



BRIGHT FROM THE START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
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GOVERNOR

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Dear Child Care Provider:

IMPORTANT REMINDER: In October 2016 updated rules went into effect for all licensed child care programs to help ensure the health and safety for children in care. The federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 made those rule updates necessary. The revised rules require all staff with direct care responsibilities to complete **Health & Safety Orientation Certificate** training plus **CPR & First Aid** training (if not currently certified). Following are important time frames:

- New staff members hired on or after October 1, 2016 must obtain the Health & Safety Orientation Certificate and CPR/First Aid training within 90 days of employment.
- Staff hired before October 1, 2016 must complete the Health & Safety Orientation Certificate training and CPR and First Aid training (if not currently certified) by **June 30, 2017**. **NOTE:** This date is quickly approaching, and Child Care Services will begin monitoring for compliance on July 1, 2017.

You and your staff can access a free online module for the Health & Safety Orientation Certificate through Better Kid Care, Pennsylvania State University at <http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/on-demand>. Sign in to the On Demand option, and then choose the module called “Georgia Health and Safety Orientation Training (for Georgia child care providers only).” You can also find additional training options at: <https://www.training.decal.ga.gov/> (search “Health & Safety Orientation”).

The new Health & Safety Orientation Certificate training:

- Does not replace the initial staff orientation or first year training topics (“basic 6”), which are still required by the rules;
- Has to be completed only one time (does not have to be renewed); and
- Can be used for meeting the requirement for annual training hours.

NOTE: Staff are encouraged to enter all completed training information in the Georgia Professional Development System (GA PDS) at gapds.decal.ga.gov/.

Also, to comply with the federal requirements, we have made changes in the posting of inspections and other information. Licensing visit reports will now be posted on our website for up to five years from the date of the inspection. Revocation notices and other adverse action notices will also be posted for public viewing.

If you have questions about the new training or posting requirements, contact your licensing consultant, e-mail ChildCareServices@decal.ga.gov, or call 404-657-5562 to speak to an intake consultant.

Best regards,

Kristie Lewis
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care Services