



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



# Child Care Services

## Fall 2022 Newsletter

Dear Child Care Providers,

As you know, this summer the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) surveyed all licensed child care programs about Child Care Services' (CCS) hybrid visits (i.e., in person observation plus virtual admin review). The results were interesting and varied widely, and feedback indicated that there were parts of this process that were beneficial to program providers and parts that needed some improvements. We want to pursue making those changes and figuring out what pieces are logical to include in our visits, but this will take some time.



In the meantime, we have gone back to 100% in person visits, with no virtual admin review. We resumed the full in person visits on **September 1<sup>st</sup>**, so many of you have already received this type of visit. I'm sure some of you are relieved that you don't have to upload all those documents, but I also know some of you felt more comfortable with consultants limiting their time in your programs.

This was a difficult decision, because as we all know COVID hasn't disappeared. As we transition back to being completely in person, we ask that you continue to be patient with us. We also encourage you to continue to do what is comfortable for you and your staff regarding Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). If you have additional questions, please contact your licensing consultant.

I hope you're having a great fall, and as always, thanks for all you do for families and children.

Take care,



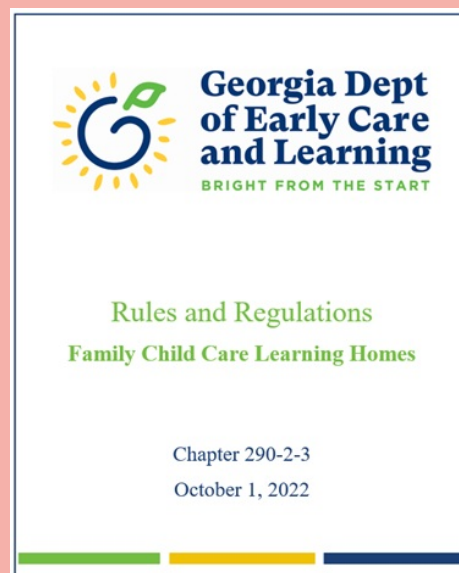
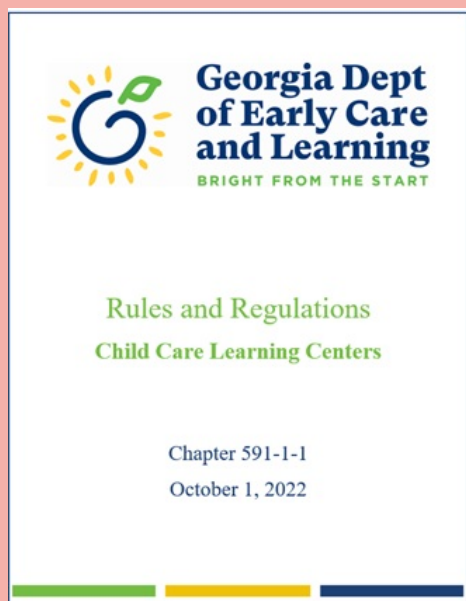
Pam Stevens  
Deputy Commissioner for Child Care Services

[Contact Us](#)

## Effective October 1, 2022: Changes to Rule Books and Indicator Manuals

The Family Child Care Learning Home (FCCLH) and Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) Rule Books and Rules & Regulations Indicator Manuals have been updated effective October 1, 2022.

To ensure that you have the most up-to-date version(s), please click on the appropriate button below.



## Criminal Records Check and Age Requirements for All Child Care Program Employees

In order to provide a safe and secure environment for the children enrolled in child care programs, all reasonable measures must be taken to protect children from the risk of abuse or neglect. Based on this objective, criminal background checks are required for individuals who are involved with child care. To comply with the Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) requirements for criminal background checks, all child care programs must follow all steps for submitting records check applications through [DECAL KOALA](https://www.dec.ga.gov/CCS/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx). Information about criminal records check requirements and the process can be found on DECAL's website at:

<http://www.dec.ga.gov/CCS/CriminalRecordsCheck.aspx>. Age requirements for criminal records check designations are listed in the chart below:

14 years old or older	16 years old or older	17 years old or older	18 years old or older	21 years old or older
Student-in-training	Employee - Assistant Caregiver/Aide	Employee/Resident	Employee - Lead Teacher	Director/Provider
	Employee-Other	Resident		Informal Provider
	Independent Contractor			
	Owner (present in facility)			
	Temporary/Substitute Caregiver			
	Volunteer			

## How-to: 5 Steps for Brain-Building Serve and Return

By The Center of the Developing Child at Harvard University





Did you know that you can help build a child's brain – starting even before babies can talk? Simple **serve and return interactions** between adults and young children help make strong connections in developing brains. And, it's easy and fun to do! This how-to video breaks down serve and return into **5 simple steps** and features adults and young children doing each step together.

[Click to Read Entire Article](#)

## Literacy and Justice for All: Four ways to connect, grow, and uplift

### Turning ECE Themes into Inquiry Questions that Matter to Us All

It is the beginning of another year of learning alongside of children and families, and chances are you and teachers everywhere are engaging in some of our common themes - All about me, Families and Friends, and Community Helpers.

If you are like us, you might be wondering how you can support your young conversational partners in ways that foster connection, contribution, and community. Turning themes into questions gives us something to wonder



about together, talk about, inquire into, and develop our sense of self and connection- and also builds our vocabulary, conceptual understandings, and relationships.

