

# In the Know... Trainer Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 3

October 2017

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## Words from Christi

Welcome to our fall edition of *In the Know*. Fall is my favorite time of year, with the back to school hustle and bustle, cooler weather and, of course, the return of college football. I know fall also means busier schedules for our trainer community as you diligently work with the programs you serve. I was happy to see many of you take time to focus on your own professional learning this fall by joining us for our GAEYC preconference on October 5. This session focused on our newly revised Workforce Knowledge and Competencies (WKC)s. Look for more opportunities to learn about the revisions coming in January. Have a great fall!



## 2017 – 2018 Professional Learning Community Facilitator Training

The dates for DECAL's Professional Learning Community Facilitator Training are quickly approaching and we are excited to begin working with our third cohort!

PLCs are a form of relationship-based professional learning. Simply put, a PLC is a group of people who come together to share their challenges or concerns about working with young children and their families and to learn ways to improve their practices over time. The PLC Facilitator Training program develops facilitators skilled in helping educators identify issues that affect children's outcomes, examine their own work, and try new strategies.

The training consists of seven days of face-to-face training and three technology-based learning opportunities. The training will be held on the following dates:

Facilitator Institute Part 1: October 17-19, 2017  
Facilitator Institute Part 2: February 27-March 1, 2018  
Learning Showcase: May 10, 2018

Registration for this year's training is now closed. If you are interested in participating in a future training, contact Laura Reid at [laura.reid@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:laura.reid@dec.al.ga.gov) or 404.463.0788.

## Spotlight on Georgia's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

### *Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Georgia, Region 3*



The CCR&R serving Region 3 began in 1998 in Augusta as part of a non-profit organization. In 2006, they moved to the Medical College of Georgia, now known as Augusta University. A few years later, their service area changed and their home base relocated to Macon.

Now operating as Leap Early Learning Partners, they serve 27 counties in their region. They partner with early learning professionals, families, and other community members to ensure children grow and learn in safe, high quality learning environments.

Collectively, their diverse team has over 300 years of experience in the field as former owners, directors, social service managers, early learning professors, recreational therapists, teachers, and more. They are thankful they can bring their individual passions, experiences, and skills to support their region.

At Leap, they believe early learning professionals are uniquely positioned to make a profound impact on children, families, and the local community. Through thoughtful, research-based technical assistance and training, they build on the strengths and experiences of professionals in a mutually respectful partnership. Their aim is to help programs achieve their goals to expand and deepen quality in the classroom.

For more information about Region 3, please visit: <http://leapccrr.org/>.

### *Child Care Resource and Referral of East Georgia, Region 6*

For more than 35 years, Quality Care for Children (QCC) has worked to ensure Georgia's infants and young children are nurtured and educated to help them reach their fullest potential. Their primary focus is on creating excellence in child care and early learning by providing training and resources to child care providers to increase the overall quality of care. QCC believes that all children, regardless of race, gender, or economic background deserve high quality early learning experiences.

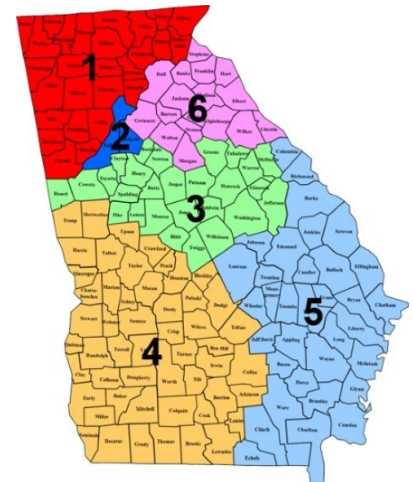
QCC is the administrative home of the CCR&R of East Georgia, Region 6, supporting families and early care and education professionals in 17 counties. They are the "boots on the ground" working diligently to

support DECAL's vision of increasing the number of Georgia's children and families who have access to quality early care and education programs.

The grassroots efforts of their 16-member team are effective in increasing the quality of early care and education experiences. Part of what makes their work so meaningful is their community-based team approach to providing individualized technical assistance, coaching, mentoring, and support to help programs earn a Quality Rated star rating. The staff members meet programs where they are while providing culturally responsive help to each program and provider. They also develop and facilitate training and professional development opportu-

nities to further support the work of the child care providers in their region.

For more information about Region 6, please visit: <http://www.qualitycareforchildren.org/>.



## *What's Up at DECAL?*

### Updates to Licensing Rules and Regulations Now in Effect

Child Care Services recently updated the rules and regulations for Child Care Learning Centers and Family Child Care Learning Homes. There were three primary updates:

- Renumbering of rules to support the new enforcement and compliance system
- General clean-up of the licensing rules
- Updates to Core Rule topics

These changes became effective July 1, 2017. A new rule book for each facility type was posted on the DECAL website in July. To access the updated rules and regulations, visit <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx>

[RulesAndRegulations.aspx](http://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx)

The updated Core Rules Reference Chart was also released on the website and can be accessed at <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/CCS/CoreRulesInformation.aspx>

### At-Risk Afterschool Program

As students begin the annual back to school ritual and return to their daily regimen of school days packed with learning and extracurricular activities, many families are thinking about afterschool options for their children.

