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Hours of Operation:
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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

WINTER 2025

Early Care and Education BULLETIN!

Dear Child Care Professionals of Georgia:

May I be among the first to wish you a happy and prosperous new year!

I am writing today to share some updates about DECAL's 2Gen initiatives. 2Gen is a strategy for addressing the needs of young children and their parents together, to help families achieve self-sufficiency.

CAPS has a 2Gen student parent pilot program underway now at three colleges in the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). According to Ascend at the Aspen Institute, which funded the pilot, more than 20% of all college students are parents. Student parents are highly motivated to succeed in higher education programs, but often they must overcome obstacles that other students do not encounter. Our pilot is designed to connect student parents to the resources they need to complete their degree or certificate programs and secure good jobs.

CAPS has six student parent consultants working on-site to help student parents apply for or renew CAPS scholarships. The consultants can sometimes issue scholarships on the same day the parent applies. Together the consultants cover 15 sites at Central Georgia Technical College, Chattahoochee Technical College, and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. In addition to processing CAPS applications, they offer family-centered coaching in which parents set their own goals; and they make individualized referrals to resources on the Find Help Georgia portal.

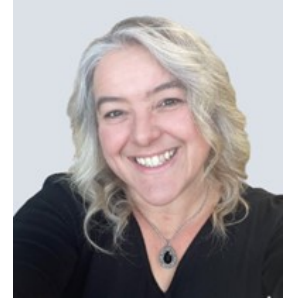
We have been pleased with the initial results of the pilot, which began in 2024. Our consultants have assisted more than 100 families so far, and 56% have been approved for CAPS scholarships. This approval rate is significantly higher than the overall approval rate for CAPS applications. We attribute this success in part to the motivation of student parents to complete their programs and in part to the personalized support we provide on campus. We hope to expand our on-site services to other campuses in the future.

DECAL has been developing and promoting 2Gen strategies since 2016, when our agency was first awarded the Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT) grant from the National Governors Association and the Center for Law and Social Policy. With that and other funding we have so far made grants totaling \$660,000 to more than 30 communities around the state so that communities can develop 2Gen strategies that meet local community needs. Many innovative solutions have been developed with our grants.

Like everyone on the DECAL leadership team, I am grateful for all that you do to support young children and their families. I am especially grateful to those of you who participate in the CAPS program. If you are not yet a CAPS provider, you can find out how to become one here: <https://caps.dec.al.ga.gov/en/CAPSProviderHowTo>

Sincerely,

Deputy Commissioner for Federal Programs
Elisabetta Kasfir



Balancing a Successful Classroom Means Play

For as long as teachers have been teachers there has been the debate: “What is the best method of education?” Influential early childhood educators such as Montessori, Froebel, Steiner, and Piaget, have left their indelible answers to this question in established pedagogies. More recently, beloved figureheads like Vivian Gussey Paley and Bev Bos have set the tone through their exuberant examples. Through it all there has been a steady tension between child-led experiences and teacher-directed instruction. Today, armed with this wealth of historic expertise, as well as more recent research, brain science, and new creative techniques, educators must discover the delicate balance for their particular classroom.

For instance, if we are introducing content such as shapes to 4-year-olds, we might start during large group instruction where we impart knowledge through a story with materials, a video, a discussion, or game all planned and executed by the teacher. Children may provide input, but the teacher decides the parameters. A step toward child-led experiences would be exemplified by leading children into learning centers where they are given instructions or ideas that would allow for them to manage the information they have been given combined with some level of exploration, but still working toward a desired outcome or answer. Dividing the table in two and putting out pattern blocks for children to sort would be one example.

Another step closer to a child-led activity would be children playing with blocks that include the targeted shapes. A teacher then might take a backseat by just observing and taking notes on children’s conversations.

To read more on this subject, please visit: [Balancing a Successful Classroom Means Play](#)



For the latest updates on Training,
please visit our website at
<https://leapccrr.org/events/>.

Start the Year Off Right with DECAL

Start your year off by taking advantage of the business training for child care owners & administrators. Give your business management skills a New Year Makeover with the **FREE** training and resources in the DECAL Thriving Child Care Business Academy.



Choose from 32 webinars, 11 small study groups, 88 self-study guides & videos, and individual coaching sessions on a wide range of business topics. Don't forget that stipends and state-approved hours are available for certain training. To get more information and register, visit the [DECAL Thriving Child Care Business Academy website](#).

CRC Vendor Change Update



Please be aware that the GBI is changing their fingerprint vendor from FieldPrint, the current vendor, to Identigo by Idemia (Idemia) on **February 3, 2025**.

With this change, **NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR A NEW BACKGROUND CHECK FROM JANUARY 18TH, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2ND 2025!**

If you have anyone up for renewal through March 31st, 2025, please have them fingerprint before Jan. 17th 2025. Please visit the [Criminal Records Check page](#) of this website for further information.

Resources at the Tips of Your Fingers



Don't forget to regularly check out our [website](#) to find the latest resources on a variety of topics.

This is just a snippet of what you will find on our Resources page.

- About Us
- For Families
- For Professionals
- Resources
 - Leap ECE BULLETIN!
 - Links >
 - Downloads
 - Quality Rated Portfolio
 - Basics
- Contact

Links

Leap Early Learning Partners is a Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, and this is one place where we can share great resources we've created or discovered. Links will take you to great places around the web that, we think, deserve to be bookmarked and visited as needed. Downloads include forms, ideas, samples and more that you can view, save, print and share.

We will continue to update these pages regularly, and we invite your feedback to help us in the process.

The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you. B. B. King

Organization	Classroom Activities	Child Development	Family Engagement	Administration & Leadership	Professional Development
ASQ Developmental Milestone Questionnaire (Easter Seals)		●		●	●
Babies Can't Wait	●	●	●	●	●
Better Brains for Babies	●	●			●
Caring for Our Children		●		●	●
Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	●	●	●	●	●
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention		●	●	●	●
Child and Adult Care Food Program				●	
Child Care Aware		●	●	●	
Children's Defense Fund		●	●		



Congratulations to Central East Georgia's Newest Quality Rated Providers

ABC Childcare and Learning Center	★★	Michelle Fennell	★★
All Star Kids Academy	★★	First Steps Child Development Center II	★★★★
Amazing Little Minds Learning Center LLC	★★★★	Glascock Co. Head Start Center	★★★★
Beginnings Children's Center Millen United Methodist Church	★★	Brookhaven United Methodist Church Child Daycare	★★★★
Carter's Day Care Academy	★★	Yolanda Godwin	★★
Childcare Network #214	★★	Joyful All Starz LLLP	★★★★
Country Crossings	★★	Gladys C Lee	★★★★
Clarian Place Child Care & Learning Center Northlake	★★	Misty Sue's Christian 24 Hour Child Care Center	★★
Cornerstone Learning Center	★★	Playstation CCLC	★★★★
Easter Seals North Georgia - Clarkston	★★	Project L.E.A.P @ Bread of Life	★★
Easter Seals North Georgia - Hambrick	★★★★	Falisha L Scott	★★
Ebenezer UMC Preschool	★★	Bertha G Stewart	★★
Education Elevation Children's Academy	★★	Sunnydays Childcare & Learning Center	★★★★
Exploring New Adventures Learning Academy	★		

Ratings from 10/01/24 - 12/31/24

Our office will be closed on **January 20, 2025** in observance of Martin Luther King.

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 upon our return.



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 Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START



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)