



108 SRP Drive, Suite B
Evans, GA 30809
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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 East
Georgia



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

SPRING 2024

Early Care and Education BULLETIN!

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

Among the very most important activities that happen in early education classrooms every day are the countless interactions you have with young children. Whether you are reading stories to preschoolers, teaching rhymes to your Pre-K class, or taking conversational turns with a cooing infant, you are building the foundational skills for literacy as well as cognitive and social-emotional development.

I want to take this opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made in Georgia in preparing young children to become readers, and I want to thank you for your hard work. Last year we concluded a [six-year study](#) that followed a group of children from Pre-K through fourth grade. It showed that a key strength of Georgia's Pre-K program is building foundational skills for reading. We know, of course, that this work begins earlier, in infant-toddler and preschool classes.



This achievement is the result of collaboration among teachers, early learning programs, the CCR&Rs and DECAL. Soon after I came to DECAL almost 20 years ago, another study of early learning programs in Georgia revealed that we were not doing enough to prepare young children for school. I had just come from a career in teaching, and I was disheartened that all our hard work was not enough.

At that time at DECAL we began to look closely at how we supported classroom teachers. We worked with our specialists to help teachers reflect on their interactions with children and focus on foundational skills like sound awareness and phonological awareness. Today we all share in the success reflected in the recent study of Pre-K.

There is still work to do in Georgia; and we at DECAL are continually looking for new ways to support early educators. DECAL has a wide variety of supports already in place, and I encourage you to take advantage of the coaching, training, salary supplements, and scholarships that we offer.

Thank you, again, for your daily labors of love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan B. Adams".

Susan B. Adams
Deputy Commissioner for Pre-K and Instructional Supports



2024 7th STATEWIDE FAMILY CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

“FAMILY CHILD CARE: THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE”

Loudermilk Conference Center
40 Courtland St NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

APRIL 13 | 8:00 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

**Keynote Speaker:
Shawn Brown**



**Lunch Speaker:
Dr. Ellaine Miller**

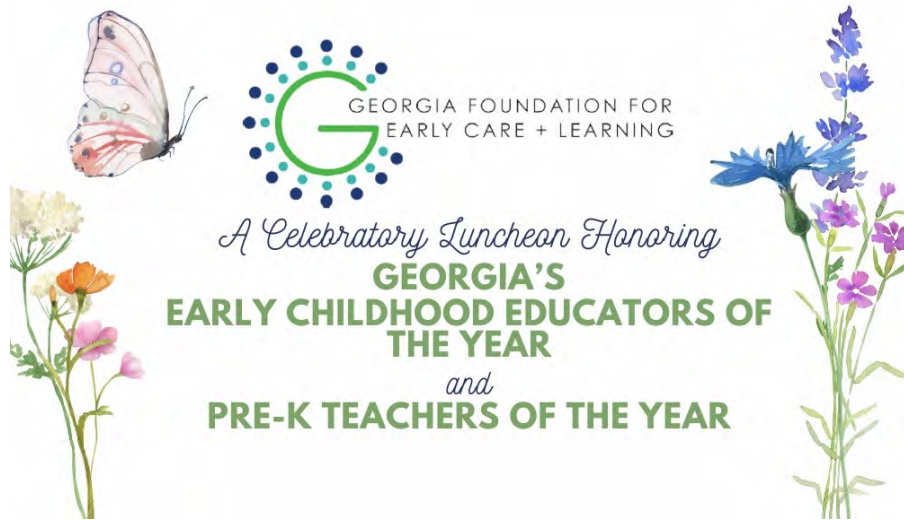
Limited Scholarships available.
For more information, please contact
Kathi Roberts at kathi.pfccag@gmail.com

**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



Members: \$60 | Non-members: \$70
Loudermilk Conference Parking fee \$5.
Public transportation available.

Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning



The Georgia Foundation for Early Care and Learning is hosting our first-ever celebratory luncheon with our 2023-2024 Early Childhood Educators of the Year and Georgia Pre-K Teachers of the Year on April 19th from 11:30 until 1:00 at the Metro Atlanta Chamber. Please save the date and note that tickets are now for sale!

