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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**More than a Little Learning Going on Inside
DECAL's Toddler Time at Home**

Online Resources Include Weekly Activities for Our Youngest Learners

ATLANTA, Ga., (April 6, 2020) – Following the success of Georgia's Pre-K at Home, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is introducing a new online feature called "Toddler Time at Home" beginning today, for children 12 to 36 months old. Toddler Time at Home features weekly activities for families with new content for each day.

"Even in their earliest years, our children are developing socially, mentally, and emotionally," said DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "By the time a child enters kindergarten, their basic cognitive skills, which are the foundation for math, science, reading, and other academics, are already quite developed. We need that early start to help children as they enter Pre-K and begin to prepare for Kindergarten."

"Quality infant care is centered on relationships," explained Jennie Couture, Director of Practice and Support Services. "Young children learn and grow in the context of secure, trusting relationships with caring adults. The same Infant Toddler Care Specialists who help providers understand and practice a model of relationship-based care have helped design these Toddler Time activities for use at home. They aren't designed just to keep the child busy but to encourage interaction and development while having fun."

Using Toddler Time at Home, parents will find new activities each day under the categories of On the Move, Adventures Online, Sensory Time, Store Time, and Art & Creativity. Activities are based on the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS) and involve simple household items easily found at home.

To find the new resources, visit www.decal.ga.gov.

About DECAL

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program; licenses child care centers and home-based child care; administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program and federal nutrition programs; and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decal.ga.gov.