



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

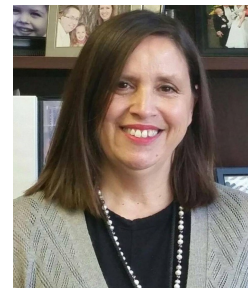


Contact Us

Child Care Services Winter 2021 Newsletter

Dear Child Care Providers,

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a rough year for businesses, for employees, and for families. I am so grateful to work with the child care community in Georgia. Through it all, you have provided care for the families who still needed it and did your best to retain employees. And with all that was on your plate, you managed to partner with us to implement a whole new way of doing regulatory visits and to find ways to accommodate virtual learning for school age children. Although this has been difficult, we've learned some new ways to engage with you that we'll probably continue when all of this is over.



Thank you for your resilience, your innovation, and your willingness to meet the needs of the children and families throughout the state. Happy holidays, and here's to a better 2021!

All the best,

Pam Stevens

Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

Supporting Children to Understand the Importance of and Proper Use of Face Masks

The way children feel about face masks during coronavirus restrictions can depend on age. Babies and younger children pay a lot of attention to faces. So they might feel anxious or upset when they can't see the faces of family members, caregivers, and other familiar people. This article offers ideas for how to talk with children about face masks and provide age-appropriate information.



[Click Here to Read Article](#)

Children's Development of Lasting Bonds with Caregivers



This 25-minute online module from the Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences (I-LABS) explains how children form lasting bonds with their caregivers. Each module delivers content through narrated PowerPoint slides with embedded videos. A discussion guide and handout are also available for this module.

[Click Here to View](#)

Wondering about Afterschool Day at the Capitol in 2021?

With our changing world, we have all



had to make necessary changes to our routines, the way we connect with others, and the way we advocate. In light of our new circumstances, there will not be a traditional Afterschool Day at the Capitol.

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network invites you to join them for a virtual briefing on The State of Afterschool in Georgia on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 11:00 am. Participants will be able to see new data unveiled from Afterschool Alliance's America After 3PM survey about afterschool participation, benefits, parent satisfaction, and unmet demand in Georgia. Click the button below to register!

[Click Here to Register](#)

How Can the Child Care Services Technical Assistance Unit Help YOU?



COVID-19 Response
New Rule Changes Effective October 1, 2020
Staff Morale
Training Requirements
And Much More!

Send your request for assistance to: ccs.ta@dec.al.ga.gov

**All assistance will be conducted via virtual meeting format*



[Click Here for More
Information](#)

At the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, you will find virtual professional development opportunities, avenues for virtually engaging with youth, resources to pass along to parents and families with youth at home, policy updates, funding information, and self-care strategies. Click the button for more information!

Indoor Large Muscle Activities for Children of All Ages

Are you looking for easy ways for children to exercise their large muscles when it is too cold or rainy to go outside? Check out this list of simple gross motor activities for children of all ages.

[Click Here to View the Weather Watch Chart](#)



1) Crawling or walking over different pillows or blankets.

2) Practice walking like different animals.

4) Try walking at different speeds – super slow, slow, normal, fast and super fast.

5) Jog or run in place.

6) Jump over a piece of paper or cups.

7) Jump side to side over a jump rope on the floor.

8) Put painter's tape on the floor. Walk forwards, sideways, and backwards on the tape.

9) Play with cardboard boxes. Make tunnels. Step in and out of the boxes. Pretend the boxes are turtle shells.

11) Dance party



14) Make an indoor obstacle course.

15) Create a dance and teach it to someone else.

16) Indoor fitness – jumping jacks, mountain climbers, squat thrusts, etc.

17) Yoga poses

18) March to parade music.

19) See how far children can jump and mark it with tape.

20) Play Simon Says.

21) Load up laundry baskets with heavy books and push around the room. Pretend to be a traveling library.

22) Use recycled water bottles and set up bowling. Bowl with a ball or roll into the bottles with your body.

12) Freeze Dance

13) Make your body into the shapes of the letters of the alphabet.

23) Pretend to ice skate using paper plates.

24) Sit on the floor and lift feet in the air. Pretend to ride a bicycle.

Interested?

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



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