The Winners for 2023-2024 Include:

- Noel Weimer, Water Oak Family Child Care, Roswell (Early Childhood Educator of the Year – Infant Category)
- Bianca Brown, The Bradley Schools – Greenbrier, Evans (Early Childhood Educator of the Year – Toddler Category)
- Chantelle Hester, Smart Starters Academy FCCLH, Savannah (Early Childhood Educator of the Year – Preschool Category)
- Merodie Brown, New Odyssey for Children, Hoschton (Georgia Pre-K Teacher of the Year – Private School)
- Charlotte Richards, Chattahoochee County Pre-K, Cusseta (Georgia Pre-K Teacher of the Year – Public School)

PURCHASE TICKETS



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

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



Congratulations to Central Georgia's Newest Quality Rated Providers

(PALS) The Performing Arts and Life Skills	★★★	Deans Bridge Road Head Start	★★★
5 Star Scholars Early Emory Center for Child Development and Enrichment	★★★	Donna's Loving Care Child Care and Learning Center	★★★
A Brighter Beginning Childcare Center	★★★	Early Emory Center for Child Development and Enrichment	★★★
A Child's World—Columbia Rd.	★★★	Early Kreative Kidz Academy	★
A Child's World Afterschool Academy	★★★★★	Excellent Montessori	★★★
A Unique Preparatory Learning Academy	★	First School of First Baptist	★★★
LaKisha M Adams	★★★	First Step Learning Academy	★★★
All About Kids	★★★	Giselle Learning Academy	★★★★★
All About Me Learning Academy	★★★	Global Tech After School @ Toomer	★★★
All My Children Day Care Center LLC	★★★	Global Tech Afterschool @ Whitefoord Early Learning Academy	★★★
Amazing Kids Learning Center	★★★	God's Little Angels Prep-School	★★★
Appletree Academy #1	★★★★★	Ernestine Golson	★★★
Appletree Academy III	★★★	Grandma's Finest Learning Center	★★★
Felicia L Arnold	★★★	Green Pastures Christian Childcare Center	★★★
Jamie M Baker	★★★	Greene County Head Start	★★★★★
Baldwin County Youth Services	★★★	Guiding Outstanding Destiny's	★
Berean Christian Early Learning Academy	★	Karen D Hall	★★★
Big Blue Marble - Monroe	★★★	Happy Kidz Early Learning Center	★★★
Angel L Bing	★★★	Jacqueline W Harris	★★★
Nettie Leath	★★★	Heritage Hills Early Learning Center	★★★
Brilliant Star Childcare	★★★	Martha Hiller	★★★
Burns Preschool and Daycare Center	★★★	His Kids Christian Learning Center	★★★★★
Brenda T Burns	★★★	Cynthia R Hitchcock-Scott	★★★
Butts County Head Start & Pre-K	★★★★★	Incredible Kids	★★★
Childcare Network #131	★★★★★	Jarrett's Day Care Center	★★★
Childcare Network #231	★★★	Jenkins Community Enrichment Center Inc.	★★★
Childcare Network #241	★★★	Johnson County Head Start Center	★★★★★
Children For Christ Academy	★	Carolyn P Johnson	★
Children Unique-Windsor Spring Road	★★★★★	Kiddie Castle Day Care Center	★★★
Children's First Learning Academy	★	Kiddie World	★
Cinnamon Tender Hearts	★	Kids 'R Kids #7	★★★
Clarian Place After School & Tutorial Program	★★★	Kids World Child Care and Learning Center	★★★
Clarkston First Baptist Academy	★★★	Kinder World Daycare And Learning Center	★★★
Collins Head Start Center	★★★	KinderCare Learning Center #412	★★★
Cook's Kiddie Care Inc.	★★★	Kreative Minds Childcare Center	★★★
Covington YMCA Primetime	★★★	Landen's Early Learning Academy	★★★
Creek Stone Academy	★★★	Leaping4Education Learning Academy	★★★
Valenteena Davis	★★★		



