



277 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 104
Macon, GA 31201
Phone: 478-751-3000
Toll Free: 877-228-3566
www.leapccrr.org
Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Child Care
Resource &
Referral of
Central
Georgia



Spring 2017

Early Care and Education BULLETIN!

Dear Early Care and Education Co-workers in Georgia,

As is customary each year in January, Governor Deal delivered his State of the State address and released his budget proposal for FY2018. Not surprisingly, the Governor continued demonstrating his recognition of and commitment to the importance of early learning by “putting his money where his mouth is.”

His proposed budget includes the following items:

- \$5.5M for tiered reimbursement for Quality Rated child care programs
- \$2M for Early Language and Literacy Classroom Grants
- \$2.7M to create the Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy

The state *funds for tiered reimbursement* would be added to federal funds to **encourage more of you to participate in Quality Rated** and to serve more children in the CAPS program. The goal: to increase the number of - and thereby access to - high quality child care especially for children who need it the most.

The *Early Language and Literacy Classroom Grants* would support 50 birth through three-year-old classrooms across the state in **implementing strong language and literacy instruction** for children in the earliest, and most critical, years of life. These efforts would advance the Governor’s goal of every child in Georgia reading on grade level by the end of third grade by supporting their earliest teachers through coaching and professional development.

The *Georgia Center for Early Language and Literacy* would promote research-based practices related to early language development and literacy for children from birth to age eight and their families and teachers. The Center, which would be housed at Georgia College and State University (GCSU), would conduct think tank-type **research** activities and provide **practical supports** for implementing effective early language and literacy strategies in classrooms. The Center would be a **new resource** for birth to three teachers.

We support these proposals in the Governor’s budget because each is in the best interest of Georgia’s children and families. These proposals align with DECAL’s vision and mission and provide additional support to Georgia’s youngest citizens and the teachers and programs who provide their earliest and most critical learning experience. We also appreciate Governor and Mrs. Deal’s continued support of children and children’s issues, especially literacy; they clearly understand that support of children directly translates into support for the future of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy M. Jacobs".

Amy M. Jacobs, Commissioner

Summer Food Service Program

The summer months are quickly approaching, which means the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) season will begin soon. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides free, healthy meals to children up to age 18 during the summer when school is out of session. While over 60% of Georgia's children receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year, that resource is not available during the summer months. For the more than one million children that receive these meals during the school year, the SFSP fills the gap and ensures children have continued access to nutritious meals during the summer.

To find meal sites serving free meals this summer:

- ➔ Visit <http://dec.al.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx> and search for "Summer Food Meal Sites"
- ➔ Call 1-855-550-SFSP (7377)
- ➔ Text FOODGA to 877-877

There are several ways you can make a difference in your community. Share the ways to find meal sites, promote the program in your community, encourage community-based organizations to learn more and serve as sponsors, or volunteer at meal sites. For more information on how to get involved, contact Shani Drake, Marketing & Outreach Manager, at shani.drake@dec.al.ga.gov.

While school is still in session, many organizations are providing healthy meals to students in concert with after-school programming. The At-Risk Afterschool Program provides up to one afterschool snack and supper meal to children in low-income areas throughout the school year. If you are interested in learning more information about how to get involved, visit DECAL's website at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/CACFP/Training.aspx>.

NAEYC Celebrates Week of the Young Child™

The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose is to celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers and families.

We're so excited for a week long celebration of our youngest learners! Start planning your celebration today with these event ideas and activities:

- ◆ **Music Monday, April 24: Sing, dance, celebrate and learn.** Through music, children develop math, language and literacy skills—all while having fun and being active.
- ◆ **Tasty Tuesday, April 25: Healthy eating and fitness at home and school.** This fun-themed day is about more than just cheese and crackers. Cooking together connects math with literacy skills, science and more!
- ◆ **Work Together Wednesday, April 26: Work together, build together, learn together!** When children build together, they explore their social and literacy skills.
- ◆ **Artsy Thursday, April 27: Think, problem solve, create.** Celebrate the joy and learning children experience when engaged in creative art making.
- ◆ **Family Friday, April 28: Sharing family stories.** Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners.

