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Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Child Care
Resource &
Referral of
Central East
Georgia



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

SUMMER 2022

Early Care and Education BULLETIN!

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

Summer in Georgia is sizzling already, and I hope you're finding ways to keep cool! Our Summer Transition Programs (STP) are underway. We have 720 rising Pre-K students whose first language is Spanish enrolled in 720 classrooms in 20 counties and 3,816 rising kindergarteners enrolled in 318 classrooms in 61 counties. STP teachers receive some extra training. Teachers in the rising Pre-K classrooms receive training on supporting dual language learners. Teachers of rising kindergarteners receive training on trauma-informed care and social emotional development.

Social emotional development and infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) are subjects near and dear to my heart, and I want to share some updates about our progress in making mental health services for very young children more widely available in Georgia. As a reminder, the supportive relationships young children have with the adults in their lives are the most important determinants of their emotional wellbeing throughout their lives. All of us who work with children, directly or indirectly, can make a positive contribution to a child's mental health.

At the recommendation of the Legislative Study Committee on Infant and Toddler Social Emotional Health, DECAL leads an ongoing collaboration with other child-serving agencies to build a system of care for young children and their families to better meet social emotional health needs. We have made significant progress in the past year in broadening access for children birth to age five including professional training for mental health providers and clarifying how clinicians may bill Medicaid for their services.

DECAL was a leader in providing seed funding to establish the [Georgia Association for Infant Mental Health Birth to Five](#) (GA-AIMH) at Georgia State University. The Association will identify competencies and develop training for a broad range of professionals who work with young children, not just clinicians, but also child care providers, classroom teachers, home visitors, and administrators. If you are interested in learning more about training opportunities, you may sign up to join the mailing list for GA-AIMH here: <https://cld.gsu.edu/ga-aimh/#mail-list>

I began my career in the classroom, and I understand firsthand the challenges and rewards of the work you do. I am grateful for your support of young children, and I know everyone at DECAL appreciates your service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Sincerely,
Susan Adams
Deputy Commissioner, Georgia's Pre-K and Instructional Supports

Let's Dig In! An Introduction to Farm to Early Care and Education Training

During this hands-on training, participants will learn about Farm to ECE and do some fun activities that can be replicated in the classroom. You will see examples of Farm to ECE programs from a recent USDA-funded grant project in Southwest Georgia.

This training is appropriate for teachers, administrators, family providers, and nutrition staff.

You can [register here](#) through the Georgia PDS. Or, search scheduled trainings with the keywords "Let's Dig In". Registration is limited to the first 25 people. If you have questions or have trouble registering, reach out to Monica Griffin at 248-921-2238 or Monica.Griffin@gccga.org.



Saturday, July 16, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 11:00am

Universal Learning Academy

3555 Deans Bridge Rd, Suite 3, Augusta, GA 30906

SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

**LOOKING FOR
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COVID-19 Relief Projects and Spending Plans

Want to learn more about the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's (DECAL) proposed plan for distributing remaining funds from the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)? Want an update of current or past projects related to these legislative acts as well as funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act?

You can learn more by visiting the [DECAL website](#) and viewing a copy of the plan.

Self-care is giving the world the best of you, instead of what's left of you.

~Katie Reed~

Why Should You Work with a Child Care Resource and Referral Agency?

Please listen to DECAL Download as they take a tour of DECAL's six regions by talking to our Community Partnership Coordinators, representatives from our Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and introducing you to child care providers in each region. This episode will feature our region, Central East, along with our very own, Deidra Fitzpatrick.

Our region consists of 23 counties, beginning with DeKalb County to the left and stretching all the way to Lincoln, Columbia, Richmond, and Burke counties on the South Carolina border. Each county brings its own nuances, enhancing the uniqueness of this region. There's Taliaferro County, which has the smallest population in the state, and the pronunciation of its name sometimes baffles even lifelong Georgians. There are several locations in Newton County that have made it to your television screen if you've seen *The Vampire Diaries*, *The Dukes of Hazzard*, or *In The Heat of the Night*. Additionally, it was Rockdale County that hosted the Olympic Equestrian events in 1996. Since we're here primarily to discuss child care, it's worth noting that 70% of the over 700 licensed Child Care Learning Centers and Family Child Care Learning Homes in the Central East region currently have a 1-, 2-, or 3-star Quality Rating. This speaks to the desire these caregivers have to provide quality care and foster an environment conducive to investing fully into each child's learning in a way that will continue to grow beyond the classroom.

