



Exemptions Newsletter Summer 2018



On May 29, 2018, for the fifth consecutive year, Governor Nathan Deal, First Lady Sandra Deal, and Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs called for Georgia families and caregivers of children to have heightened awareness of the dangers of leaving children alone in vehicles. Officials hope this new public service announcement will

help prevent heatstroke deaths of children this summer.



[Click here for additional information on heatstroke](#)



Setting the standard for high quality afterschool and youth development programs serving Georgia's children and youth

The Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development (ASYD) Quality Standards and Conference is a collaborative effort that is endorsed by the the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, and the Georgia Department of Public Health.

The bi-annual Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development Conference will be held on September 26-28, 2018 at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center.

This conference connects afterschool and youth development program providers and stakeholders throughout the state for three days of professional development, networking and interactive workshops.



Coming Soon!

A webinar has been scheduled to take place on July 16, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. We will discuss site visits at exempt programs. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and receive valuable information. Be on the look-out for an email notification that will contain a registration link to join the presentation.

Basic Health and Safety Visits in Georgia's License-Exempt Child Care Programs

In 2016, DECAL contracted with Child Trends to study the basic health and safety practices of license-exempt child care programs. Contract consultants visited a random sample of license-exempt child care programs to collect data on basic health and safety practices.

The health and safety practices of license-exempt programs were compared to those of licensed programs. The study was conducted, in part, to meet the state's Child Care and Development Fund requirements related to the Child Care Development Block Grant Re-authorization of 2014. The study further informed DECAL on how best to monitor and support the health and safety practices of license-exempt programs throughout the state. To learn more about the research study conducted by Child Trends, [click here](#).

As a part of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's

(DECAL) commitment to ensure safe and healthy environments for our youngest learners, we are continuing to conduct data visits to a sampling of exempt programs across the state to determine compliance with operating guidelines and capture routine health and safety data. A sampling of programs will also be visited upon application before exemption approval. The visiting Exemption Specialist will use a checklist to document their observations and provide the program administrator a copy of the documentation. An on-site visit may be required to complete the application process.

Government-owned and operated Programs and Day Camps receiving CAPS Scholarships

- Annual Health and Safety Monitoring Visits will be conducted by DECAL specialists
- Reports posted on DECAL website for 5 years
- Staff must have DECAL Comprehensive Background Checks
- Staff must obtain Health & Safety Orientation Certificate within 90 days of hire
- Staff must obtain CPR and First Aid training within 90 days of hire
- Program must have Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Plan



Children across Georgia Have Access to Free Meals This Summer

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) announces that free meals are available for children 18 and under (and some eligible adults) throughout the state through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is administered in Georgia by DECAL.

Parents and children can find area sites where meals will be served by visiting DECAL's website at <http://decal.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx>. Additionally, sites can be located by calling 1-855-550-SFSP (7377) or by texting "FOODGA" to 877-877 (standard messaging and data rates apply). Sites can also be found by visiting USDA's Summer Food Rocks Meal Site Finder at



BECAUSE KIDS
STILL NEED TO
EAT AND LEARN WHEN
SCHOOL'S OUT



Make Summer Safe for Kids



Summer is a great time for kids to enjoy different indoor and outdoor activities. Whether they are young children or teens, learn ways to keep your kids safe and healthy while they enjoy the summer fun.

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) offers great tips to make summer safe for kids.

6 Ways to Keep Your Kids Excited about School

By Dr. Marie Hartwell-Walker, Ed.D.

It's a fact: Kids who are excited about learning do better in school and in life. One of the best gifts we can give our kids is enthusiasm for all that school has to offer. Remember: Every child is born to learn. Think about all that a baby learns in the first couple of years: How to get needs met from the big people; How to walk and talk, smile and frown; sleep through the night and play during the day.

How to clap and play games, feed themselves, and both give and take with others. By the time a child is 4 or 5, most know their colors and numbers, how to ride a tricycle and how to manipulate complicated toys and equally complicated people. If more than one language is used in the house, kids under 10 can learn to speak them all like a native speaker.

For a child, every day is filled with a ton of new stuff to take in and learn from. Unless isolated or abused, every day is filled with learning. Every day is filled with joy at new accomplishments. Watch any small child who is determined to succeed at something and it's a lesson in not giving up. We parents don't need to teach kids to love learning. We only need to make sure that love isn't squashed.

To read the full article, [click here](#).



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