Together with teachers across the nation, Literacy and Justice For All (LJFA) is engaging alongside of children, families and communities around these themes by grappling with several related questions....

- *Who am I and why do I matter?*
- *What does it mean to be a family? Who is special to me?*
- *How can my community work together to help everyone?*

Questions like these matter to us, all of us, regardless of whether we are five months old, five years old, fifty-five, or one hundred and five years old. These questions of community, connection, and contribution are not only life-long, they are also worthy.

## Choosing Books with Characters that Look and Sound Like the Children in our Classrooms and Communities

As we collaborate with children, partner with families, and center our work in our communities, we find that these questions give us all opportunities to reflect, to wonder, to connect who we are to what we are learning, and to think together about how we can create spaces inside and outside of classrooms where all of us can thrive. After we start the process of wondering and questioning, we start to grapple with the books we use and read alongside of children.

- *Who is centered in those books?*
- *Who are the main characters?*
- *Do all children see and hear themselves, their families, and their communities in the books we read and share?*

## Resources:

- [\*\*LJFA Booklist for Birth-Five:\*\*](#) Representational children's books around these questions and connected themes...
- [\*\*LJFA Curriculum:\*\*](#) Free, evidenced-based and teacher-created ideas building on these beautiful books, lifting language, and connecting ideas and vocabulary

## Centering the Cultures, Stories, and Languages of Families as We Partner Together

You know how critical family partnership are and you might be dreaming this year of building stronger partnerships and relationships with the families of children in your class. How might you get started and what new ideas and tools might you use?

## Resources:

- [\*\*All About Me and My Family Resource:\*\*](#) This fillable resource is in English and [\*\*Spanish\*\*](#) and can help you learn more about the interests, stories, and lives of the children in your class- and to build on what you are learning to create bridges between families and the topics and ideas you are learning about alongside of children.
- [\*\*The Family Language/Culture Survey:\*\*](#) This English/[\*\*Spanish\*\*](#) resource will help you to learn more about the rich language and cultural resources of each child and family in your classroom

community! This will help you purposefully and intentionally include the range of identities, experiences, and expertise that is in your classroom every day!

- **Centering families, their cultures, stories, and languages in your classroom:** These one-pagers are connected to the inquiry questions and are intentional and do-able ideas that you can take up to be more systematic and intentional about building partnerships with families and inviting them to connect and share with the class. These are great and do-able things to connect with families and also to help them connect with each other! [September \(Family & Friends\)](#) and [October \(Community and Community Helpers\)](#)

## Joining Cox Campus for free Professional Development, Resources, and Support Throughout the Year

We hope you find some (or all) of these resources helpful, and we are grateful to be learning and supporting Literacy and Justice For All-together! We look forward to our next opportunity to think and grow together- and we'll see you in the community and on [coxcampus.org](https://coxcampus.org).

## Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS) Focuses on Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health



## 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	DATE
Playgrounds- That's a Rule?	October 13, 2022
Child Care Learning Center Core Rules Refresher	October 18, 2022
Family Child Care Learning Home Core Rules Refresher	November 1, 2022
Dispensing Medication	November 8, 2022
Classroom Interactions	November 17, 2022
Lesson Planning 101	December 1, 2022

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

[Register Now!](#)

## **DECAL Bilingual Rising Pre-K Summer Transition Program 2022: Ensuring Georgia's Spanish- speaking Dual Language Learners have a more meaningful Pre-K Experience**

For the last decade, the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy has proudly partnered with DECAL to design the structure and content of DECAL's Bilingual Rising PreK Summer Transition Program for Spanish-speaking children entering Pre-K. Through its culturally responsive curriculum and the intentional use of a balanced language approach that includes Spanish as a primary language of instruction, the program meets the learning needs of Spanish-speaking dual language learners and prepares



them for a more meaningful Pre-K experience—working toward the goal of literacy and justice for all children. During the 2022 six-week summer program, co-teaching partners (at least one who is fully bilingual) from over 70 classrooms statewide collectively supported nearly 700 children. This year, the Rollins team was excited to spend a total of 26 hours in virtual training with all new and returning lead and assistant teachers, program Transition Coaches, Directors, and DECAL Pre-K specialists – all members of the learning ecosystem!

While the program is only six weeks long, its effects can be long lasting. Many teachers go on to teach dual language learners all year round and apply the skills and practices they have learned through this program to their teaching. Teacher Christopher Cruz summarized the impact enthusiastically at the end of the summer, writing “The growth that we witnessed in a short period of time is amazing! This is a very beneficial program. We are molding our future together!” In the words of one leader at Cornelia Elementary, “we don’t call this a transition program. We call it a *transformation* program!” To everyone who participated in this program, thank you for your amazing work!



*Shown on left:  
Teacher Wanda Almazan reads Marisol  
McDonald Doesn't Match in Spanish to her  
class, dressed as the main character,  
Marisol McDonald!*

[Click to Learn  
More!](#)

## Caregiver Handouts: Staying Active

Keeping kids active isn't just good for their bodies, it's great for their developing brains. Kids learn and develop their brains through play. The great news is that staying active and playing doesn't have to happen all at once. Little moments throughout the day make a big difference! Here are some ways to have fun and get moving



with kids.



Visit Website for  
Handout

## 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!