



Sonny Perdue
Governor

10 Park Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 656-5957

Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D.
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacey Moore
404-656-0239
Stacey.Moore@dec.al.ga.gov

Bright from the Start Warns of Phony Child Care Employment Ads

ATLANTA, Ga., (January 14, 2010) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is warning potential employees in early childhood education about phony child care advertisements. A business advertising itself as “Prodigy Daycare Center” has recently posted employment ads on Craig’s List.

The agency that oversees the licensing and registration of child care centers and family day care homes in Georgia has received complaints from people who have been invited to an interview with “Prodigy.” However, they must submit a credit report prior to the interview.

After conducting an investigation, Bright from the Start discovered there is no physical building at the location that Prodigy Daycare Center lists on its website.

“We have never received a licensing application from this company,” stated Kay Hellwig, Division Director of Child Care Services. “We have notified the proper Georgia authorities regarding this matter.”

The agency urges early child care providers to use extreme caution when responding to job advertisements.

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“Be sure to thoroughly research organizations you are seeking employment with. Bright from the Start has all of the licensed child care facilities and registered family day care homes in the state listed on our website,” said Hellwig.

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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 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.dec.state.ga.us.