



# Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

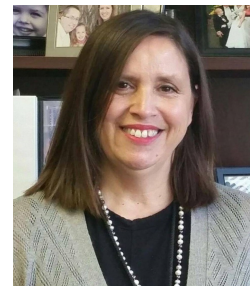


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## Child Care Services Spring 2021 Newsletter

Dear Child Care Providers,

Happy spring! I want to make you aware of an opportunity that is coming in May. Just in time for summer, DECAL will open applications for grants for providers serving school age children. At the time of this writing and due to COVID-19, providers are not able to take children on field trips or have inhouse field trips. This makes planning for summer activities for this age group very challenging. The School Age Grants are designed to support providers in offering academic, social, and recreational activities for children during summer break. Best Practices in School Age Care will be offered to all grant applicants. Please look for an email next month for more information.



I also want to encourage everyone to get a COVID-19 Vaccine. All adults are now eligible, and the more people who are vaccinated, the faster we can get back to the practices in child care that we miss. The above mentioned field trips are at the top of the list! To make a vaccine appointment go to [www.myvaccinegeorgia.com](http://www.myvaccinegeorgia.com) or [www.dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine](http://www.dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine). You can also register online at grocery stores and pharmacies near you. For more information about vaccines and child care, please see DECAL's Vaccine FAQs at <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/documents/attachments/faqscoronaexternal3-8-21.pdf>.

Take care,

*Pam Stevens*

Pam Stevens  
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

## All Georgians Aged 16+ Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines continue to arrive in Georgia in limited supply. While awaiting additional vaccine supplies, currently eligible residents are urged to pre-register.



[Pre-Register for the Vaccine](#)

## Caring for Yourself While You Care for Children



Even when it seems impossible, finding moments of calm during a busy day is important. Short, simple activities like the ones listed in this article can cut down on feelings of stress and also help you feel more connected to the children in your care. These activities can be used at any time to relax and reduce stress.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

# The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Recommendations for Ventilation in Child Care Programs

Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments, and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for child care programs. Good ventilation can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with other preventive actions, ventilation can reduce the likelihood of spreading disease. Below are ways you can improve ventilation in your child care program, whether in a large building or in a home:



1. Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
2. Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation.
3. Filter and/or clean the air in your child care program.
4. Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.
5. Open windows in transportation vehicles.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Click below for more important information from the CDC.

[Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19](#)

[The CDC's Tool Kit for Child Care Programs](#)



**Child & Adult Care Food Program**

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is federally funded by the USDA. The program reimburses qualifying organizations for serving nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults.

## What are the Benefits?

- Ensures that participants receive balanced, healthy meals and helps children start good nutrition habits early in life.
- Provides funding, nutrition education, training and support for child care providers, afterschool programs, homeless shelters and adult care programs.

## How to apply for CACFP?

To be considered eligible to participate in CACFP, organizations must:

- Provide proof of child care license or exemption from licensure.
- Attend a two-day training. Participants will be granted access to a web-based application after completing training.

[Click to Learn More](#)

## Important Required Reporting Reminders

The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) wants to remind ALL child care program personnel and volunteers that they are required by Georgia law OCGA 19-7-5(c)(1) to immediately report any situation in which there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused, neglected, or deprived to the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) and to DECAL.



[Click Here for More Information](#)

Child care programs must also report the following to DECAL within 24 hours or by the next business day:

- Death of a child.
- Serious illnesses or injuries that require hospitalization or professional medical attention.
- Missing child(ren).
- Fire or structural disaster.
- Emergency relocation of children.
- When an employee acquires a criminal record.
- Temporary Closures – any time the program will be closed, even for one day the program must notify DECAL. Programs can schedule temporary closures up to 180 days in advance.
- Notifiable Communicable Diseases, including cases of COVID-19 (also report to the Department of Public Health).

Child care programs can submit a Required Report through a [DECAL KOALA](#) account. If assistance is needed with a DECAL KOALA account, please email [decalkoala@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:decalkoala@dec.al.ga.gov) for assistance.

# FREE Child Care Services (CCS) Upcoming Virtual Technical Assistance Trainings

The following trainings are FREE and will be conducted using [ZOOM](#) meetings. All participants must register for the trainings through the [Georgia Professional Development System \(GaPDS\)](#).

Upcoming Trainings		
Discipline Overview	Tuesday, April 20, 2021	6:00 – 7:00 PM
Active Supervision	Wednesday, June 9, 2021	5:00 – 6:30 PM
Core Rules Overview Trainings		
Wednesday, April 7, 2021		10:00 – 11:00 AM
Thursday, April 15, 2021		1:00 – 2:00 PM
Wednesday, May 5, 2021		10:00 – 11:00 AM
Thursday, May 20, 2021		1:00 – 2:00 PM
Tuesday, June 2, 2021		10:00 – 11:00 AM
Thursday, June 17, 2021		1:00 – 2:00 PM

Questions? Please email [ccs.ta@decal.ga.gov](mailto:ccs.ta@decal.ga.gov) or call (770)344-5891

[Register Now!](#)

## Save the Date: The 2021 Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Conference

**The 2021 Georgia ASYD  
Conference will be held virtually  
September 14-16, 2021.**

This conference, being held for the fifth time in 2021, seeks to provide three dynamic days of research-based best practices; information, tools, and resources framed by Georgia's ASYD Quality Standards; and opportunities for networking, collaboration, and partnership formation. All youth development and afterschool providers are invited to attend!

[More Information Coming Soon](#)



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**Vision**  
to **Serve**  
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Georgia Afterschool  
& Youth Development  
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A collaboration between GSAN & GUIDE, Inc.

# Easy and Helpful Ways to Reduce Stress in Children

Look below for a collection of tips to help teach children how to calm down and relax during stressful times.



- 1) Name animals alphabetically (alligator, bear, cow, dog, etc...)
- 2) Squeeze something (play dough, clay, silly putty, your fists, a stress ball)
- 3) Get a cold drink of water
- 4) Give themselves a hug - squeeze tight!
- 5) Remember the words to a song they love. Now sing!



- 6) Practice deep breathing
- 7) Blow bubbles, a pinwheel, or dandelions
- 8) Pop bubble wrap
- 9) Write in a journal
- 10) Color with crayons, markers, or color pencils

## Interested?

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



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