To join in the celebration and learn how to better meet the needs of all young children and their families, visit

www.naeyc.org/woyc/faq.



Celebrate NAEYC's Week of the Young Child™ April 24-28, 2017

naeyc
Week of the
Young Child™

Quality Rated Provider Spotlight: Jerry Perkins



Jerry Perkins operates a Family Child Care Learning Home in Macon, Georgia. She made the decision to further her commitment to providing quality child care and joined Quality Rated. With the support of her CCR&R Technical Assistance (TA) Coordinator, Ms. Perkins received her three star quality rating on January 24, 2017.

Read about her experience with Quality Rated and how it has impacted her program.

Why did I decide to participate in Quality Rated?

“I decided to participate in Quality Rated to better my family child care center and to learn to be a better provider.”

What did I enjoy most about the Quality Rated process?

“There are several things I enjoyed about the QR process. I loved the fact that I didn’t have to do it on my own and throughout this process I had a TA to assist me. I was able to make small changes at a time based on my TA’s recommendations to create a better environment for my children. I received support and a great deal of toys and furniture before submitting my online portfolio.”

What impact has Quality Rated made in my program?

“The main impact was reaching my goal of owning and directing a Quality Rated family child care center, but I never thought I would get a 3 star rating. I know more about what is developmentally appropriate for children through the various free trainings that were offered to me. I wish I had gone through this process sooner.”

“Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren’t used to an environment where excellence is expected.”

-Steve Jobs



Congratulations to Central Georgia’s Newest Quality Rated Providers



Jerry Perkins	3	Pike County Head Start Center	3
Learning Safari Child Care & Learning Center	2	Kimberly Chesteen	2
Peachtree Academy—East	2	Kidz of Paradise	2

*New ratings as of 3/20/17

Family Child Care Providers: Your Key to Unlocking a Treasure Trove of Benefits



- √ Free training
- √ Free equipment and materials
- √ Free on-site coaching
- √ Higher CAPS payments
- √ Marketing & branding tools to promote your business

Participating in our Quality Rated Technical Assistance Project is the key to unlocking all of these benefits and more! Not sure if you are ready? Let us connect you with a rated family provider that we have worked with and let them talk to you about their experience! Contact Heather Goelz at **877-228-3566** or hegoelz@augusta.edu.

Spring Training Calendar

All trainings are Beginner level unless otherwise noted.

Courses identified with the GaPDS icon require registration to be completed through the GaPDS website. Log-in to your account at <https://gapds.decal.ga.gov/>.

Date	Time	Topic	Comments	Location
Saturday, May 6	9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 credit hours	Quality Rated: FCCERS In-Depth	 Free for programs participating in QR	Leap Early Learning Partners 277 MLK, Jr. Blvd. Macon, GA 31201
Saturday, May 6	9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 credit hours	Quality Rated: ECERS-3 In-Depth	 Free for programs participating in QR	Merle Manders Conference Center 111 Davis Rd Stockbridge, GA 30281
	9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 credit hours	Quality Rated: ITERS In-Depth		
Tuesday, May 16	10 a.m. – 12 p.m. 2 credit hours	Director 2 Director: Tools for Evaluation and Review of Your Program	FREE	Southern Crescent Technical College Henry County Center 300 Lakemont Dr. McDonough, GA 30253
Saturday, June 17	9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 credit hours	Standards 104: Planning Lessons Using the GELDS <i>-Intermediate Level Training-</i>	 FREE	Peachtree Academy—East 1801 Ellington Rd. Conyers, GA 30013
Saturday, July 15	9 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 credit hours	Standards 104: Planning Lessons Using the GELDS <i>-Intermediate Level Training-</i>	 FREE	Central Georgia Technical College <i>I Building - Quad A</i> 3300 Macon Tech Dr. Macon, GA 31206
Saturday, July 15	8 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. 6 credit hours	2017 Regional Spring Super Saturday	See page six for details	Wyndham Peachtree Hotel & Conference Center 2443 GA-54 Peachtree City, GA 30269

For More Information & Additional Training Sessions

In addition to the training sessions listed above, we will be regularly adding training to the calendar on our website. We will schedule additional training, including Quality Rated training, throughout the quarter to meet the needs in our region.

