

In the Know... Trainer Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2017

Coming Soon: An Opportunity to Participate in “Learning Conversations” with Your Colleagues

We are excited to announce our first networking event for trainers, titled *It Starts with Us: Trainer to Trainer*. Trainers from all over Georgia will come together to network, gain new information, get updates from DECAL, and much more. We’ll host two events: one in Tifton and another in the Gwinnett County area. Due to the high level of interest in the Gwinnett County event, we had to find a larger space! This means the date for that event has changed. Check your email for registration information. We look forward to seeing you there!



Inside this issue:

Training by the Numbers	2
QR News	2
What's Up at DECAL?	2
CCR&R News	3
Resources for Training Development	3
Nutrition News	3
News from GEEARS	4
News You Can Use	4
Getting to Know Each Other	5
Upcoming Dates	6

Words from Christi

Welcome to our first Trainer Support Network newsletter. Currently, DECAL’s Professional Learning Unit (whom you’ll meet later in this newsletter and in the next) is studying the value and power of authentic conversations using Jim Knight’s book *Better Conversations: Coaching Ourselves and Each Other to be More Credible, Caring, and Connected*. In his book, Jim states, “The goal of dialogue...is to have a conversation where all parties understand, hear, shape, and are shaped by each other’s thoughts. Consequently, a dialogue is a learning conversation” (p. 69). To me, these are powerful words that inspire me to engage with my colleagues in dialogue that truly becomes a “learning conversation.”

I’m excited about our Trainer Support Network and about the future as we begin actively engaging in dialogue with each other. It’s our goal that these newsletters provide information that informs, inspires, and encourages you in your efforts on behalf of Georgia’s children and the early learning professionals who work with them. The best newsletter is one you look forward to receiving each quarter, so please email your feedback and suggestions to proflearning@dec.al.ga.gov. Thank you for all of your hard work in support of early childhood in Georgia.

Have a warm and happy spring!

Christi

Training by the Numbers

DECAL contracts with the University of Georgia (UGA) to oversee and conduct Georgia Training Approval (GTA). GTA is staffed by Dr. Karen Shetterley, who reviews all trainers and trainings, and by Kristine Garcia, who provides support for training approval and serves as GTA’s communication liaison. Dr. Shetterley has been involved with training approval and professional development systems since 1993.

Visit [GTA](#) for more information. To learn more about any aspect of training approval, email questions to trainingapproval@georgiacenter.uga.edu.

2016	Trainers	Trainings
Applications Reviewed	265	2118
Applications Approved	179	1848
Approval Rate	67.5%	87%
Average # Days	3.7	3.7

Quality Rated (QR) News

The Quality Rated Peer Support Network (PSN) was created by child care providers to share ideas, success stories, and lessons learned during the Quality Rated (QR) experience. The PSN is open to all QR programs and to those in the process of earning or increasing their QR star rating. The PSN meets quarterly in various locations around the state to discuss topics identified by the participants. Past topics have included staffing solutions, inclusive

classroom practices, and the role of leadership in a quality program. PSN meetings are facilitated by a QR Ambassador, a representative from a 2- or 3-star QR program selected by DECAL based on her/his proven commitment to improving the lives of Georgia’s children and families. QR Ambassadors are integral to the success of the PSN. They represent QR while supporting the community at PSN meetings.

All child care providers participating in QR receive an invitation to PSN meetings. Events are also shared via DECAL’s various social media accounts. For more information, email psn@decalscholars.com.

What’s Up at DECAL?

DECAL Scholars

DECAL Scholars supports early care and education professionals in pursuing degrees or credentials in early childhood education. The program offers educational counseling and a variety of financial supports, including scholarships and bonuses upon completing a degree or credential program. For details, visit www.decalscholars.com. Recently, Care Solutions, who administers DECAL Scholars, held a [trainer webinar](#) to provide detailed information on the Scholarships program for individuals pursuing a CDA.

GaPDS

If you haven’t already, don’t forget to create a Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS) profile. To reach GaPDS Support, call 404-267-2760 or email gapds@decalscholars.com.



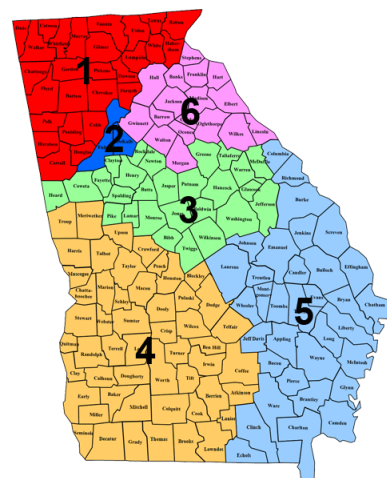
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) News

For years, DECAL has funded the work of the child care resource and referral (CCR&R) agencies in Georgia. The CCR&Rs support families and early care and education professionals at the local level. They also support DECAL’s vision of increasing the number of Georgia’s children and families who have access to quality early care and education programs.