Afterschool programs in at-risk areas (school zones where the free/reduced rate is 50 percent or greater) can participate in the At-Risk Afterschool component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Up to two meals (afternoon snack and supper) can be served to children 18 and younger in these settings.

To learn more about the At-Risk Afterschool Program, visit DECAL's website [here](#). For upcoming training dates, visit the CACFP Training information page [here](#).

#### Attention

#### Georgia teachers—

Use the code **GATeach17** to receive a 15 percent discount on your conference registration!

Register today!  
**NAEYC.org/conference**

#### Help Us Spread the Word!

NAEYC's annual conference will be back in Atlanta from November 15-18 and Georgia's teachers can use the code **GATeach17** to receive a 15% discount on their registration. Please share this discount code with the programs and teachers you work with so that more of them can access this wonderful

professional learning experience. NAEYC also has a funding toolkit to help programs fund their annual conference experience.

Check it out here:

<http://www.naeyc.org/conference/fundingtoolkit>.

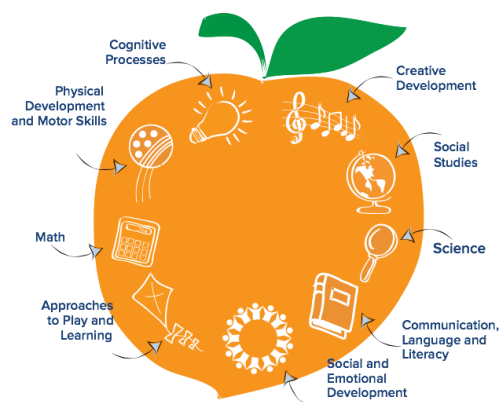
## Professional Learning Unit Spotlight!

### *GOT PEACH?*

Planning Educational Activities for Children (PEACH) is an interactive website that puts thousands of high quality, developmentally appropriate activities at teachers' fingertips. The activities available are designed for children ranging from birth to five years old and are directly linked to the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS).

Registering for PEACH is easy! Enter an e-mail address, choose a password, and you'll be ready to go! To access PEACH, visit [www.peach.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.peach.dec.al.ga.gov).

Share this wonderful resource with the teachers you support. If you have questions or feedback regarding PEACH, contact Demetria Joyce, Instructional Learning Manager, at [Demetria.joyce@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:Demetria.joyce@dec.al.ga.gov).



### *Supporting Young Dual Language Learners: New Online Modules*

The early care and education community now has access to online learning modules about young dual language learners (DLLs) as part of DECAL's partnership with WIDA Early Years.

**Who should complete the modules?** The modules provide valuable information for everyone working in an early care and education setting that includes DLLs, age 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 years. Practitioners, teachers, assistant teachers, administrators, trainers, consultants, and others will benefit from learning more about supporting, instructing, and assessing DLLs.

**How to access the modules?** To visit the WIDA Early Years Module Series, go to: [go.wisc.edu/17y789](http://go.wisc.edu/17y789). The first time you visit the page, you will need to register. Each module is designed as a stand-alone learning experience. Registration and accessing the modules are free of charge for anyone in Georgia.

### *Child Welfare Training Collaborative*



**CHILD WELFARE TRAINING COLLABORATIVE**  
A PROFESSIONAL *Excellence* PROGRAM



In partnership with  
Georgia Division of Family  
and Children Services

The Child Welfare Training Collaborative (CWTC) is a partnership between the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and the Georgia State University School of Social Work Professional Excellence Program. CWTC offers training and community engagement activities throughout the state. The program promotes collaboration, provides networking opportunities,

and helps create a common understanding about issues that affect children and youth who have experience abuse and neglect. The trainings are offered free of charge, and CEUs are available for many disciplines. For further information, please visit <http://cwtc.gsu.edu>. To register for classes, visit our calendar: <http://bit.ly/CWTCcalendar>, or contact them at [cwtc@gsu.edu](mailto:cwtc@gsu.edu) or 404-809-1892.

## Getting to Know the Professional Learning Unit

Our **Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS)** includes a user support team that provides customer service and technical support to teachers, directors, and trainers who need help using GaPDS. Following are the members of our GaPDS team:



**Stephanie Banks**, GaPDS User Support Representative

My favorite part of the job is helping users access their profiles after initially having issues.



**Doris McQuiller**, GaPDS User Support Representative

My favorite part of the job is assisting others and giving out accurate information.



**Alisia Pickett**, GaPDS User Support Specialist

My favorite part of my job is the reaction of happiness and accomplishment I get from users when I help them access their GaPDS accounts for the very first time.





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

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, 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

November 15-18, 2017: **NAEYC Annual Conference**, Atlanta, GA  
<http://www.naeyc.org/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.decals.ga.gov/BftS/BoardOfEarlyCareAndLearning.aspx>.

### Next Board of Early Care and Learning Meeting:

November 16, 2017