If you need a specific training, please email us at crrcentralga@augusta.edu and provide the following information: *title of training you are looking for, the city where you are located, and the number of people in need of training.* We will use that information to schedule additional training sessions throughout the quarter and will advertise them on our website.

To get our up-to-date listing of available training sessions or details on any of the sessions listed above, visit our website at www.leapccrr.org/events or you can use a QR Reader App on your mobile device to scan the image on the right for a quick link.



**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use
to change the world.”**

– Nelson Mandela

Training Policies & Registration

REGISTRATION

Participants **must register** for Quality Rated and Standards (GELDS) training through their GaPDS account at <https://gapds.decal.ga.gov/>. These training sessions are identified on our calendar by the GaPDS logo. Participants registering for any sessions not included in GaPDS **must pre-register** and pay any applicable fees in order to attend the class of choice.

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. This includes all Quality Rated courses offered.

- If payment is required, your enrollment will NOT be processed until payment is received.
- We will NOT collect fees at the time of the class.
- Enrollment will be closed (and registration fee returned if necessary) when class limit is reached.

Participants that register through email or fax submission will receive email confirmation from Leap Early Learning Partners when their registration has been processed and confirmed. Until you receive this email, your registration is not confirmed.

FEES

Training fees must be received before the training date noted on the calendar in order to be registered. Fees received in our office after the training date will be returned, or a credit will be given towards another class.

Fees may be mailed, with registration form, to the following address:

Leap Early Learning Partners
277 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 104
Macon, GA 31201

We currently accept payment in the form of credit cards (by phone), checks, money orders, and cash. Cash fees may be dropped off during our normal business hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Checks and money orders should be made payable to *Augusta University*.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING POLICIES

For a complete list of our training policies, please visit www.leapccrr.org/events and find the link under the details for each training or use a QR Code Reader App to scan the image to the right.

If you have any other questions, please contact Justin Wiggins at juwiggins@augusta.edu or 478-751-3021 or toll free at 877-228-3566.



If you choose to register by mail, please include a copy of the below form with your payment.

Name: _____ County of Employment: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Child Care Program Name: _____ License #: _____

Training	Date	Time	Cost
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

CEU's are available for \$3 per credit hour. Please check here and include these fees in your total payment.

TOTAL: _____

2017 REGIONAL SPRING SUPER SATURDAY

- When:** July 15, 2017
8 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. (includes one-hour lunch break)
Full day attendees will receive **six** state approved credit hours
- Where:** Wyndham Peachtree Hotel & Conference Center (*Rooms: Moreland and Newnan*)
2443 GA-54, Peachtree City, GA 30269
- Fee:** **Free** for programs/providers with an approved Quality Rated Application
\$30 for programs/providers not participating in Quality Rated
- Registration:** Submission of a registration form is **required** to attend this event. Completed registration forms with your first choice of sessions marked (& payment if applicable) must be received in our office by **Wednesday, July 13.**

Select the class you would like to attend for each session by placing an 'X' in the appropriate cell. We will do our best to place you in the requested session; however, if a class reaches capacity, you may be moved to the other class. *A separate form should be completed for each participant being registered.*

Session 1: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.		Session 2: 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.		Session 3: 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bubble Baths and Ben & Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beware, I Bite!	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Outdoor Classroom
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Firm Foundation: Why Quality Early Learning Matters	<input type="checkbox"/>	What About Me? The Teacher's Role in "Free" Play	<input type="checkbox"/>	Make Time for Small Talk! Conversations with Infants & Toddlers

Name: _____ Program Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Program Name

& License #: _____

For programs/providers participating in Quality Rated:

1. Submit your completed registration form by e-mail, fax, or U.S. mail.
2. We'll see you on July 15th!

Registration for programs/providers NOT participating in Quality Rated:

1. Complete your registration form.
2. Submit your registration form and \$30 payment (via check, money order, or credit card). OR, complete your Quality Rated application and send your registration form with no payment needed!

