

**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Georgia Dept. of Early Care and Learning Announces 1000th Quality Rated Child Care Provider**

*State progresses toward goal of 100 percent participation among child care providers*

**ATLANTA (May 12, 2016)** – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has met a significant milestone, naming **The Creative COMFY Day School @ Lynn's House** in Decatur, GA as the state's 1000th Quality Rated provider. This achievement furthers the state's initiative to increase families' access to high-quality child care programs in their area and enhance the quality of child care across the state.

The Creative COMFY Day School @ Lynn's House joins 999 other programs that have been evaluated by credentialed early childhood experts and identified as high quality, and rated based on providing children with an environment and experience that is best for their development. Quality Rated is a program of DECAL.

DECAL Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs congratulated The Creative COMFY Day School @ Lynn's House and its owner Lynn Manfredi/Petitt for earning its three-star rating, the highest rank awarded by DECAL.

"We are so proud to reach the 1000th provider milestone and even more excited to award three stars to Lynn and her program," Jacobs said. "Quality Rated helps us identify programs like Lynn's that provide children with a nurturing and educational environment to help them learn and develop their social skills so they have a strong foundation as they grow. Parents and families who use Quality Rated can have peace of mind knowing they have a tool to identify high-quality programs, so that when they search for child care, they can focus on the details that matter most to their family."

All Quality Rated programs can be found on [www.QualityRated.org](http://www.QualityRated.org) in an easy-to-use, free, online database designed for Georgia parents and families. All child care providers that participate in Quality Rated – whether they have one, two or three stars – have gone above and beyond state health and safety requirements.

"My heart is overflowing with joy knowing that the care we provide at The Creative COMFY Day School is Quality Rated and three stars," said Manfredi/Petitt. "As we

continue to provide home-based quality care and learning to our children and families, I feel proud knowing that our family child care learning home is part of a larger network of Quality Rated providers supported by the State of Georgia.”

Quality Rated gives families greater confidence in their child care choice because they know that independent early education experts assess whether programs apply research-based best practices such as:

- Employing qualified and well-trained teachers
- Providing a safe, healthy and caring environment
- Implementing individualized instruction
- Offering a curriculum that prepares kids for kindergarten
- Including focuses on both active learning and social-emotional development
- Engaging families
- Providing a low teacher-student ratio

### **About Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

Bright from the Start: 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, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

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.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).