CCR&Rs support quality early learning by helping child care programs work toward a Quality Rated star rating. To achieve a Quality Rated star rating, child care programs undergo a rigorous process that includes creating an extensive portfolio on their pro-

gram’s practices and an evaluation by credentialed early childhood experts. Based on the portfolio and observation, the program earns a one, two, or three star rating. CCR&Rs help programs achieve their star rating through targeted coaching, training, and technical assistance.

CCR&R agencies cover every county in the state to effectively support every child care program that wants to enhance the quality of services they provide to children and families in their communities. Click [here](#) for more information about CCR&R regions.



Resources for Training Development

Promoting Positive Interactions during Personal Care Routines

Using personal care routines to enhance high quality care can be hard for early learning programs to do consistently. According to the Environment Rating Scales, personal care routines include greetings and departures, meals and snacks, naps and rest time, toileting and diapering, and health and safety practices. However, time to provide routine care is far more than just routine. It can be a foundational time for so much more – the sharing of warmth, security, and rich opportunities for learning.

When routine care is implemented inten-

tionally, teachers build close, intimate relationships with children while attending to their physical, emotional, and developmental needs. Since the children are learning who to trust and how things work, it is important for them to have a teacher who is nurturing, responsive, flexible, and consistent. Throughout care routines, teachers should communicate with the child about what is happening and respond to the child’s cues, gestures, movements, and cries. To ensure consistency of care, routines should be as close as possible to those the child experiences at home.

If you’re thinking about developing training on ways to use personal care routines to

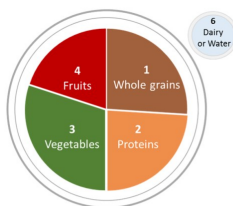
enhance quality, access the resources below. These materials include articles on promoting positive interactions with young children during care routines and tips from DECAL’s Child Care Services division that explain and clarify Georgia’s health and safety rules on diapering.

www.pitc.org

<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

<http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/tipofthemonthdiaperinghygiene.pdf>

Nutrition News



The Nutrition Services division of DECAL hosted its 3rd Annual Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Summit on Thursday, January 19, 2017 and Friday, January 20, 2017 at the Loudermilk Conference Center in downtown Atlanta. The day-and-a-half long summit provided information and resources to potential new and experienced sponsors of the SFSP.

The SFSP, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is administered in Georgia by DECAL. Eligible community-based organizations can apply to serve free, nutritious meals to children in low-income areas during the summer months. Over one million Georgia school-aged children are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch during the school year. Through the SFSP, thousands of these children have access to free meals to fill the gap when school is not in session.

Institutions that wish to participate in the SFSP as a sponsoring organization must be a public or private non-profit school, college, or university; faith-based entity; camp; unit of

local government; National Youth Sports Program (NYSP); or a private nonprofit organization considered tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service [501(c)3]. To learn more about the SFSP, contact Shani Drake, Marketing and Outreach Manager, at shani.drake@dec.al.ga.gov or (404) 656-3221.

News from GEEARS

GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization operating to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on quality early learning and healthy development for all children ages birth through five. GEEARS was established in 2010 to help business, civic, and government leaders maximize the economic return on the state's investments in early care and learning.

GEEARS' Mission

To inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on quality early learning and healthy development for children ages birth to five.

GEEARS' Vision

By 2020, all Georgia students will enter kindergarten prepared to succeed and on a path to read to learn by third grade.

GEEARS primarily focuses on early childhood advocacy, research, and public awareness. One of the initiatives that GEEARS is

currently leading is Georgia's **First 2000 Days**, a statewide public awareness campaign to spread the message about the importance of a child's first 2,000 days of life. GEEARS is currently seeking new organizational partners and individual champions to participate in the campaign.

On April 25-26, 2017 GEEARS, will host its **Early Childhood Education Bus Tour**, a two-day event to expose constituents to innovative early childhood education interventions throughout Georgia. Click [here](#) to learn more about the bus tour and how to register.

GEEARS also convenes the Atlanta **Mayor's Summer Reading Club**, a program that promotes literacy skills and vocabulary enrichment in children ages birth through eight and their families. The program designates a city-wide book choice for infants, children ages 2-4, and children ages 5-8 to share with families at no cost to them. Throughout the summer, organizations host "book club reads" where children will enjoy arts and

crafts, drama exercises, and other hands-on activities to make the language in the stories more meaningful to children. This is a collaboration between the City of Atlanta, GEEARS, PNC, the United Way, and many other public-private partnerships.

Follow GEEARS on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) for Georgia early childhood updates. Visit www.geears.org or email geears@geears.org for more information.



News You Can Use

Governor Deal Recommending Funds to Help Subsidize High Quality Child Care for Low-income Families to Work or Attend School

Governor Nathan Deal is recommending \$5.5 million in his FY2018 budget to increase reimbursements to high quality child care providers participating in Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) Program. This state investment would be added to federal funding that Georgia receives annually to help low-income families have access to high quality child care so they can work or attend school.