Completed registration forms and payments can be submitted using one of the methods below:

E-mail: juwiggins@augusta.edu Fax: 478-751-3010

Mail: 277 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Suite 104, Macon, GA 31201

Please print clearly and make all checks or money orders payable to Augusta University.

To make a credit or debit card payment, please contact Justin Wiggins, Training Coordinator, at (478) 751-3021.



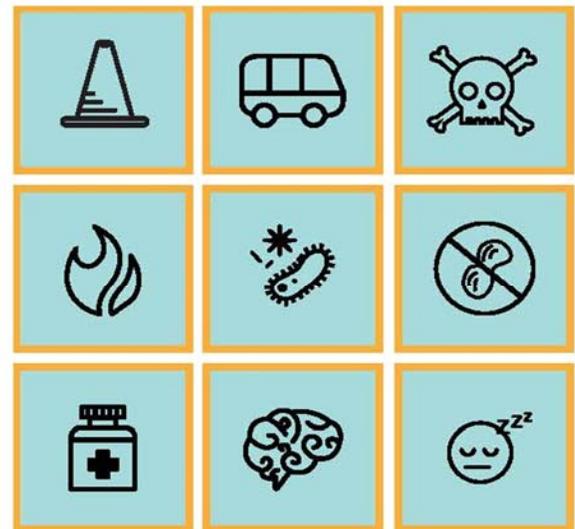
On Demand Child Care Training

Featured module:

Georgia Health & Safety Orientation Training

All child care professionals are responsible to keep the children in their care healthy and safe. Individuals who care for and teach children need to know how to

- 1) create safe spaces,
- 2) use safe practices with children,
- 3) develop and implement daily illness prevention and management strategies,
- 4) plan to keep children safe if an emergency occurs.



This six-hour module provides an overview of required health and safety topics for Georgia child care professionals.

Eligible for CEUs
Accepted for CDA
Approved by Bright from the Start

This module is available at no cost to professionals who work in child care learning centers and family child care learning homes in Georgia.

**Login in to On Demand to access the training at
<http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/on-demand>**



This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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Claudia C. Mincemoyer, Ph.D.,
Better Kid Care Program Director
2182 Sandy Drive - Suite 204
State College, PA 16803

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BKC_HealthSafetyBasics_GA

Need your address corrected? Want to receive our e-newsletter blasts? Have something you would like to share?

Let us know by e-mailing us at: crrcentralga@augusta.edu.

Leap Early Learning Partners is a Child Care Resource and Referral program of Augusta University. We are funded by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning using the federal Child Care and Development Fund. Augusta University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educational Institution.

Quality Rated Message Moving Through the State

You may have noticed many more Quality Rated billboards and posters throughout the state over the last few weeks. This is all a part of the Quality Rated Marketing Campaign's paid media strategy. In February, DECAL placed thousands of ads -- radio, TV, digital and billboard, to reach families across Georgia. Some of the areas include metro Atlanta, Albany, Savannah, Macon, Dalton, Augusta, and Waycross.

More than 100 billboards were strategically placed in main thoroughfares of high-commuter routes as well as secondary roads with significant residential traffic in areas such as Cobb, Clayton, Douglas, Fulton, and Paulding counties.

More than 2,000 radio ads will air during peak commuter timeframes both in the morning and evening. For TV, more than 1,200 ads will stream Georgia airwaves throughout the day during early morning news timeslots and into the evening, targeting working families as well as mid-day to reach parents who may be at home with a newborn or young child.

Most ads will run through the end of April, marking one year of the Quality Rated campaign. Through our ad campaign, we hope families will recognize Quality Rated as their independent, trustworthy resource to help them find high-quality child care, preschool and pre-K programs in the state.



Are you ready to begin your Quality Rated journey? We can help!

Complete your Quality Rated application at <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/> and request technical assistance. If you need help, contact Heather Goelz at **877-228-3566** or hegoelz@augusta.edu or the QR Help Desk at **855-800-7747** or QualityRated@decal.ga.gov.