Congratulations to Central Georgia's Newest Quality Rated Providers

Lemon Tree Academy	★★	Prime Time Discovery - Sue Reynolds	★★
Lil' Bo Peep Learning Center #2	★★	Prime Time Discovery - Warren Road	★★
Lil Bo Peep Learning Center LLC	★	Prince of Peace Preschool	★★★★
Little Geniuses Daycare	★★★★	Rainbow World Childcare Center	★★
Little Learners University	★	Shirley A Rakestraw	★★
Little Linguists Decatur	★★★★	Randolph's Early Learning Academy Inc.	★★★★
Valerie N Lovejoy	★★	Yolanda D Ray	★★
Gloria McDonald	★★★★	Rising Stars Kids Academy	★★
MKS Learning Center	★★	Josefa Rodriquez	★★★★
Morgan County Headstart/Early Headstart	★★★★	SGT Christian Academy LLC	★
Yvette N Murphy	★★	Simply The Best Academy	★★
Cheryl J Neal	★★	Skyline Christian Academy	★
New Generations Child Development Center	★★	Small Wonders Playcare Center Evans	★★
Newton County Head Start Center	★★★★	Star Bright Learning Academy	★★
Northwest Youth Power Early Learning Center Site #3	★★	The Sweetpea Experience Daycare and Learning Center	★★
O'Reilly Early Learning Center	★	Team 3 After School Program	★★
Peaches and Cream Academy Inc	★	Tender Years Learning Center #11	★★
Peachtree Academy - West	★★	The Garden Early Learning Academy LLC	★★
Wanda L Polnitz	★	Ethel Sutherland	★★
Precious Hearts Child Development Center	★★	The Word of Truth A+ Learning Academy	★★
Brandon L Prillerman	★	Kinzie L Thomas	★★
Prime Time - Dearing	★★	Tippy Toes	★★
Prime Time Discovery - A. Brian Merry	★★	Universal Learning Academy #2	★
Prime Time Discovery - CT Walker	★★	Latossha D Walker	★★★★
Prime Time Discovery - Dorothy Hains	★★★★	Warren County Head Start	★★
Prime Time Discovery - Goshen	★★★★	Works Childcare Center LLC	★★
Prime Time Discovery - Hephzibah	★★	Young Learner's Christian Academy	★
Prime Time Discovery - Mcbean	★★	Young Mindz Learning Academy	★★

Ratings from 01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024

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Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning

Need child care?
Are you looking for child care that is still
open during the **COVID-19** crisis?
Visit QualityRated.org, or call

877-ALL-GA-KIDS

(1-877-255-4254)

Feed Kids this Summer by Operating a Happy Helpings Meal Site

It's not too late to participate in Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program this summer. Working with an approved sponsor, your organization can operate a meal site and kids can benefit from up to two free nutritious meals per day.

DECAL will provide your organization with a list of approved sponsors that serve meals in your area. Once you select the sponsor, they will provide the meals and any required training, The sponsor will also receive the reimbursement for the meals.

Meal sites can be located in a variety of places such as apartment complexes, community centers, parks, churches, summer camps, community pools, but they must be located in a school zone where at least 50% of the children enrolled qualify for free or reduced priced meals.

For more information about Happy Helpings, please contact Carl Glover at carl.glover@decals.ga.gov or by phone at (404) 217.3312. You may also visit <https://happyhelpingsga.com/>.

Our office will be closed on **May 27, 2024** in observance of Memorial Day and **June 19, 2024** in observance of Juneteenth.

Business will resume as normal the following business day.

For urgent matters, please email us at leapccrr@augusta.edu and someone will get in touch with you immediately



**DECAL
Thriving Child Care
Business Academy**

UPCOMING FREE ONLINE TRAINING!!!

Strengthening Business Practices Modules

Module 1: Budgets, Projections & Planning for Center-Based Providers 3/2/2024; 3/21/2024; 4/3/2023

Module 2: Financial Reports & Internal Controls for Center-Based Providers 4/9/2024; 6/4/2023

Module 3: Marketing Your Program for Center-Based Providers 4/13/2024

Module 3: Marketing Your Program for Family Child Care 6/4/2024

Module 4: Recruiting & Retaining Staff for Center-Based Providers 3/13/2024

Get More Information and Register at:

<https://gapds.decals.ga.gov/Trainings/Scheduled>

Earn 3 state-approved training hours for each module