On the next ...

DECAL Download



This Week's Topic:

DECAL Community Partnerships/Central East Region






Beverly Johnson
Owner/Director,
Discovery Point Child
Development Center
#61, Rockdale County

Antoinette Elliott
Family Child Care provider
and Peer Support Network
Ambassador, DeKalb
County

Deidra Fitzpatrick
Technical Assistance
Coordinator, LEAP Early
Learning Partners

Hannah Smith
Early Education Community
Partnership Coordinator –
QIP



[Click here for Podcast](#)




Free Training Courses from Cox Campus

Free online video courses using the latest science-backed childhood development techniques are available to all early childhood educators. Just visit CoxCampus.org to see all that is available!

We Care Child Care Sweepstakes



The “We Care Child Care Sweepstakes” is open to all Georgia residents who are at least 21 years of age and who are parents, legal guardians or grandparents of a child born in 2009 or after.

The Path2College 529 Plan will randomly select a total of four winners who will each receive a \$1,529 Path2College 529 Plan contribution. Entries will be grouped into four regions; Metro Atlanta, Southeast Georgia, North Georgia and South Georgia. One winner will be randomly selected from each region from among all eligible entries. In addition, child care centers where the “We Care Child Care Sweepstakes” winners attend will win \$1,529.

Limit of one (1) entry per eligible entrant per eligible child. [Click here to read the official rules and for additional prize details](#). Enter the sweepstakes by completing and submitting the entry form by July 31, 2022. Winners will be announced in August 2022.

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Sponsored by the Path2College 529 Plan and the Department of Early Care & Learning (DECAL).

*“Children are not a distraction from more important work.
They are the most important work.”*

~ John Trainer, M.D. ~



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Congratulations to Central Georgia's Newest Quality Rated Providers

A Willow Path	★★★	Hiller, Martha	★
Anointed Hands Childcare	★★★	Hunt, Mary B	★★★
Arete Preparatory School	★	Jenkins County Head Start	★★★
Felicia Arnold	★	JonEri's Christian Academy	★★★
Augusta Tech Head Start Center	★★★	Joyful All Starz LLLP	★★★
Big Blue Marble - Madeline Drive	★★★	Kids Gallery Academic & Learning Center	★★★
Big Blue Marble - Steven's Creek Road	★★★	Kids World Child Care and Learning Center	★
Angel Bing	★	Kidz Biz Child Care Center	★★★
Burke County Head Start	★★★	Kreative Minds Childcare Center	★
Busy Bees Learning Academy	★★★	Laughter & Lullabies Childcare Academy	★★★
Childcare Network #24	★★★	Nettie Leath	★
Childcare Network #30	★★★	Lemon Tree Academy	★★★
Childcare Network #50	★★★	Little Lamb's Day Care Center	★★★
Childtime Childcare #1112	★★	Misty Sue's Christian 24 Hour Child Care Center	★★
Kuataina Coleman	★	Yvette Murphy	★
Columbia County Head Start	★★	Nana's House Child Development Center	★★
Janice Davis	★	Cheryl Neal	★
Discovery Point #61	★★★	PlayStation CCLC	★★
Early Beginners Learning Center	★★★	Prime Time - Dearing	★
First Step Learning Academy	★	Shirley Rakestraw	★
Floyd Head Start (CSRA)	★★★	Rehoboth Preschool	★
Fun Steps Ahead	★★	Rising Stars Kids Academy	★
Arlentia Giddens	★	Sharon Seaborne	★
God Chosen Development Center Inc.	★★	South Richmond Head Start	★★★
God's Little Angels Prep-School	★	Sportz Center Academy	★
Yolanda Godwin	★★	Gloria Stephens	★
Ernestine Golson	★	Stepping Stones Learning Center	★★★
Happy Kidz Early Learning Center	★	Bertha Stewart	★
The Bradley School of Augusta	★★★	The Bradley School of Martinez	★★★
The Garden Early Learning Academy LLC	★	The Sunshine House #8	★★★
Walton Creative Learning Center	★★★	Sunnydays Childcare & Learning Center	★★
Tabernacle Child Development Center	★★★	Lemontree Academy Monroe	★★★
Early Emory Center for Child Development and Enrichment	★		

Ratings from 04/01/2022 - 06/30/2022



**For the latest updates on Training and
Events, please visit our website at**

<https://leapccrr.org/events/>