



**Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning**  
BRIGHT FROM THE START



## Child Care Services Summer 2022 Newsletter

Dear Child Care Providers,

Thanks to all of you who completed our survey about the virtual administrative review portion of our visits. As you know, we are currently conducting hybrid visits that include an in person visit to observe classrooms, playgrounds, and any additional licensed spaces, followed by a virtual administrative process to review your records. Your feedback about the process is very helpful and will be used to make decisions about how we conduct our visits in the future. All of us are happy to be in programs again and to be able to see you in person.



We are in the middle of a very hot summer, and I want to take a moment to remind you about DECAL's Look Again Campaign. Please take a moment to listen to our Look Again podcast at <https://decaldownload.buzzsprout.com/211637/10680513-episode-40-look-again>, and please remind families about the importance of car safety during the

summer.

Take care, try to stay cool, and thanks so much for all you do,

*Pam Stevens*

Pam Stevens

Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

[Contact Us](#)

LOOK AGAIN  
GA • USA



NEVER LEAVE A CHILD  
ALONE IN A VEHICLE

WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV





## Recent Changes to Indicator Manuals

The Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) and Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) Rules & Regulations Indicator Manuals continue to be updated every quarter to stay current with ever changing clarification and best practice. To ensure that you have the most up-to-date version(s), please click on the appropriate manual below.



**Child Care Learning Centers**

**Rules & Regulations  
Indicator Manual**

**Chapter 591-1-1  
July 1, 2022**



**Family Child Care Learning Homes**

**Rules & Regulations  
Indicator Manual**

**Chapter 290-2-3  
July 1, 2022**



## Win \$1529 through the We Care, Child Care Sweepstakes

The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is partnering with the Path2College 529 Plan, the official college savings plan for the state of Georgia, to sponsor the We Care, Child Care Sweepstakes.

Four children from across the state will be randomly selected to win a \$1529 contribution for their Path2College 529 Plan. The four child care programs that the winners attend will also win a \$1529 check made payable to their child care program.

Click the button below to learn more!  
The deadline to enter is July 31, 2022

[Click to Learn More](#)

## Literacy and Justice for All

Are you an ECE director or educator who would like to be part of a larger community working together? Are you committed to ensuring that every child and community sees and hears themselves and their story in the classroom? Are you looking for meaningful ways to partner with families in support of children? Do you wish you had more access to research-based, engaging, and meaningful and worthy resources to support you as you work with children? Do you wonder how you can work every day to support our youngest children based on the sciences



of healthy brain development, language and literacy so that all children have the opportunity to think critically and act boldly to reshape the world? If you answered yes to any of these questions- or all of them- we invite YOU to be part of the Literacy and Justice For All (LJFA) Birth-Five initiative and to take up any part of our forever free evidenced-based and culturally and linguistically preserving curriculum with all of us on this journey together!

We know that children's development flourishes when fostered in supportive and connected relationships with adults and peers and in a language-centered ecosystem. These types of interactions and supports are critical components of quality care recognized across our field. The Cox Campus and the Literacy and Justice For All (LJFA) curriculum is a free and open-access curriculum to support language and literacy development rooted in meaningful and relationships-based interactions joining teachers alongside families so that each child's language and literacy thrive. This B-5 curriculum centers families, communities, and the rich cultural and linguistic knowledge that each child and family bring as they learn about and change the world while supporting developmentally appropriate practice and cognitive development and has many multilingual resources and opportunities to connect and foster the languages and literacies of children and their families.

The Literacy and Justice For All Curriculum, co-created by Rollins Center for Language & Literacy, Quality Care for Children, Kennesaw State University, and educators in our communities is freely available and part of our online learning community, the Cox Campus. Cox Campus also offers more than 30 accredited courses and 16,000 downloadable resources (all entirely FREE at [www.coxcampus.org](http://www.coxcampus.org)) to support everyone in a child's life – from families and teachers to community members and volunteers. Now, getting the instructional and professional development and resources you and your colleagues and families need is not only vetted and based on research and science, but also free and available to you free of charge.

## Exploring the Outdoors! Ideas by PBS Kids



It's that time of year again! The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and everyone is ready to get outside. Explore the outdoors, discover fun nature crafts, and learn more about the world outside our doorsteps. When we spend time on our stoops, take a walk outside, or visit a nearby park, our senses come alive! We can inspire our children to observe and understand nature by listening



for animal sounds, feeling the texture of rocks, seeing the shade made by the trees, smelling freshly cut grass, and tasting raindrops as they fall from the sky.

Click to Learn  
More!

