



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

**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DECAL Honors Quality Rated's Class of 2012 During 10th Anniversary Celebration**

*Class Members Have Consistently Delivered High-Quality Care and Earned Star Ratings for 10 Years*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (October 20, 2022)** – As part of Quality Rated's "Decade of Stars" 10th Anniversary celebration, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has named 126 child care providers to the exclusive Quality Rated Class of 2012 in recognition of their unique status as early adopters that have consistently delivered high-quality, star-rated care and education to Georgia's youngest learners.

The 126 providers are being singled out for beginning the Quality Rated process when the program launched in 2012, earning a 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating by July 2013, and maintaining a star rating continually over the past 10 years. DECAL will honor the Class of 2012 during statewide Anniversary celebrations over the next three months. Information on the Regional Celebrations, as well as the names and locations of the providers that are members of the Class are listed on a separate page below.

"The members of the Class of 2012 are the brightest of all the Quality Rated stars," said DECAL Commissioner Amy Jacobs. "They have made early and sustained commitments to the goal of creating high-quality, nurturing learning environments for Georgia's youngest learners that have contributed significantly to Quality Rated's success during its first decade."

To earn a Quality Rated 1-, 2-, or 3-star rating, a provider must meet requirements that exceed licensing standards. They demonstrate their commitment to structural quality by submitting a portfolio with evidence of qualified administrators and staff; high standards for child physical, emotional, and developmental well-being; robust family engagement activities, and intentional teaching practices. Applicants must also show that they adhere to process quality standards during on-site program assessments that are conducted by credentialed Quality Rated assessors. During the observation visits, the assessors evaluate the quality of teacher-child

interactions; the accessibility of materials and equipment; and the physical layout of the classroom or family child care learning home.

In addition to recognizing the Class of 2012, the Anniversary celebrations will commemorate Quality Rated's achievements and engage with the program's longstanding stakeholders and partners. Over the past 10 years, the Quality Rated star rating has become a symbol of excellence that providers across the state covet and that gives parents confidence that their children are receiving high-quality care and education. Since 2012 when the first star rating was awarded, the program has grown steadily. As of August 15, 2022, more than 2,850 child care providers are Quality Rated. Additionally, 93% of children with Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) scholarships are enrolled at a Quality Rated provider, putting DECAL ever closer to realizing its vision that every child in Georgia regardless of their family income or geographic region has equal access to high-quality early child care and education.

"We are extremely proud to reach this important milestone in the development of Quality Rated," said Dr. Bentley Ponder, DECAL Deputy Commissioner for Quality Innovations and Partnerships. "The 10th Anniversary gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the great progress we have made in improving access to and elevating the quality of child care across the state with our star-rated providers, as well as our stakeholders and staff."

### **About Quality Rated**

Quality Rated is Georgia's systemic approach to assessing, improving, and communicating the level of quality in early care and education providers. Similar to rating systems for other service-related industries, Quality Rated assigns a star rating to child care providers that meet a set of defined program standards. By participating in Quality Rated, providers embark on a path of continuous quality improvement, with the goal of instilling lasting, positive effects on Georgia's children, families, and economy.

### **About DECAL**

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program; licenses child care centers and home-based child care; administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program and federal nutrition programs; and manages Quality Rated, Georgia's community-powered child care rating system. The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).

**QUALITY RATED CLASS OF 2012**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Discovery Point Child Development Center #46              | Acworth       |
| KinderCare Learning Center (Wade Green #889)              | Acworth       |
| Teachable Moments Learning Center                         | Adel          |
| Miss Jan's Nursery & Playschool, Inc.                     | Albany        |
| ABC Child Development Center                              | Alma          |
| Sheltering Arms - Elaine P. Draeger Model Teaching Center | Atlanta       |
| The Sunshine House #96                                    | Atlanta       |
| KIDazzle Child Care and Learning Center                   | Atlanta       |
| Premiere Scholar Early Learning Center                    | Atlanta       |
| KinderCare Learning Center #404                           | Atlanta       |
| Sikes Rockin Horse Ranch                                  | Auburn        |
| McIntosh Trail ECDC- Lamar County Head Start              | Barnesville   |
| Discovery Point #63                                       | Braselton     |
| Children's Learning Center                                | Buford        |
| Discovery Point #40                                       | Buford        |
| Friendship Learning Center                                | Buford        |
| Discovery Point #37                                       | Canton        |
| The Sunshine House #131                                   | Cartersville  |
| KinderCare Learning Center #412                           | Chamblee      |
| Academy for Little People                                 | Chickamauga   |
| Sheltering Arms - Stonewall Tell                          | College Park  |
| Little Scholars Academy of Atlanta                        | College Park  |
| Creative Beginnings Pre-School Academy                    | College Park  |
| KinderCare Learning Center #411                           | College Park  |
| Discovery Point #61                                       | Conyers       |
| La Petite Academy - Highway 138                           | Conyers       |
| Discovery Point #59                                       | Covington     |
| Newton County Head Start Center                           | Covington     |
| Johnson, Vanessa  | Crawfordville |
| Dawson, Debora A.   | Dacula        |
| The Sunshine House #105                                   | Dallas        |
| Reflections Learning Academy #2                           | Dallas        |
| Friendship House  | Dalton        |
| Whitfield-Dalton Day Care Center                          | Dalton        |
| Whitfield Head Start/Early Head Start                     | Dalton        |
| Family Resource Agency, Dalton Heritage Pre-K             | Dalton        |
| Washington County Head Start Davisboro Center             | Davisboro     |
| Child Prophesies  | Decatur       |
| Pleasant, Carolyn D.                                      | Decatur       |
| Polnitz, Wanda L.   | Decatur       |
| The Sunshine House #104                                   | Douglasville  |
| Intelli-Kids  | Dublin        |

