worked as a teacher. Nikki has experience with supporting young learners and she is a UGA alum.

Melissa is also new to DECAL and she has experience with supporting young learners as a Lead GA Pre-K teacher, as well as with inclusion in a local school system.

The Exemptions Unit is pleased to have them join the team!

Child Care Services ▪ Exemptions Unit
CCSExemptions@dec.al.ga.gov
(770)293-5977

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