This state investment proposed by Governor Deal will allow the amount paid to child care providers to be based on the quality of early education services provided to children and their families. In other words, the higher the quality level (as determined by Quality Rated, Georgia's system to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in Georgia's early and school-age care and education programs), the higher the subsidy reimbursement. This

model of "tiered reimbursement" will encourage child care providers to enhance the quality of care they provide, reward them for their efforts, and encourage families to enroll their children in high quality child care.

"On behalf of our state's youngest learners, we thank Governor Deal for his continued commitment to high quality early care and education as demonstrated in his proposed FY2018 budget," said Commissioner Amy M. Jacobs. "These additional state funds will enhance the quality of care provided to children eligible for CAPS and support Quality Rated child care providers."

Administered nationally by the US Department of Health and Human Services and in Georgia by DECAL, CAPS weekly subsidies care for approximately 55,000 Georgia children. Payments for child care are issued directly to the child care provider.



Getting to Know Each Other

In this issue and the next, we'll introduce the members of DECAL's Professional Learning Unit. Get ready, though, because moving forward, we'll ask trainers to submit bios to include in this section. We look forward to everyone getting to know more about each other.

DECAL's Professional Learning Unit oversees the Georgia Professional Development System, Georgia Training and Trainer Approval, and the DECAL Scholars program. Other Professional Learning initiatives include developing training opportunities in the following areas: Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards, Professional Learning Community Facilitation, Foundations of Coaching, and Supporting Dual Language Learners.



Christi Moore is the Director of Professional Learning at DECAL. She guides the work of the Professional Learning Unit, which provides a variety of resources and support for birth to five teachers and leaders in Georgia. In 2011, Christi earned her Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University. She has a variety of experiences in education, including service as a classroom teacher in Georgia's Pre-K and in K-5 classrooms, as well as working as a guidance counselor in a middle school setting. She has also worked in teacher education, serving as a language and literacy instructor in a university teacher preparation program and as a facilitator and trainer for a non-profit professional development center. Before joining DECAL, Christi led the development of an award-winning online learning platform for teachers of children ages birth through third grade.



Demetria Joyce is the Instructional Learning Manager in DECAL's Professional Learning Unit. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Education, a Master's Degree in Foundations of Education, and plans to pursue her Doctorate in Curriculum Studies, beginning in the summer of 2017. She has been a classroom teacher, the director of a child care resource and referral agency, an instructor at a technical college, a program director, and a Georgia's Pre-K consultant. Demetria began training child care providers and teachers in 2008. Demetria's specific interests include standards, assessment, instructional planning, school improvement, and early care and education policy.



Laura Reid is the Professional Learning Specialist with DECAL's Professional Learning Unit. Laura manages the Georgia Training Approval system and a variety of professional learning initiatives, with a focus on relationship-based professional learning projects, including coaching and professional learning communities. Before joining DECAL in 2014, Laura worked for Quality Assist, Inc., a private training and technical assistance firm, for more than 15 years. In her time there, Laura managed a number of training and technical assistance initiatives including developing and facilitating face-to-face professional learning events, managing staff, training classroom data collectors, and developing online courses. She has an M.Ed. in Elementary Education and a B.A. in Early Childhood Education, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

We'll introduce the following members of our team in the next issue of the newsletter:

- Stephanie Banks, GaPDS User Support Representative
- Isha Barrie, Professional Learning Intern
- Quandra Collins, Training Logistics Coordinator
- Doris McQuiller, GaPDS User Support Representative
- Alisia Pickett, GaPDS User Support Specialist

BRIGHT FROM THE START: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CARE AND LEARNING

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 754 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-5957
1-888-442-7735

Hours

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
except state holidays

Criminal Records Unit

1-855-884-7444
404-232-1999 (fax)

Pre-K, Nutrition, Quality Initiatives, Training

404-656-5957
404-651-7184 (fax)

Child Care Consultants, Child Care Policy, Family Child Care Learning Homes, Starting a Child Care Program Information

404-657-5562
404-656-0351 (fax)

Media Inquiries

404-656-0239

Upcoming Dates

April 21, 2017: [Georgia's Pre-K Applications](#) Due

April 24-28, 2017: [NAEYC Week of the Young Child](#)

May 2, 2017: It Starts with Us: Trainer to Trainer, Tifton

May 2, 2017: [GAYC Conference Proposals](#) Due

May 22, 2017: It Starts with Us: Trainer to Trainer, Gwinnett County

October 6-7, 2017: [GAYC Conference](#)

The Board of Early Care and Learning meets quarterly to support DECAL's mission and vision and help guide the department's work. Board meetings, which are open to the public, begin at 9:00 AM. For more information, visit <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/BftS/BoardOfEarlyCareAndLearning.aspx>.

2017 Board Meeting Schedule:

- 2nd Quarter: May 11, 2017
- 3rd Quarter: August 17, 2017
- 4th Quarter: November 16, 2017

