



Exemptions Newsletter Fall 2017



Emergency Preparedness

Please ensure that, as staff change and groups of children transition, your emergency plans are reviewed and updated as necessary. In the event of an emergency, the best way to keep children safe is to be prepared. [Emergency preparedness resources](#) are available on the [DECAL](#) website.

All the best,

Kristie Lewis

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for
Child Care Services

[Child Care Aware](#) also has [resources](#), including disaster planning guides available on their website for centers and family child care homes.

Thank you for continually ensuring that your program is a safe and healthy place for the children in your care!

Learn about Developmental Milestones and Receive FREE Training and Classroom Materials!

Exempt early care and learning professionals who serve children under the age of five can earn one hour of FREE Bright from the Start training credit and a FREE Classroom Monitoring Kit when they complete the **Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns** training modules. The materials in the kit include colorful posters, Milestones Moments booklets and developmental checklists for a range of ages.

Monitoring children's growth and development is critical in helping them reach their full potential. Early learning professionals play a critical role in the health and well-being of children. You are also well positioned to help identify children who might need extra help in their development. **Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns** is a FREE online training series that will support you in this role. By completing this series you will learn why monitoring development is important, your role in developmental monitoring, how to easily monitor milestones, how to talk to families about their child's development, and what supports are available for children and families in Georgia.

To begin this free training series, visit [Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns](#). Do it today to get free training credit AND free materials for your program!

MILESTONES MATTER: LET'S TALK ABOUT THEM!

MILESTONES AT 4 MONTHS <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ Begins to babble☑ Responds to affection	MILESTONES AT 6 MONTHS <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ Likes to play with others☑ Responds to own name	MILESTONES AT 9 MONTHS <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ Has favorite toys☑ Understands "no"
MILESTONES AT 1 YEAR <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ Tries to say words you say☑ Waves "bye-bye"	MILESTONES AT 2 YEARS <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ Begins to run☑ Begins to sort shapes, colors	MILESTONES AT 3 YEARS <ul style="list-style-type: none">☑ Knows name and age☑ Climbs and runs well

Get free milestone checklists for these ages and more at www.cdc.gov/Milestones.

Learn the Signs. Act Early. Part of the resources about your child's development. Visit www.signsandsymbols.org

BRIGHT FROM THE START
Georgia Department of Early Childhood Learning

vroom

Brain building moments

The Brain Story
There is no time in life when the brain develops more rapidly than during the first five years. Here's a glimpse at all that's taking place inside your baby's brain!

- A Brand New Brain**
Every baby is born with a brain that contains 85 billion of neurons.
- Ready For Anything**
From day one, those neurons connect and the brain begins to get ready for life.
- Learning Like Lightning**
The brain is wired to grow. In the first five years, it makes 100 neural connections every single second.
- Communication Is Key**
Above all, there's one thing that helps young brains grow strong—strong relationships.
- Hi, Baby**
Even kids who can't yet talk are looking, listening, and reacting to you nonstop.
- You Are A Brain Builder**
Every time you interact with a child, you're doing something important—shaping a growing mind.
- Nurture Future Greatness**
The first five years are when the brain builds its foundation so kids can thrive as adults.
- Vroom!**
We know this for sure: learning doesn't start at school, it begins at birth.
- It Begins With You**
Visit joinvroom.org to learn how you can be a brain builder.

joinvroom.org

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Autumn Handprint Tree

2017-2018 CHILD CARE SERVICES TRAINING
Discover, Create, Imagine -
Developing Lesson Plans for Young Children

Location	Date
MACON Anderson Conference Center	Saturday, October 21, 2017
GAINESVILLE Brenau Downtown Center	Thursday, November 2, 2017
ATLANTA Hilton Garden Inn Millennium Center/Atlanta Airport	Saturday, December 2, 2017
TIFTON UGA-Tifton Campus Conference Center	Thursday, January 9, 2018
MARIETTA Mansour Center	Saturday, January 27, 2018
STATESBORO Nessmith-Lane Center	Thursday, February 8, 2018
COLUMBUS Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center	Saturday, February 24, 2018
LITHONIA Fairfield Inn & Suites Atlanta East	Tuesday, March 6, 2018
SAVANNAH Coastal Georgia Center	Saturday, March 10, 2018
ATLANTA Hilton Garden Inn Millennium Center/Atlanta Airport	Saturday, March 24, 2018

This one-day training is offered to all birth through five teachers working in a child care program. This training will focus on planning meaningful lessons using the [Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards](#) (GELDS). Teachers will learn how to use the [PEACH](#)(Planning Educational Activities for Children) website to search for developmentally appropriate activities and to develop a lesson plan. This hands-on training will discuss intentional teaching practices, the importance of developmentally appropriate practices, and include opportunities to try engaging hands-on activities to individualize instruction for children in the classroom. Six (6) training credit hours will be awarded to educators who complete this training.

To register for this training, click the blue “Register Today” link to visit the Georgia Professional Development System for Early Childhood Educators. If you have any questions about creating an account or registering for training, please contact gapds@dec.ga.gov or 404-267-2760 or 888-92-GAPDS (42737).

[Register Today!](#)

Access to [DECAL KOALA](#) for Exempt Programs is here!

DECAL KOALA is a provider self-service website available 24/7 for your convenience.

- All programs may update the program director, telephone numbers and email addresses.
- Click on Frequently Asked Questions on the bottom of the [DECAL KOALA Welcome Page](#). You can view Frequently Asked Questions even if you don't have an account, or you are not logged in.
- Especially for only categories #1 (government owned and operated), and #7 (Day Camp) if accepting CAPS scholarships. Submit and check the status of records check applications online and print determination letters.

Contact decalkoala@dec.ga.gov, or call 404/657-5562 for more information.

New! Application for Exemption Amendment

If you have certain changes in your program that will not affect the conditions of the category, you no longer need to complete a new application. You may now complete an Application for Exemption Amendment. It is an expedited form to notify us of your amended program for the following changes:

✦ Change in hours

- (must meet the conditions of the category)

✦ Change in days/month

✦ Change in ages

- (must meet the conditions of the category)

✦ Change of program's operating (doing business as) name

- (cannot include a change of ownership)

To submit the completed application:

✦ Fax to 404/232-1931 (preferred)

✦ E-mail to CCSExemptions@dec.al.ga.gov (preferred)

✦ Mail to address →

Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning

Attention: CCS Exemptions

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, SE

Suite 670, East Tower

Atlanta, Georgia 30334



The Exemptions Unit continues to work on ensuring updated information in our exemptions database. Our exemption rules changed in December 2012.

[Visit the Exemptions](#)

If your program received an approved exemption BEFORE

web page!



January 2013, you will need to update your exemption application and supporting documentation. If you are uncertain of your current exemption status, contact us at 770/293-5977, and someone will let you know what you need to do to retain your exemption approval.

Child Care Services Exemptions Unit
CCSExemptions@dec.al.ga.gov
770/293-5977

STAY CONNECTED and FOLLOW DECAL on Social Media