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|---|-----------------|
| The Sunshine House #77                                    | Duluth          |
| Discovery Point #3  | Duluth          |
| Big Blue Marble - Duluth                                  | Duluth          |
| Avila, Alba R   | Duluth          |
| Little Linguists International Preschool - East Point     | East Point      |
| First Baptist Church Weekday                              | Ellijay         |
| Magic Learning Academy                                    | Evans           |
| Harvest Rain Academy                                      | Fairburn        |
| Discovery Point #65                                       | Flowery Branch  |
| Little Ones Learning Center                               | Forest Park     |
| Joyland Christian Academy                                 | Fort Oglethorpe |
| Noah's Ark Christian Learning Center                      | Fort Oglethorpe |
| Glascocock Co. Head Start Center                          | Gibson          |
| The Sunshine House #79                                    | Grayson         |
| Spalding County Pre-K                                     | Griffin         |
| Stepping Stones Educational Therapy Center                | Griffin         |
| Raulerson, Karyn L  | Hahira          |
| Hinesville Child Care Learning Center                     | Hinesville      |
| Elite Academy   | Hoschton        |
| Happy Hollow Christian Academy                            | Irwinton        |
| Butts County Head Start & Pre-K                           | Jackson         |
| Little Creations Learning Center                          | Jonesboro       |
| The Sunshine House #49                                    | Kennesaw        |
| Family Resource Agency, South Walker Head Start/EHS/Pre-K | LaFayette       |
| Childtime Childcare #1110                                 | Lawrenceville   |
| Childtime Childcare #1117                                 | Lawrenceville   |
| Cinthy's Angels Group Day Care, Inc                       | Lawrenceville   |
| KinderCare Learning Center #1313                          | Lawrenceville   |
| Sierra, Maria G   | Lawrenceville   |
| Lopez, Emma   | Lawrenceville   |
| Acosta, Flor A  | Lawrenceville   |
| Laruy, Janeth   | Lawrenceville   |
| Valdivia, Roxana E  | Lawrenceville   |
| Estrada, Gleydis  | Lawrenceville   |
| The Sunshine House #73                                    | Lilburn         |
| Elliott, Antoinette C                                     | Lithonia        |
| Henry County Head Start Center                            | Locust Grove    |
| The Sunshine House #80                                    | Loganville      |
| Clay, De'angela   | Mableton        |
| The Sunshine House #91                                    | Marietta        |
| Discovery Point #43                                       | Marietta        |
| MJCCA Sunshine School                                     | Marietta        |
| KinderCare Learning Center #1690                          | Marietta        |
| La Petite Academy - Williams                              | Marietta        |

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| Little Caterpillars Development Center, Inc.           | Milledgeville  |
| St. Stephen's Day School                               | Milledgeville  |
| Learning Safari Child Care and Learning Center         | Milledgeville  |
| KinderCare Learning Center #410                        | Morrow         |
| Skinner, Erin L  | Nashville      |
| StoneBridge Early Learning Center                      | Newnan         |
| Sheltering Arms - Norcross Center                      | Norcross       |
| The Sunshine House #92                                 | Norcross       |
| The Sunshine House #161                                | Norcross       |
| Jesus Loves Me Daycare                                 | Ray City       |
| Marcelle, Susan P.                                     | Rex            |
| La Petite Academy - Taylor                             | Riverdale      |
| Felts, Linda D   | Riverdale      |
| Weimer, Noel K   | Roswell        |
| Washington County NB & PW Club                         | Sandersville   |
| Tutor Time Child Care Learning Center                  | Smyrna         |
| KinderCare Learning Center #414                        | Smyrna         |
| The Sunshine House #74                                 | Snellville     |
| Childtime Childcare #1150                              | Snellville     |
| Ivywood Academy - Snellville                           | Snellville     |
| Kid's World Learning Center                            | Statesboro     |
| The Sunshine House #64                                 | Stockbridge    |
| Childtime Childcare #1101                              | Stone Mountain |
| Lovejoy, Valerie N                                     | Stone Mountain |
| Rodriguez, Erica                                       | Stone Mountain |
| Family Resource Agency, Chattooga Head Start/EHS/Pre-K | Summerville    |
| KinderCare Learning Center #5003                       | Suwanee        |
| McIntosh Trail ECDC Head Start                         | Thomaston      |
| Mother's Love Child Care Center                        | Tifton         |
| Mother's Love, Too                                     | Tifton         |
| Dade Head Start / Early Head Start                     | Trenton        |
| Academy for Little People/Trion                        | Trion          |
| Williams, Gennatt P                                    | Valdosta       |
| Mathis, Keisha I                                       | Valdosta       |
| Watson, Alberta C                                      | Valdosta       |
| Wilkes County Head Start                               | Washington     |
| Discovery Point #7                                     | Woodstock      |
| The Sunshine House #55                                 | Woodstock      |
| Burns, Brenda T.                                       | Wrens          |
| Johnson County Head Start Center                       | Wrightsville   |
| Pike County Head Start Center                          | Zebulon        |

# QUALITY RATED'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

## Regional Celebrations



### **October 24 – Dalton**

*Whitfield Career Academy  
2300 Maddox Chapel Road NE  
Dalton, GA 30721*

*Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.*

### **November 18 – Metro Atlanta**

*Georgia Piedmont DeKalb Conference Center  
495 North Indian Creek Drive  
Clarkston, GA 30021*

*Doors Open at 8:00 a.m.*

### **December 9 – Valdosta**

*Wiregrass Georgia Technical College - Sidney & Sharon Morris Hall  
4089 Val Tech Road  
Valdosta, GA 31602*

*Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.*