



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

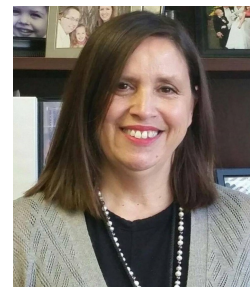
BRIGHT FROM THE START



Child Care Services Winter 2022 Newsletter

Dear Child Care Providers,

I'm writing this on January 10, 2022, which is the day the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) starts the process of returning to in-person visits and our offices opening five days a week. We want to thank you for your flexibility and your cooperation in participating in virtual visits over the last couple of years. We've all learned so much!



One of the things we learned is that visiting you virtually is not the same as seeing you in-person. Because we want to be as efficient as possible and limit the time we spend at your facility, the administrative review (Phase 1) portion of your visits will continue to be virtual. The health and safety of you, your staff, the families you serve, and the DECAL staff is our number one priority. Because of this, your

consultant will always have Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and will only do one in-person site visit per day. It has been almost two years since we have visited you in person, and during that time we have hired new staff. For training purposes there may be two DECAL consultants conducting your visit.

As we get back up to speed and get some of our newer consultants trained, we will continue to conduct some virtual monitoring visits and licensing studies. If we plan to do a virtual visit at your site, you will be contacted by your consultant to arrange the visit. If we do an in-person visit, it will be unannounced as they always were in the past.

If you have additional questions, please contact your licensing consultant.

Here's to a safe and healthy 2022!

Take care,



Pam Stevens
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

[Contact Us](#)

Uploading Documents into DECAL KOALA

An Administrative Review of each child care program's informational documents (e.g., Staff employment applications, children's enrollment forms, menus, etc.) are required by DECAL during each annual licensing inspection. Programs are now required to upload these documents into DECAL KOALA. Please click the button below for easy "How To" instructions for uploading the required documents.



[Click Here for How-To Instructions](#)

Always Follow Manufacturer's Instructions

Items such as furniture, activity materials, toys and equipment should be used for the intended purpose, and the manufacturer's



instructions and recommendations (i.e., age labels, warnings, other safety measures, etc.) should be followed at all times. Since accidents and injuries can occur when children use items inappropriately, child care staff should demonstrate and teach children how to use the items safely, then closely supervise children's use of the items.

Only use furniture, materials, and toys in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines, intended use and design without modification. For example, high chair safety straps, feeding table seat straps, bouncer seat straps, and infant swing straps (indoors and outdoors) should not be removed and should be used anytime children occupy the equipment.

Newest Issue of the Quality Connection is Available NOW!



The Quality Connection focuses on one classroom component and identifies connections between requirements and expectations of the Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) various divisions and the impact each one has on classroom practices. The Quality Connection aims to illustrate how all DECAL programs are part of the Quality

Continuum and designed to work together toward continuous quality improvement. In the newest issue, you can take a closer look at Music & Movement in the classroom, including best practices, room set-up, and suggested materials.

[Click Here to View](#)

Digital Tools for Engaging Parents to Support Children's Learning

Information Compiled by the [Administration of Children & Families](#)

In these guides created for early childhood professionals, explore digital tools designed to encourage parents to

talk with their infants and children. Share these tools with parents, along with tips and information about talking with their young children. Parents' early conversations with their children build the foundational skills for children's later language, social and emotional, and cognitive skills.



[Click Here for Digital Tools](#)

[Digital Tools in Spanish](#)

Online Learning Library Initiative (OLLI): How To Complete?

The OLLI Training system is a free, self-paced collection of online trainings. These trainings are completed at your own pace. You can even stop and start as needed! See below for easy How-To instructions:

1. Once registered for an OLLI training, log into the Georgia Professional Development System ([GaPDS](#)).
2. Next click the TRAININGS tab and select the "My Scheduled Trainings" tab from the dropdown menu. A list of trainings you are currently registered for will appear.
3. Then, find the OLLI training you wish to begin.
4. Click "Attend Training" and your training will begin in a new window.
5. Continue to click next at the bottom to advance through the training.

OLLI Trainings are formatted for desktop or laptop computer functionality ONLY. Using a cell phone or mobile device will not allow the training to start properly.

[Find OLLI Training Sessions](#)

FREE Upcoming Virtual 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 \(GaPDS\)](#). Once registered, a

link will be sent to your email to join the training via webinar.

ALL trainings will be held from 12:30 - 1:30 PM.

TRAINING	DATE
Tips & Tricks for Managing Your Classroom	Thursday, January 13, 2022
Handwashing During Critical Times	Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) – Core Rules Refresher	Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) – Core Rules Refresher	Thursday, January 27, 2022
Tips & Tricks for Managing Your Classroom	Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Staff: Child Ratios & Supervision	Thursday, February 17, 2022
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) – Core Rules Refresher	Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) – Core Rules Refresher	Thursday, February 24, 2022
Staff: Child Ratios & Supervision	Thursday, March 10, 2022
Tips & Tricks for Managing Your Classroom	Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Handwashing During Critical Times	Thursday, March 24, 2022
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) – Core Rules Refresher	Tuesday, March 29, 2022
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) – Core Rules Refresher	Thursday, March 31, 2022

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

Register Now!

Abusive Head Trauma

Information compiled by the [Child Care Technical Assistance Network](#)

Abusive head trauma (AHT) is the leading cause of fatal head injuries in children younger than 2 years.



“Abusive head trauma, which includes shaken baby syndrome, is a preventable and severe form of physical child abuse that results in an injury to the brain of a child. Abusive head trauma often happens when a parent or caregiver becomes angry or frustrated because of a child’s crying. It is caused by violent shaking and/or with blunt impact”. Child care providers have an important role that

they can play in adopting prevention strategies to support themselves, other caregivers, parents, and families. These strategies include:

- learning about abusive head trauma
- sharing information on typical child development and self-care
- helping infants and caregivers build relationships
- connecting with community resources (such as home visiting and family support groups)
- identifying sources of household family stress and connecting families to resources in partnership with health and other systems

Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, outlines best practices regarding abusive head trauma. According to Caring for Our Children Standard 3.4.4.3, Preventing and Identifying Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma, the goal of this standard is that:

1. All child care facilities should have a policy and procedure to identify and prevent shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma.
2. All caregivers/teachers who are in direct contact with children, including substitute caregivers/teachers and volunteers, should receive training on preventing shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma; recognizing potential signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma; creating strategies for coping with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; and understanding the development and vulnerabilities of the brain in infancy and early childhood.

Children with special needs or health problems are often at increased risk for abusive head trauma. One reason that a child with a disability may be at increased risk is that they are not meeting the developmental milestones that their caregiver is expecting. Children experiencing colic cry for longer periods of time which increases caregiver frustration and the risk of being shaken.

Programs that are exempt from licensing need to meet health and safety requirements for abusive head trauma, as outlined by their state, if they care for a child for whom they receive federal child care financial assistance.

Limits for Little Ones: Babies and Toddlers Have Big Feelings That They Can’t Always Control

By Sarah S. MacLaughlin

When children have tantrums they are

often showing you they are overwhelmed by their feelings and need support. To develop self-control, young children need limits they can understand. This takes time and is something they learn gradually. In fact, many adults still struggle with self-control!



Limits help children feel safe when they are out of control. Children test limits because they want to know that the limit is solid. They also want to see what will happen next, or what your reaction might be. Imagine a child walking along a fence, testing every part of the fence to see if they can break through. If the fence is strong and reliable, there will be less limit-testing as time goes on.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Consumer Product Safety Commission Children's Products Recalls



Sign up today to receive up-to-date email notifications whenever children's products are recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

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