## Clean Water for Georgia's Kids

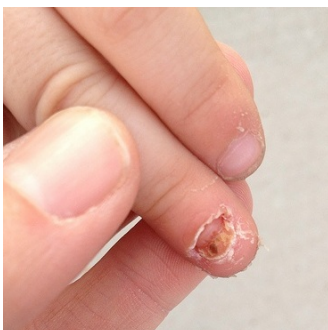
Childhood exposure to lead can cause lifelong and irreversible mental and behavioral defects. The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is joining the Georgia Department of Education and the nonprofit research institute RTI International to help schools and child care programs test, communicate, and remove lead from their drinking and cooking water. Thanks to a federal grant these tests are free of charge and are a great safeguard for children and their families.



The first step is to attend a thirty-minute pre-enrollment webinar to learn how to enroll, collect samples, ship your samples, and ask any questions. Register for the webinar, which is offered twice a week, at <https://bit.ly/3hW66kN>.

Click to Hear an Informational  
Podcast

## Finger Safety Around Doors and Hinges



The National Safety Council reports that more than 300,000 door-related injuries requiring emergency room treatment take place each year. Children, especially those under the age of five, suffer most door-related injuries such as crushed, fractured and even amputated fingers. Like other hazards young children face every day, door-

related injuries are easily preventable.

## Ways To Prevent Finger Injuries in Doors and Hinges

- Check that children's hands are well out of the way before opening and closing doors, including car doors.
- Check that children's fingers aren't in the way before closing windows in the car.
- Teach children not to slam doors, and not to play around them.
- Teach children to keep their fingers away from the hinge side of doors.
- Drape towels over tops of doors to keep them ajar.
- Place hook-and-eye latches high on doors, and/or wedges under doors to stop them closing on their own.
- Use doorstops to hold doors open and prevent them from slamming shut. Doorstops and weighted closing systems can stop doors from slamming suddenly.
- Install slow-release rather than spring-operated door closers to prevent doors slamming.
- Purchase and install door jam/hinge protectors, finger pinch protectors, and/or door guards and shields to prohibit doors from being fully closed or slammed. These items may be found by typing "door hinge finger protector" into the search engine of your favorite online retail store(s).

## Georgia Department of Public Health – Georgia Safe Siting Program



When exploring potential locations for a child care center, you may not be aware that children and staff may come into contact with unknown environmental hazards present at a proposed location. Selecting the

right location for a child care center is important in protecting children and staff from potential adverse health risks, and minimizing potential liability, that can arise from unknown environmental hazards present at a selected location. Even if child care centers meet current state licensing regulations, they may be located in places where children and staff can be exposed to environmental contamination from nearby hazardous waste sites, or from historical activities that took place at that location in the past. The Georgia Safe Siting Program (GSSP) at the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) offers **free screenings** for child care center applicants to inform you of any potential environmental hazards and ensure safer siting decisions before or

early in the process of getting established and licensed.

For more information on safe siting or to complete an online ***Property History Questionnaire***, please visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/georgia-safe-siting-program>.

## Caregiver Handouts: Games and Activities that Build Brains and Executive Function Skills

Are you looking for ideas and new activities for parents and caregivers to engage in with their children? Download this assortment of suggestions for games and activities to do with children of different ages, from 6 months up to adolescence. The activities can promote child-caregiver bonding and build children's brains through play.



Visit Website for  
Handouts

## Are You Looking for FREE Virtual Trainings?

The Technical Assistance Unit within Child Care Services offers FREE trainings via [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 Name	Date
Playgrounds: That's a Rule?	Tuesday, July 26, 2022
Transportation & Field Trip Safety	Thursday, August 4, 2022
Food Allergies & Modified Diets	Thursday, August 18, 2022
Transportation & Field Trip Safety	Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) Core Rules Refresher <i>*FCCLH Only</i>	Thursday September 15, 2022
Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) Core Rules Refresher	Thursday, September 29, 2022

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

Register Now!



REGISTER NOW  
for the

## 2022 GEORGIA ASYD CONFERENCE!

September 7-9, 2022  
Athens, GA

[georgiaasyd.org](http://georgiaasyd.org)







Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development  
Conference  
A collaboration between GSAY & GCSDE, Inc.



For more information about the conference, please visit <http://georgiaasyd.org/conference>.

For conference information or questions, feel free to contact [conference@georgiaASYD.org](mailto:conference@georgiaASYD.org).

Register Now!

## 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).

**[Click Here to Enroll](#)**

# Interested?

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



**[Agency](#) | [Programs](#) | [Families](#) | [Teachers](#) | [Providers](#) | [Contact](#)**

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning | 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, East Tower  
Suite 670, Atlanta, GA 30334

[Unsubscribe ccsqi@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:ccsqi@dec.al.ga.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [childcareservices@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:childcareservices@dec.al.ga.gov) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!